



Training Subsidy Program (TSP) Update 2026/27

A statement from CADA/West staff and board

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The past fiscal year at CADA/West saw the organization go through a variety of structural changes, mainly within our staffing structure.

While our most successful program and attractive component of membership, CADA is more than a vehicle for reimbursement; it is an instrument for [advocacy](#) that continues to build relationships that strengthen the legitimacy and stability of the arts as a career.

WHERE WE ARE

CADA is in its late 20s, slowly approaching our 30th anniversary in 2029; for those of you that have lived through the back half of your twenties, many of us experience this stretch of time as a gauntlet that sharply clarifies what's working, what's not, and the changes that stand between where you are and where you want to be. This personal experience is being mirrored at the organizational level.

CADA is reaching a very specific point in its development;

- * A need to divide the labour required for the maintenance of the organization
- * The creation and hiring of the Director of Operations position mid last-year
- * An end to COVID subsidies and other supplemental supports
- * Entering the last year of the current operational funding cycle; running new systems on old levels of funding

CADA is a structure that upholds standards and guides public money back to hard working professional dancers. This structure is not static, it is alive and also needs attention and nurturing. What it has been able to do so far is due to the tireless and creative innovation of collective dance forces, advocating and policy building

To invest in the future of CADA/West means that this year is going to look a little different;

WHAT IS CHANGING

Our Training Subsidy Program fund budget, usually dispensed at a total hovering around \$40,000 will be reduced to approximately \$31,000 for the 2026/27 fiscal year.

We have already paid out \$11,760.51 in reimbursements as of May.

WHY THIS IS HAPPENING

- * yes, that is approximately a \$12,000 decrease compared to the \$43,101 dispensed in 2025/26
- * the TSP program funds historically max out between November/December; we expect an earlier closure this year, and will give notice when time
- * our employment costs are rising by approximately \$15,000 this year due to expanding our staff structure by one person
- * the TSP budget allocated each year is projected around \$40k; we have been going above and beyond over the last 5 years, disbursing between \$42-\$46,000 thanks to the support from Councils, COVID relief, and fundraising
- * we increased our eligibility and program limits from \$7/class to \$10/class in response to the pandemic, and **have not reduced them since despite no changes in our core funding**
- * we are currently writing an application for the next round of core funding that would take us from 2027-2031.

We are asking for an increase of \$16,000 per year; if successful, this will allow TSP to return to a \$43,000 minimum, and make funds available for the potential creation of a new program to replace the Studio Subsidy Pilot.

Moving forward, we will be publishing the monthly disbursements of TSP, as well as funds remaining. We will announce the last round of TSP with a month's notice, as per usual.

We understand the optics of releasing this information after our membership year has already started, and 111 of you have committed to CADA through paying to renew their memberships. We want you to know that this was not a tactic employed to reveal the true state of things only after securing your support, but overlapping waves of information that were synchronizing in real time.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT

As a staff team and board made up of working artists, we hope you understand the predicament that we are facing and are able to offer your attention and compassion.

- * We need to scale down a bit to get some momentum... and we also need your VOICE, your PRESENCE, your INVOLVEMENT.

Renew your membership.

Utilize your benefits beyond TSP – access AFBS's [extended health benefits](#) through a joint membership with the [Canadian Dance Assembly](#), member discounts and more

Encourage your networks to [donate](#).

Advocate with and for us in [June 2026](#) during BC's Provincial Budget Consultation. [Write us](#) a letter of how CADA/West's programs, resources and services have helped your career.

MOVING FORWARD

This year is another step on our journey towards our vision of a world where dance artists can sustain healthy, dignified, and creatively fulfilling careers through societal celebration and fair compensation.

In the coming weeks, we will be unveiling our new Strategic Plan, created in collaboration with our board of directors, that will detail the dreams we have for CADA by the end of 2031.

We hope you will stand with us.



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