[Letterhead]

Dear MPP [last name],

Thank you for your leadership and your work to support our community during the COVID-19 crisis. In the midst of the current wave of closures and as we look to plan for a safe reopening, we would like to remind you of the contributions museums make 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 and the OMA’s recommendations for our sector for Ontario’s 2022 Budget.

The Government of Ontario must prevent the loss of Ontario’s museums and the programs and services they provide to hundreds of communities across the province. Ontario’s irreplaceable heritage is at risk—now is the time to act. As the province aims to recover from the devastating effects of the pandemic, museums can play a vital role in rebuilding and reconnecting Ontario, both socially and economically.

Museums are key community assets and contribute to economic, educational, cultural, and social vitality; they are at risk of permanent closure without targeted funding. Despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, museums have exhibited resilience and delivered valuable engagement, serving their communities where possible. Only with adequate and stabilizing government support can they continue.

Investing in Ontario museums means they can be strong partners in the implementation of government strategies, with greater combined impact to restore Ontario to its pre-pandemic state and beyond. By offering safe, hyperlocal experiences— “staycations” —they contribute to rebuilding the province’s tourism industry, while simultaneously offering support for Ontario’s students, teachers, and the wider public with quality learning experiences linked to digitized collections.

The Ontario Museum Association has made the following recommendations in a submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs. The Ontario Museum Association’s recommendations for Ontario’s provincial budget 2022 call for strategic government investments to ensure that museums across the province—vital tourism assets and cultural infrastructure—survive the pandemic and are able to safely re-open for the benefit of their communities and all Ontarians.

**We request your support of the following recommendations outlined in the OMA submission:**

**Support for Ontario Museums in the 2022 Provincial Budget:**

**1. An Ontario Museum Relief Fund, valued at $10 Million, in immediate response to the impacts of COVID-19—to support museums’ survival during periods of closures**

**2. A Digital Response Fund, valued at $10 Million over three years**

**3. Increased support for community museums by $10 Million per year to reach 300 communities across the province—towards stabilizing operations and local recovery**

Read the submission on the OMA website here: https://members.museumsontario.ca/sites/default/files/Ontario-Museum-Association\_Provincial-Budget-Submission\_2022.pdf

In our community, these recommendations would: [add details of how these recommendations and support could make a difference for your museum]

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