

REPORT OF THE INTERIM MANAGER OF RECREATION AND CULTURE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL

OBJECTIVE

To provide Council with information regarding the Reopening for Heritage Organizations through the Museum Assistance Program from the Department of Canadian Heritage and recommend applying for this funding.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report of the Interim Manager of Recreation and Culture dated October 20, 2021 be received;
AND THAT Council approve the application for the Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations for the amount of up to ten percent of the museum's 2019 fiscal year expenses, \$17,457, that is offered through the Museum Assistance Program from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Respectfully Submitted

Approved



Amelia D'Amato
Interim Manager of Recreation & Culture

Daniel Gagnon
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND

The Museums Assistance Program (MAP) supports heritage institutions and workers in the preservation and presentation of heritage collections in Canada. The Program provides financial assistance to Canadian museums and related institutions for activities that:

- facilitate Canadians' access to our heritage;
- foster the preservation of Canada's diverse and rich cultural heritage (other than built heritage), including representative collections of Indigenous cultural heritage; and
- foster professional knowledge, skills and practices related to key museum functions with an overall long-term goal of ensuring Canada's heritage is available to its citizens.

The Government of Canada is implementing the Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations to help enable the reopening of the heritage sector by supporting organizations that deliver in-person experiences or events, such as museums. Funding will also ensure that heritage institutions are able to contribute to the resilience of their communities as Canada recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations, available under the Museums Assistance Program (MAP), is to provide financial assistance to organizations. The fund permits organizations to continue to care for their heritage collections under these exceptional circumstances so that they may remain accessible to Canadians and to support ongoing operating costs in institutions as they seek to recover from the pandemic.

As the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum is not-for-profit and manages a heritage collection, we are eligible to apply for this grant.

The Museum Assistance Program ran a similar funding opportunity last year titled COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Heritage Organizations. We were successful in our application for this funding and received the full amount of \$17,457 in financial support for the government fiscal year of 2020-2021 from the Department of Canadian Heritage, which greatly helped the museum with operational and archival expenses.

ANALYSIS

While the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum does not have a permanent home at the moment, we are still available to provide the community with programming and have seasonal exhibitions available for public viewing in the Ranger Heritage Cabin at the Fire Tower Lookout from the May to October long weekends. This funding would help support the museum in its recovery from both the tragedy of the collapse of the Civic Centre and the Covid-19 pandemic, and as we move forward with reopening in more permanent functions.



The financial assistance provided under the Reopening Fund may be used to support business operations and activities that allow for the continuous care of heritage collections during the recovery and reopening period. Eligible monetary expenses may include, but are not limited to, costs associated with:

- ongoing operations;
- day-to-day collections management activities;
- salaries and wages;
- utilities;
- insurance;
- materials and supplies;
- costs for accessibility (not capital projects);
- Indigenous languages translation;
- minor capital costs (up to 10% of total amount awarded); and,
- other costs related to the care of the collection.

This funding can be allocated to the above operations and activities at the discretion of the organization for past and future expenses incurred between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, and would significantly help the museum getting better established during this time.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the application for the Reopening of Heritage Organizations grant is successful, the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum will receive funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage for up to ten percent of the museum's 2019 fiscal year expenses (last pre-pandemic fiscal year), which could again be \$17,457.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This project aligns with the City's Strategic Plan through:

- Support the Arts and Culture Community
 - Strategic, vibrant, relevant museum for the future
 - To cultivate in the citizens of Elliot Lake an appreciation of arts and culture through accessible programming, arts and cultural facilities and entertainment that is available to all citizens
 - To maintain and improve arts and cultural facilities

SUMMARY

Staff is seeking approval from Council to pursue applying for this funding for the museum.

