



The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Office of the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Hearst Block 9th Floor, 900 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7E 2A1

December 19, 2018

Re: Ontario Trillium Foundation Budget

Dear Minister Tibollo:

On behalf of the Ontario Nonprofit Network (ONN), I am writing to express deep concern over how communities across the province will be affected by the recent decision to withhold \$15 million of the Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) budget.

OTF is the only grant system that covers the entire province and all parts of the nonprofit sector. OTF grants support local economies, generate significant value for the investment, and pay dividends back to government in the form of jobs creation and reduced social costs down the road. OTF provides critical investments in community services and facilities across this province – to organizations such as food banks, sports facilities, arts organizations and social service providers.

We were deeply disappointed and surprised to learn that 13 percent of OTF's budget would be withheld in this fiscal year. This decision will have substantial impact on local communities and the organizations that serve them. Almost 90% of OTF funding goes to job creation in local communities, hiring people to improve community health and well-being. These are meaningful jobs for both the employees and program participants. OTF's capital grants in particular also support the purchasing of goods from local suppliers and the hiring of local contractors. These are spin-off benefits for the local economy that may disappear with the reduction to OTF's budget.

Through its Seed, Grow, and Collective Impact streams, OTF funded 469 projects in 2016-2017 that will impact over 750,000 Ontarians over three years. OTF's 203 capital grants in 2016-2017 invested \$22.4 million into nonprofits, First Nations, and small municipalities. Because granting decisions are made by regional volunteer committees, grants are highly responsive to what communities need. Foundations, municipalities, and donors cannot fill the funding gap the government has just created. In many rural and small communities, OTF is the only community grant-maker. These funds contribute to building strong communities and creating opportunities for families, from Windsor to Dryden, and from Niagara to Perth.

We are keen to work together with your Ministry staff to immediately restore this vital community funding. By restoring and disbursing the \$15 million funds to the OTF, the Ontario Government can ensure that communities have opportunities to grow, strengthen their capacity, create jobs and ensure that people's needs are met - a goal we can all support. We ask that you give this request careful consideration.

We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" being more prominent than the last name "Taylor".

Cathy Taylor
Executive Director

cc:

Mr. Dan Jacobs, Chief of Staff, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Mr. Steven Amirikah, Policy Advisor, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

Mr. Tim Jackson, Chair, Ontario Trillium Foundation

Ms. Katharine Bambrick, Chief Executive Office, Ontario Trillium Foundation