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## APPENDIX A

### CBSC Decision 10/11-2102 & -2124 Sun News Network re *The Source* (Edmonton Artists' Housing)

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The following is a transcript of the segment on the July 4, 2011 episode of *The Source* featuring host Ezra Levant and guest Kathryn Marshall:

Levant: Hey folks, after the break, if you want something outrageous, I've got some news for you. Apparently in Edmonton starving artists will get free housing! That's next on *The Source*.

- commercial break

words "Starving Artists' Feed Off Gov't Funds" at bottom of screen

Levant: Oh, I got an idea. Oh, I got a great idea for the City of Edmonton. Just north of my own hometown of Calgary. Let's take a bunch of money and give free housing ... to who? To, to veterans coming back from the war in Afghanistan? To widows of those veterans who died over there? To, to the homeless? No! Let's give free housing to artists or artistic bureaucrats. Believe it or not, that's what they're planning on doing in Edmonton. And to join us to talk about this crazy idea is Kathryn Marshall, a favourite critic and media watcher of ours who joins us today from British Columbia where crazy ideas sprout like, uh, the leaves in spring. Kathryn, tell me, give me the facts. What's actually going on in Edmonton that we should know about across the country?

Marshall: Well, the, uh, the fed-, er, the, sorry, the provincial government and the municipal government in Edmonton are funding this thing called Art Habitat. And it's a housing development for artists and people who work in the art industry, so that they can live in, you know, very nice, uh, subsidized housing, uh, while they produce their art. And, you know, being an artist these days is a pretty good gig. Not only are you getting all of these, um, public subsidies and grants, you're now getting, uh, subsidized housing. [photograph of exterior of one-storey building; words at bottom of screen change to "Artist Housing Project Rec'd \$2.4 Million Gov't Funding"] And, you know, I'm talking in-suite laundry, hardwood floors [image of floorplan]. And the Mayor of Edmonton came out and said that artists don't earn what they should be earning [photograph of inside art studio], so what they're doing is they're providing subsidized housing so artists can be in an environment [waves her hands] where they can be successful [4 photographs: street sign at intersection; exterior of small apartment building; apartment kitchen; living room]. But, you know, call me old-fashioned, you don't need in-suite laundry and hardwood floors to be successful [photograph of art studio], you need hard work.

Levant: We're showing some pictures of the gorgeous show suites. [4 photographs: 3 of empty room & 1 of art studio] I mean, the mayor's saying artists don't earn what they should. I've never met anyone, Kathryn, in my life who thinks they're earning what they should earn. Everyone thinks they're worth more. But, unfortunately, we all think that way and no one agrees with us. Why should artists all of a sudden be blessed with free places to live?! Like, where did this come from?!

Marshall: You know, it's a good question. Why is art so sacred?

Levant: Don't they have homes now? What's wrong with their homes they have now? I mean, surely these artists have homes, are they supposed to sell their own homes? Do they get to keep their own homes and rent it out and keep some money on the side? Like, what's goin' on!?

Marshall: I mean, it's out of control. I mean, why, why are artists so special? Why are not only artists getting, um, all this federal funding to do their art and produce their art, but now they're also getting subsidized living? I mean, it begs the question what's next? Are we going to be, um, paying for their travel and their clothing and their food and their cars? But it's also a question of priorities. Edmonton, um, has actually been known lately as "Deadmonton" because they have the highest homicide rate in the country [words at bottom of screen change to "118<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Edmonton, AB Known for High Crime Rates"]. So why doesn't the, uh, the government take that money and hire a couple of more cops instead of spending 2.4 million dollars on subsidized housing for artists? Or why don't they put some of that money towards paying down Edmonton's ballooning deficit, which is already at 30 million dollars?

[words on screen:

Crime Rates in Edmonton

2005, 39 Killed

2011, 28 Already Slain

Death Toll on Pace to Top 50 this Year

Higher than any Other Canadian City]

Levant: Yeah, we've just got some statistics on the screen as we're talking. Edmonton, which is about a million people, has more murders this year on record than any other Canadian city including Toronto, which is about four or five times as large. I got a question for you, Kathryn. It's a question that I always like to ask when it's some stupid government idea. Do you think this is the mayor of Edmonton's attempt to change the subject away from the stuff he's supposed to be doing? That is, stopping people from being murdered on the streets. Do you think this is a diversionary tactic for him to switch the topic of conversation?

Marshall: You know, this is one of those touchy-feely, um, feel-good, fluffy government pet projects. Um, you know, cut a ribbon, unveil this beautiful facility for artists to live in and, you know, pretend like you're really reaching out to the arts communities and, and other people. But, you know, what matters more are things like crime or actually ensuring that the real homeless people that actually need help and support are off the streets instead of, of these artists. And what's even more outrageous about this whole Art Habitat thing is that the housing isn't just for artists. It's for people or actually anyone who works, um, in a cultural, uh, industry or association or for, for any not-for-profit that does –

Levant: So, like, a bureaucrat?

Marshall: Yeah, exactly. So you could be an art bureaucrat making your public-funded paycheck and now living in your publicly-subsidized housing.

Levant: Unbelievable. So you know what?

Marshall: It's a whole industry around it.

Levant: That's a great question. I wonder how many people who claim to work in the [makes air quotes] "arts", are actually artists making music, making paintings, and how many are paper-pushers, form-filler-outers, grant-apppliers, spin doctors, office managers and all the hangers-on. I bet you a dollar that for every real artist doing art – and I don't think that those folks should be subsidized anyways – I bet you for every real artist actually doing art, I bet you there's another person in the arts [makes air quotes] "industry" pushing paper and I bet you there's another person in the *government* cutting a cheque. I bet you that those knock-off, spin-off jobs are all paper-pusher jobs.

Marshall: Yeah, and I would love to get these, you know, these are all questions that we'd love to hear, uh, answered from the, the mayor of Edmonton. Um, but it simply goes to the fundamental question, what is so sacred about art? Why do they get all of this funding? Why are they getting free housing? I mean, if I write bad poetry that nobody wants to buy, can I live in this housing too?

Levant: [chuckles] Well, maybe, maybe you should write a letter in limerick form to the mayor and make your application for the free, free house in limerick form and he might just show pity on you and give you a free place to stay. Kathryn Marshall, I thank you very much for joining us and bringing this story to our attention. As you often do, you find that kooky stories [*sic*] that we should all know about because they're indicative of larger problems and themes that come with big government.

On July 6, during the segment of *The Source* entitled "Incoming", Levant read a letter from a viewer who pointed out that the Edmonton artists' housing was not "free". Levant said the following:

Levant: Let's look at the next letter. It's from Colleen B [text of email appears on screen] who says "I personally looked into the subsidized artists' housing. It is not free housing that they are offering. Poor fact-checking there." Now you're talking about that 2.4 million dollars for subsidized artists' housing in Edmonton that I spoke with Kathryn Marshall about. Now you are correct. It is not free housing and I accept your correction. It's just government *subsidized* housing. That's a valid distinction. But my point stands: Why are we spending millions of dollars to subsidize housing for artists or for anyone? I don't believe in giving away free money to anybody. And I'm not sure what warped mind thinks that free money for cheap housing should go to artists instead of, say, widows of soldiers killed in Afghanistan. I mean, priorities, people.