

# Petition to Restore Arts Funding and the Indigenous Culture Fund at the Ontario Arts Council

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO:

**Whereas** the Ontario government has cut its level of base funding to the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) by \$5 million for the 2018-19 fiscal year, from \$69.9 million to \$64.9 million;

**Whereas** the Ontario government has also cut its funding to the Indigenous Culture Fund (ICF) at the OAC by \$2.25 million for the 2018-19 fiscal year from \$5 million to \$2.75 million;

**Whereas** the ICF will not accept new grant applications this year while the program is under review, entailing the layoff of Indigenous staff in permanent positions;

**Whereas** the arts are essential to the quality of life, cultural identity, social and community well-being, creativity, innovation, and economic prosperity of Ontario;

**Whereas** the ICF was part of the Ontario government’s response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada;

**Whereas** the ICF supported traditional culture, languages, teachings, protocols, knowledge, youth and Elder-led and engaged community cultural projects;

**Therefore**, we the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to:

a) restore OAC’s funding to \$69.9 million this year and maintain this level moving forward,

b) restore the ICF’s funding to \$5 million this year, retain all ICF staff positions, and commit to funding the ICF at this level in the years moving forward.

Signature	Name (please print)	Address	City	Postal Code	Phone Number	Email

When complete please send to: Jill Andrew, MPP Toronto-St. Paul’s • Room 115, Legislative Building • Queen’s Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A7