

**Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport**

Office of the Minister

9th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1
Tel: (416) 326-9326
Fax: (416) 326-9338

**Ministère du Tourisme,
de la Culture et du Sport**

Bureau du Ministre

9^e étage, Édifice Hearst
900, rue Bay
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1
Tél.: (416) 326-9326
Télééc.: (416) 326-9338



April 27, 2017

Dear valued colleague and partner,

In the 10 months since assuming the Tourism, Culture and Sport portfolio, I have had the opportunity to travel the province to meet with artists, arts workers, librarians and heritage advocates. You have graciously welcomed me into your theatres and galleries, your studios and on to your film sets. And we have engaged in some wonderful conversations about Ontario's thriving culture sector. You were not shy about sharing your opinions about our successes, and also areas where we could use some improvement.

I have listened carefully to each and every one of you, and that is why it's my absolute pleasure to share today's news with you. Earlier today our government released the 2017-18 provincial budget, which brings enhanced investment in the culture sector.

The Ontario Arts Council (OAC) will receive a \$20 million increase over four years. The Ontario culture sector is growing and it's important that the OAC keeps pace and I look forward to seeing the impact that this increased investment will make.

I am also pleased to announce that MTCS will be implementing a one-time \$1 million investment in our northern, rural and Indigenous libraries. Libraries are the hearts of our communities, and I know that this investment in digital services and connectivity will be welcomed across the province. We'll have more details to share with you on this program soon.

I look forward to working with all of you as we continue to implement Ontario's Culture Strategy, and ensure that Ontario's culture sector flourishes.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor McMahon'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'E'.

Eleanor McMahon
Minister