

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