

Petition to Restore the Indigenous Culture Fund at the Ontario Arts Council

TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO:

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

Whereas the ICF will no longer accept new grant applications while the program is under review, entailing the layoff of Indigenous staff in permanent positions;

Whereas the ICF program is an essential part of community rebuilding leading to social and community well-being, creativity, innovation, and prosperity for Indigenous peoples in Ontario;

Whereas the ICF was part of the Ontario government's response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada;

Whereas the ICF was put in place to support the revitalization and preservation of Indigenous culture, languages, teachings, protocols, knowledge as well as youth and Elder-led and engaged community cultural projects;

Therefore, we the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to:
honour the TRC and immediately reinstate 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.

Name (Printed)	Address (Printed)	Signature

When complete please mail to:

Sol Mamakwa, MPP Kiiwetinoong
Room N201, Legislative Building,
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A5