

Activist Tool-kit

This document was assembled based on the diligent, collaborative efforts of many with specific regard to the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective (ACC), the Media Arts Network of Ontario (MANO), Aylan Couchie of [A Place For Words](#) who states a, “Note of acknowledgement and thanks to Kerry Swanson, Gisèle Gordon, Melody McKiver, Danis Goulet, Jesse Wenté and Clayton Windatt for their assistance with these words and getting the messaging out.”

The Indigenous Culture Fund (ICF) was created to support First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, culture and way of life. The new fund is administered by Indigenous staff members at the Ontario Arts Council (OAC), on behalf of the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS). ICF was created through a process of extensive outreach and collaboration with Indigenous communities across Ontario. Its goal was to support cultural priorities and activities as defined by Indigenous peoples and communities, including on and off-reserve, urban, rural and remote.

The ICF fund was part of the [Government of Ontario’s three-year plan in response](#) to the [Calls to Action](#) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC). The OAC and MTCS acknowledge and thank all of the survivors, their relations and the TRC.

At our event Remembering the Future: An Indigenous Feminism Strategy, we discussed the sustainability of activism, advocacy and the unrelenting austerity against Indigenous peoples in Canada and more specifically within our arts and culture industries. During our discussion we identified how we can continue to thoughtfully support Indigenous artists by continuing to work to advocate for programs like the Indigenous Culture Fund. Activist burnout is real and in an attempt to make this important work as easy to navigate as possible we have provided access to a compiled Activist Tool-kit provided by the ACC, MANO, Aylan Couchie and collaborators. The Activist Tool-kit includes information on the cuts to the Indigenous Culture Fund, petitions, email and letter templates, speaking notes for your use and contact details for local MPPs.

Ontario Arts Council (OAC)

Indigenous Culture Fund (ICF) Petitions

FIRST PETITION

This petition encompasses whole cuts to the Ontario Arts Council, including the Indigenous Culture Fund. The petition is supported by [MPP Dr. Jill Andrew](#) (Toronto-St. Paul’s).

Please mail this petition to:

Room 115

Main Legislative Building, Queen’s Park

Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Or, it can be dropped off at MPP Andrew's Community Office in Toronto: 803 St. Clair Avenue West (St. Clair West & Arlington).

Download and print the petition here: [OAC-ICF Petition](#)

SECOND PETITION (Petition to Restore the Indigenous Culture Fund)

This petition is specific to the cuts to the Indigenous Culture Fund. This petition is supported by [MPP Sol Mamakwa](#) (Kiiwetinoong).

Please mail this petition to:
Room N201
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Download and print the petition here: [Petition to Restore the Indigenous Culture Fund](#)

Please remember all petitions MUST be hand-signed on the petition document and must be mailed or dropped off (can not be emailed/scanned/faxed).

Email/Letter Templates

Email or Mail your MPP

We've prepared a form letter for people use as a guide for writing their own emails/letters or, as a template to simply fill in their names and the names of their MPPs (please ensure you include your address so your MPP knows you're a constituent in their riding).

Use this link to find the email and/or mailing address for your MPP:
<https://www.ola.org/en/members/current/contact-information>

If you don't know who your MPP is, enter your postal code in this link to find your riding:
<https://voterinformationservice.elections.on.ca/en/election/search?mode=postalCode>

Email/Letter Template Download: [Word Document](#)

Email/Letter Template Download: [PDF](#)

Link to Online Version of Email/Letter Template: [Online \(HTML\)](#)

Script/Talking Points for Contacting MPPS (Phone or In Person)

Visit or Call your MPP

Queens Park is currently not in session. During this break, MPPs are supposed to be spending time in their home ridings meeting with constituents. We've prepared a script which includes talking points and links to more information which you can use should you like to contact your MPP in person.

Use this link to find the contact information for your MPP:

<https://www.ola.org/en/members/current/contact-information>

If you don't know who your MPP is, enter your postal code in this link to find your riding:

<https://voterinformationservice.elections.on.ca/en/election/search?mode=postalCode>

Downloadable Script/Talking Points for Contacting your MPP : [Word Document](#)

Downloadable Script/Talking Points for Contacting your MPP: [PDF](#)

Link to Online version of Script/Talking Points for Contacting your MPP: [Online \(HTML\)](#)

Ontario Legislative Petitions

These petitions are not online petitions, they must be signed by hand and mailed or dropped off to their respective MPP offices.

All petition pages MUST be signed on this document (no digital signatures), i.e you can not add additional blank pages with signatures. In other words, all signatures must be signed on the document outlining the petition information. Please contact me if mailing petitions is a barrier for you for financial or other reasons so we may work on a solution.

More information:

About the Indigenous Culture Fund: <http://www.arts.on.ca/grants/activity/indigenous-culture-fund>

Ford government's cut to the Indigenous Culture Fund "an attack on reconciliation" (NOW Magazine):

<https://nowtoronto.com/culture/art-and-design/doug-ford-cuts-indigenous-culture-fund/>

'It's heartbreaking': Indigenous artists mourn possible cuts to culture fund under review by PCs (CBC):

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-indigenous-culture-fund-1.4947865>

Ford guts grant to help further truth and reconciliation (National Observer):

<https://www.nationalobserver.com/2018/12/14/news/ford-guts-grant-help-further-truth-and-reconciliation>

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