[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 that museums are an important part of recovery. 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.

As *May is Museum Month / Mai, Mois des Musées* and International Museum Day (May 18th) take place, we are reminded that Ontario museums will find it difficult, if at all possible, to open for the summer season without support.

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 closed their sites and cancelled programs during the busy March Break and summer tourist seasons. 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 conducted a survey of the province’s museums early in the period of closures that showed that two-thirds of museums anticipated zero revenue for April 2020. Museums have had to choose to lay off staff and cancel summer hiring, which critically impedes their ability to serve their communities. Museums across Ontario are financially vulnerable, as three-quarters of museums have less than three months’-worth of reserve funds available to survive this pandemic crisis.

The Ontario Museum Association has made the following recommendations to the Ontario government:

**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.**

We request and thank you for your support of the following recommendations outlined in this letter.

 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].

Respectfully yours,

 [name and role]

[Organization you represent (if applicable)]

cc. Ontario Museum Association