

## **The Liberal Party of Canada Answers Canadian Museums Association Questionnaire**

### **Question 1: Does the Liberal Party of Canada support Canadian museums, including national, regional and local museums?**

Museums, whether big or small, play a vital role in preserving our history and identity. We need to celebrate our museums, not only for their artistic beauty and diversity, the pleasures they provide and the emotions they inspire, but also because they are a gateway to knowledge, an extension of the classroom, a custodian of our memories (whether of Canada or other cultures), a point of contact with nature, a driver of tourism, economic development, and scientific progress, and many other fine things. The Liberal Party believes that our museums deserve to receive financial support at the federal level in order to ensure their survival and maintain their role in promoting our national culture.

As part of our historic new investment in social infrastructure, totaling almost \$6 billion over the next four years and almost \$20 billion over the next decade, we will greatly increase federal spending on cultural infrastructure. Through bilateral agreements with the provinces and territories, we will invest in projects that create jobs, help to develop more creative communities and preserve our heritage facilities. These investments will notably support facilities that communities use to express and promote their culture.

### **Question 2: Does the Liberal Party of Canada believe the federal government has a role to play in preserving Canadian heritage for future generations, as well as making our heritage accessible to all Canadians for educational and enjoyment purposes?**

Canadian identity is defined by our culture and heritage, and the federal government has an important role to play in preserving and promoting this identity. One way of doing this is to provide financial support to our country's museums, who are the custodians of our nation's collective memory, and ensure that they are accessible to Canadians.

### **Question 3: The CMA has asked the federal government to review and modernize existing heritage programs that support museums, and introduce a matching donations program to encourage increased private sector investment in Canadian museums and art galleries. If elected, how will you work with the museum sector to realize these priorities?**

A Liberal government will work in partnership with the Canadian Museums Association and other stakeholders to review all options that will help Canada's museum sector overcome the challenges it faces.

### **Question 4: Are there any other important elements from your party's platform, as they relate to heritage institutions and culture, that you would like us to share with our members?**

A Liberal government will move away from the narrow interpretation of Canadian history espoused by the Harper government. We will give back to Canadians what that government has sought to deprive them of: an authentic, honest and inclusive understanding of our heritage and collective identity. It is our belief that the conservation and promotion of Canada's heritage must honestly and faithfully reflect the diversity that characterizes our nation's culture, history and people. With a Liberal government, Canadians will no longer be subject to the Harper government's confrontational and authoritarian approach. We will fulfill our responsibilities as decision-makers, but only after carefully listening to

knowledgeable experts and professionals such as you. One of our guiding principles will be to restore a healthy arm's-length relationship between the federal administration and cultural institutions. Together, we need to change our approach to cultural and creative industries. A new liberal government will reinvest in our cultural and creative industries to create jobs, grow the economy and strengthen our rich Canadian identity.

We will make a new annual investment of \$150 million in CBC/Radio-Canada—a commitment that will not just reverse the budget cuts made by Mr. Harper but go even further to ensure that our national broadcaster is able to thrive in today's media environment. We will collaborate with CBC/Radio-Canada and consult Canada's cultural sector about a new strategic plan that incorporates the renewed funding.

We will double annual funding to the Canada Council for the Arts, raising it from \$180 million to \$360 million. We will also increase funding for Telefilm Canada and the National Film Board by allocating new investment totaling \$25 million per year to them. These measures will create new jobs in the cultural and creative industries, promote artistic activity throughout the country, enhance quality of life in our communities, and ensure that artistic creation continues to play an important role in our economy in the years ahead.

We will restore financial support for the Promart and Trade Routes international art and culture promotion programs that were cut by Mr. Harper and raise their funding to \$25 million per year while reinstating culture as a crucial part of our diplomatic activities. This investment will promote Canadian culture and creativity on the international stage, making our artists an even more valuable export.

What's more, we will increase funding for the Young Canada Works program in order to help the heritage sector nurture the next generation of museum professionals. This investment is part of a Liberal government's commitment to create 40,000 jobs for youth each year as part of its revised Youth Employment Strategy.