



January 14, 2019

Dear MPP:

I am writing to you today to ask for your support in reversing the Province's decision to cut \$15 million in funding to the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has made significant and impactful positive contributions to organizations across Ontario and in your riding. The York Region Arts Council (YRAC) would not be able to accomplish its work and impact the community without the support of OTF.

YRAC is currently in the first year of a three-year grow grant for its Artrepreneur Accelerator Program, which provides valuable business training and resources to artists, arts administrators and creative entrepreneurs. Participants of the program have generated revenues of well above \$1 million, proving how financial investment by OTF in local organizations creates greater financial returns. Participants who are supported through this program have also hired people to work on their projects, creating jobs. They have developed businesses that attract tourism, support individuals with disabilities and much more. All around, people supported through the OTF's funding of the Artrepreneur Program make our community a more vibrant and dynamic place to live, work and play.

One of the challenges nonprofits in your riding face is that there are relatively few other funding organizations to turn to for support and/or to pool resources. This is yet another reason why OTF is so important to organizations in your riding.

Here are several more reasons why OTF funding is vital:

**OTF funding strengthens local economies and community services**

- OTF provides critical investments in community services and facilities across this province – to organizations such as food banks, sports facilities, arts organizations and social service providers. These funds contribute to building strong communities, from Windsor to Dryden, and from Niagara to Perth.
- Not counting programs it administers for other ministries, OTF invested \$100 million directly in the community economy in 2016-2017.
- Through its Seed, Grow, and Collective Impact streams, OTF funded 469 projects in 2016-2017 that will impact over 750,000 Ontarians over three years.
- OTF's 203 capital grants in 2016-2017 invested \$22.4 million into nonprofits, First Nations, and small municipalities.



### **OTF funding creates jobs**

- OTF's grants support job creation in local communities, hiring people to improve community health and well-being. These are meaningful jobs for both the employees and program participants.
- OTF's capital grants in particular also support the purchasing of goods from local suppliers and the hiring of local contractors. These are spin-off benefits for the local economy that will be reduced with OTF's funding cut.

### **OTF meets real community needs**

- OTF is the only province-wide grant system that covers the entire province and all parts of the nonprofit sector (like arts, sports, environment, and social services).
- Because granting decisions are made by regional volunteer committees, grants are highly responsive to what communities need.

The government should keep its funding promise to OTF and to the hundreds of communities that rely on that money. We ask that the government reverse this decision right away and restore vital community funding.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and further discuss the importance of the Ontario Trillium Foundation and other provincial resources that contribute to making the communities you represent thrive.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Wainberg'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Samantha Wainberg  
Executive Director, York Region Arts Council  
[Samantha@yorkregionartscouncil.com](mailto:Samantha@yorkregionartscouncil.com) | 905.726.3278