

October 8, 2019

Via email: jagmeet@ndp.ca

Jagmeet Singh
Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada
Suite 300, 279 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 5J9

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 in your platform you have committed to “make sure that arts and cultural institutions receive stable, long-term funding to grow and promote Canada’s diverse culture and histories.” 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 other 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