



**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in
Advance of the Upcoming 2024 Federal Budget
By: Canadian Museums Association (CMA)**

Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** That the government **increase Museums Assistance Program (MAP) funding to a total of \$47 million over the 5-year period from 2024 to 2029.**
- **Recommendation 2:** That the government provide a **one-time investment of \$100 million to support funding for climate crisis mitigation strategies** for heritage organizations across Canada.
- **Recommendation 3:** That the government **provide \$2.5 million in dedicated funding over 5 years starting in 2024 to support Indigenous-led discussions and consultations on formulating a national framework on repatriation**, as well as an additional **\$1.5 million over 3 years from 2024 to 2026 for research on the scope of repatriation, including a costing analysis and recommendations to support the national framework on repatriation.**
- **Recommendation 4:** That the government provide **\$2.5 million in yearly dedicated operational support for Indigenous-led heritage organizations**, as well as a **one-time investment of \$10 million** to support work in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to ensure appropriate measures are in place for Indigenous peoples to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as defined in Justice Canada's United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Action Plan.
- **Recommendation 5:** That the government **increase Young Canada Works (YCW) core funding earmarked for museums by \$15.5 million from 2025 to 2029.**

Recommendation 1: That the government increase Museums Assistance Program (MAP) funding to a total of \$47 million over the 5-year period from 2024 to 2029.

We recommend that the government increase funding for the Museums Assistance Program (MAP) to \$47 million total over 5 years from 2024 to 2029. This increased investment in MAP, along with the Department of Canadian Heritage's planned policy renewal around the National Museum Policy, will be an important step in 2024 to help museums in their role as economic drivers. Additional investment through MAP will support museums as they create new jobs, deliver wider economic impact, green their operations, and become more innovative, inclusive, and resilient.

MAP funding did not reach its intended 1994-95 target of \$18 million. Adjusted for inflation, this would equal about \$34 million today. With inflation remaining above the Bank of Canada's target rate of 2.0%, we urge indexing MAP funding to inflation moving forward so it can continue operating effectively.

According to the 2019 [Value Study of GLAMs in Canada](#) study, every dollar invested in museums yields four dollars in direct benefits for society. Investing in museums is an important part of building economic and social resilience, particularly in smaller communities.

MAP is also oversubscribed, with applicant demand exceeding available funds. Increasing the MAP envelope will help more museums, especially small and remote ones, access much-needed support. This will strengthen museums' ability to serve communities during a time of rising costs and economic uncertainty. We believe this wise investment will yield significant returns in terms of museum sustainability, innovation, implementation of UNDRIP, green operations, new jobs, and community resilience.

Recommendation 2: That the government provide a one-time investment of \$100 million to support funding for climate crisis mitigation strategies for heritage organizations across Canada.

The CMA urges the federal government to create a one-time \$100 million green infrastructure fund for museums and heritage organizations across Canada. This aligns with a similar request from the British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA).

Climate disasters like wildfires and floods have directly threatened museums across the country, damaging irreplaceable heritage. All museums and heritage sites nationwide face escalating climate risks. We must take urgent action to protect our collective heritage for future generations.

BC's past provincial green infrastructure funds for heritage organizations were highly successful, creating local jobs and supporting long-delayed sustainability upgrades. However, these programs were heavily oversubscribed, revealing extensive unmet need. A federal fund would enable similar broad impact coast to coast.

This investment will help Canada meet sustainability goals while stimulating local economies. It will make museums and heritage sites more resilient in the face of climate change, preserving our nation's arts, culture, heritage, and environment for the future. The time to act is now. We urge the federal government to make this visionary commitment to protecting our shared history and culture.

Recommendation 3: That the government provide \$2.5 million over 5 years from 2024-2028 to support an Indigenous-led process of developing a unified National Framework for Repatriation encompassing policies and procedures, along with an additional \$1.5 million over 2024-2026 to conduct comprehensive research into the actual scope, costs and institutional capacities required for effective repatriation of Indigenous ancestors and belongings.

To uphold its stated Budget 2023 commitments around furthering Indigenous self-governance and prosperity, the federal government must fund the timely establishment of streamlined, consistent pathways for repatriating Indigenous heritage in alignment with UNDRIP principles.

The current piecemeal approaches and unpredictable funding levels fail to substantively uphold responsibilities outlined both within the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action and Articles 10-12 of UNDRIP.

The CMA “Moved to Action” report asserts the critical need for a cohesive national repatriation framework incorporating policies, funding programs, compliant legislative protections, training programs and necessary infrastructure.

More than 6.7 million Indigenous belongings are known to be held across Canadian institutions; however, this number is likely much higher since the collections of smaller institutions are not well reported. A \$1.5 million investment into comprehensively assessing actual repatriation volumes, implementation costs, and institutional capacities required would allow for responsible budgeting, strategic planning and monitoring.

Recommendation 4: That the government provide \$2.5 million in yearly dedicated operational support for Indigenous-led heritage organizations, as well as a one-time investment of \$10 million to support work in consultation and cooperation with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis to ensure appropriate measures are in place for Indigenous peoples to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as defined in Justice Canada’s UNDRIP Action Plan.

In alignment with Canada’s endorsement of UNDRIP and the TRC Calls to Action, substantive Reconciliation efforts must move beyond singular initiatives to institute consistent resourcing, infrastructure, and participatory frameworks that empower Indigenous self-determination.

Investing \$2.5 million in annual operational funding to support national Indigenous-led heritage organizations, particularly the Indigenous Heritage Circle, would build capacity and ensure self-determination within the heritage sector.

A \$10 million investment would likewise enable Indigenous self-determination over heritage by supporting involved development of localized protocols, training programs, advisory bodies and reporting requirements concerning protection and care of tangible and intangible culture.

Enabling communities themselves to guide the institution of heritage stewardship models will build capacities to provide authoritative guidance to Canadian organisations around activating UNDRIP. This will create formal conduits for constructing trust, reciprocity and partnerships with Indigenous leaders.

Recommendation 5: That the government increase Young Canada Works (YCW) core funding earmarked for museums by \$15.5 million over the 4-year period from 2025 to 2029.

We recommend the government increase Young Canada Works (YCW) core funding for museums by \$15.5 million over 4 years from 2025-2029.

Supplemental YCW funding has been provided to museums since 2016. While appreciated, supplemental funds are approved unpredictably, often after each fiscal year starts. This disrupts planning and recruitment, forcing employers to cancel or shorten youth work terms. Without stable multi-year core budgeting, museums cannot reliably leverage resources, plan programs, and provide quality opportunities. Especially affected is the graduate internship component delivered by the CMA, which relies heavily on supplementary funding. Without it, we can only fund 4-5% of internship applications.

The solution is increasing core YCW funds on a permanent, multi-year basis. This provides stability for strategic planning, hiring, and maximizing youth experiences. It aligns with modern fiscal practices. Demand for museum YCW positions remains strong; we urge core funding increases to meet this need. Sustained investment will strengthen museums' capacity to provide meaningful employment enriching youth and broadening their future capacity. The time has come to transition YCW from unpredictable supplements to stable core funding, thereby realizing the program's full potential.