Dear Minister Bethlenfalvy:

I am writing to you today from ORGANIZATION in regards to the status of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) in the upcoming budget. I understand that Ontario government is in a tight fiscal situation with challenges confronting you from all sides. From healthcare, to transit, to housing the demands on the provincial pocketbook are many.

That should not mean that organizations like the OAC take a back seat. The work they do by supporting art and artists, new forms and old, our cities, our towns, and our villages, is absolutely critical.

The OACs funding programmes support employment and tourism across the province, the reach of the OAC is wide and varied. As just one example of its true impact, according to figures from the [Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport](https://www.publications.gov.on.ca/CL30618), every dollar invested in our festivals results in $21 in tourism spending, meaning the government recoups far more in sales taxes than the investment cost. I would call this a very solid ROI.

Furthermore[, Statistics Canada](https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3610045201) reports that the cultural economy in Ontario generated a provincial GDP impact of $28.7 billion in 2019. Of this, the sectors where OAC is a primary support contributed over $5.4 billion of provincial GDP — greater than the impact of Film & Television ($2.0 billion) or Interactive Digital Media ($4.3 billion).

While we believe the OAC could prove even more valuable with a fresh injection of new funding, we are cognizant of the financial uncertainty and mounting challenges facing the Ontario government.

**That is why we are asking for stable funding to the OAC for the next two years.**

By keeping this funding level, you can ensure the arts, culture, and tourism sector can work towards financial viability while it recovers from the lingering economic aftershocks of the pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

NAME

TITLE
ORGANIZATION

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