

October 8, 2019

Via email: [andrew.scheer@parl.gc.ca](mailto:andrew.scheer@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Andrew Scheer, PC, MP  
Leader of the Opposition  
Conservative Party of Canada  
1720-130 Albert St.  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5G4

Dear Party Leader,

We, as the national, provincial and territorial associations representing the museum community across Canada, are writing this open letter to you, with the federal election now underway, to urge your party to commit to prioritizing support for museums, large and small, across the country.

In our news release and flyer, attached, we highlight the urgent need for:

- A review and modernization of the National Museum Policy
- A review of funding streams for museums and an expansion of the Museums Assistance Program to ensure more sustainable funding
- A simplification of the funding process, especially for small museums

We note that you have committed to "removing admission fees from Canada's national museums." However, we respectfully ask that during the election period you respond to the following questions:

1. What are your views on the importance and role of museums?
2. How would you respond to the key recommendations above?

There are more than 19,000 employees and 65,000 volunteers working in this sector, in ridings across Canada. We are encouraging our members to ask candidates in their ridings about their commitment to the museum and heritage sector and, of course, to get out and vote.

We look forward to your response to our questions, which we intend to publish on our websites.

Yours truly,

Vanda Vitali  
Executive Director and CEO  
**Canadian Museums Association**

Meaghan Patterson  
Executive Director / CEO  
**Alberta Museums Association**

Ryan Hunt  
Executive Director  
**British Columbia Museums Association**

William Beveridge  
Executive Director  
**Inuit Heritage Trust**

Monique Brandt  
Executive Director  
**Association of Manitoba Museums**

Kellie Blue-McQuade  
Executive Director  
**Association Heritage New Brunswick**

Ken Flynn  
Executive Director  
**Museum Association of Newfoundland & Labrador**

Anita Price  
Executive Director  
**Association of Nova Scotia Museums**

Marie Lalonde  
Executive Director  
**Ontario Museum Association**

Johanne Vigneault  
Executive Director  
**Community Museums Association of Prince Edward Island**

Stéphane Chagnon  
Executive Director  
**Société des musées du Québec**

Wendy Fitch  
Executive Director  
**Museums Association of Saskatchewan**

Lianne Maitland  
Executive Director  
**Yukon Historical and Museums Association**

## Canada's museum associations

Canadian Museums  
Association

Alberta Museums  
Association

British Columbia  
Museums  
Association

Inuit Heritage Trust

Association of  
Manitoba Museums

Association  
Heritage New  
Brunswick

Museum  
Association of  
Newfoundland &  
Labrador

Association of Nova  
Scotia Museums

Ontario Museum  
Association

Community  
Museums  
Association of  
Prince Edward  
Island

Société des musées  
du Québec

Museums  
Association of  
Saskatchewan

Yukon Historical  
and Museums  
Association

ADVOCATING FOR CANADA'S MUSEUMS