[MPP Address] [date]

Dear MPP [MPP Last Name],

Thank you for your leadership and your work to support our community during the COVID-19 crisis. In my capacity as [role] of the [local museum or Network name], I am sharing with you Ontario museums’ call for government investment so they can survive the pandemic and fully contribute to the province’s recovery for the benefit of all Ontarians. Read the Open Letter to the Honourable Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, the Honourable Lisa MacLeod here: <https://bit.ly/OMA-Open-Letter>

Currently, only 25% of Ontario’s museums (166) receive operating funding from the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) program. The amount of funding in the program has been stagnant for over ten years and prevents museums from fulfilling their potential and their expanded roles in their communities. This underfunding exacerbated the pandemic’s impacts on museums, placing them and Ontario’s heritage at risk.

The Ontario Museum Association and the 700 museums, galleries, and heritage sites across the province are calling on Ontario's government to invest fully in Ontario’s museums hit hard by the pandemic and urging the government to act on the recommendation of the Ontario Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs to “bolster the Community Museum Operating Grant Program” (October 2020); a longstanding and pressing request of the OMA and Ontario museums.

We are calling on the government to take urgent action to invest in Ontario museums and increase operating funding to $15million (an increase of $10.1million) to reach more than 300 community museums across the province at a level of support averaging 15% of museums’ operating budgets.

Over the past year, museums have continued to adapt to serve their communities, and engage volunteers, seniors, and youth where possible. Our province’s museums will continue as important parts of economic, tourism and social recovery if they are empowered to fill that role.

Now is the time to ensure that Ontario’s museums across the province can once again welcome back visitors with authentic and unique experiences as we safely and gradually reopen to the world.

Read the Open Letter to the Honourable Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, the Honourable Lisa MacLeod here: <https://bit.ly/OMA-Open-Letter>

Sincerely,

[Name]

[role]

[Museum or Network]

Cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, minister.macleod@ontario.ca

The Ontario Museum Association, community@museumsontario.ca