[Letterhead]

Dear MPP [last name],

Thank you for your leadership and your work to support our community during the COVID19 crisis. As you consider supporting our community, we would like to remind you of the role of our museums in contributing to the well-being of our community. As a member of the Ontario Museum Association (OMA) and in my capacity as [role] of the [local museum or Network name], I am requesting your support for museums during the complex and evolving situation regarding COVID-19 and its impacts.

While doing their part to support all efforts to address COVD-19, all 700-plus museums in Ontario are seeing negative impacts. Museums are key parts of the broader educational system, provide employment, and are vital tourism and community assets and infrastructure in all communities across Ontario. In response to the current health crisis and Government of Ontario’s mandatory closures of public facilities, museums across the province are working together to stop the spread of the virus by closing their sites and cancelling programs during the busy March Break season and beyond. As a result of these essential measures to ensure public health and keep Ontarians safe, one negative outcome is that museum employees, sites and collections have become vulnerable.

The Ontario Museum Association has made the following recommendations to the Ontario government, in a letter to Ministers MacLeod, Phillips, and McNaughton on March 19. Read the letter on the OMA website here: <https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/advocacy>

**We request your support of the following recommendations outlined in this letter:**

**COVID19 Support Measures for Ontario's Museums**

**1. Ontario Museums Relief Fund**

**2. Digital Response Fund**

**3. Early (first quarter) distribution of Ontario funding for museums and heritage organizations (Community Museum Operating Grants, Heritage Organization Development Grants, and Provincial Heritage Organization Grants).**

**4. Expanded employment program and income support measures, and facilitated access to these programs are top concerns for all Ontarians, including Ontario's museums.**

 In our community, these recommendations would: [add details of how support could make a difference for your museum in mitigating the impacts of COVID-19]

We look forward to working together to support Ontario’s museums. Please feel free to contact me if I can answer any questions: [email] or [phone].

Thank you,

 [name and role]

[Organization you represent (if applicable)]

cc. Ontario Museum Association