



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** **Members of the Museum & Archives Advisory Committee**

**From:** **Susan Neale, Museum Director**

**Meeting Date:** **October 15, 2020**

**Subject:** **Report MAAC20-004  
Peterborough Museum & Archives: “To Honour and Respect”,  
Partner Project**

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## **Purpose**

A report to recommend that the Committee receive a presentation regarding “To Honour and Respect” and support an application to the Indigenous Heritage component of the Museums Assistance Program, Department of Canadian Heritage.

## **Recommendations**

That the Museum & Archives Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report MAAC20-004 dated October 15, 2020, of the Museum Director, as follows:

- a) That the presentation regarding “To Honour and Respect” be received for information;
- b) That MAAC support an application from the Peterborough Museum & Archives and Hiawatha First Nation to the Indigenous Heritage component of the Museums Assistance Program, Department of Canadian Heritage.

## **Budget and Financial Implications**

An application to the Museums Assistance Program (MAP) is an opportunity to leverage the operating resources of the Peterborough Museum & Archives and Hiawatha First Nation for federal support. The MAP application does not commit the City to an increase in capital or operating budgets.

## Background

### Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future

The 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples made seven (7) specific recommendations to Canada's museums. In the years following the Royal Commission's report, museums across the country have implemented many of its recommendations.

For the full Report, refer to <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/royal-commission-aboriginal-peoples/Pages/final-report.aspx>

The 2015 Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada made two (2) Calls to Action for museums (# 67 and # 68), and while focused on national museums, the report noted:

“...regional and local museums also have a critical role to play in creating opportunities for Canadians to examine the historical injustices suffered by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, engage in public dialogue about what has been done and what remains to be done to remedy this, and reflect on the spirit and intent of reconciliation. Through their exhibits, education outreach, and research programs, all museums are well positioned to contribute to education for reconciliation.”

For the full Report refer to

[http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Honouring the Truth Reconciling for the Future July 23 2015.pdf](http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Honouring_the_Truth_Reconciling_for_the_Future_July_23_2015.pdf)

### Museums Assistance Program (MAP)

MAP supports heritage institutions and workers in the preservation and presentation of heritage collections. The program fosters the preservation of Indigenous culture and facilitates access to heritage collections for all Canadians. It also promotes professional knowledge, skills and practices related to key museum functions.

The Indigenous Heritage component of MAP provides funding for projects related to the preservation, management and presentation of Indigenous cultural heritage. For further details, refer to the website <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/museums-assistance/indigenous-heritage.html>

Since 2001, the PMA has received \$522,120 from MAP, in support of its annual temporary exhibitions program and special initiatives such as the Flood Recovery Project, the Collection Relocation Project and most recently, the COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Cultural, Heritage and Sport Organizations.

## Category A Designation

The PMA was officially designated a Category A collecting institution on September 1, 1996, by the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Designated institutions are located in Canada and demonstrate the ability to ensure the long-term preservation of cultural property. They also make cultural property available to the public through exhibitions, programming or research.

Cultural property may be anything from paintings and sculptures, to books and manuscripts, to ethnographic and decorative art material, to scientific objects and musical instruments. It must be movable and does not need to be Canadian in origin. The Movable Cultural Property Program supports the preservation of Canada's artistic, historic and scientific heritage through the **Cultural Property Export and Import Act**.

The PMA undergoes regular, rigorous assessment to maintain the Category A designation.

## To Honour and Respect

To Honour and Respect (Project) is an international loan exhibition project planned for the year 2023. Thirteen (13) quilled birchbark items will be transported from the Royal Collection Trust, United Kingdom, to the PMA. International loans require that a host facility be a designated Category A collecting institution.

The thirteen (13) birchbark items were created by artists of the Hiawatha First Nation as gifts for H.R.H. Edward, Prince of Wales, eldest son of Queen Victoria and future King Edward VII, during his 1860 visit (refer to Appendix A).

Dr. Lori Beavis, an art curator specializing in Indigenous art and a member of Hiawatha First Nation, initiated the Project in response to community discussions. Hiawatha First Nation have requested that the items be brought home as a focus for reconnection with heritage.

All six Mississauga Nations are now in dialogue with Dr. Beavis and the Project is being co-facilitated by Dr. Laura Peers, whose experience is in international loans, community-based research on Indigenous material heritage, and linking museums and Indigenous communities.

The Project will enable the PMA and the City of Peterborough to take forward relationships and partnerships with Mississauga Nations, to develop and strengthen those relationships and to take pride in participating in processes of reconciliation.

## Summary

It is a privilege for the Peterborough Museum & Archives to welcome the Mississauga Nations, to provide a safe, temporary home for the birchbark items, to share the items with the community and to work with the Royal Collection Trust. It is hoped that To Honour and Respect, an important opportunity to honour the truth and reconcile the future, will be facilitated by the Indigenous Heritage component of the Museum Assistance Program.

Submitted by,

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## Attachments

Appendix A - Gifts from Rice Lake to the Prince of Wales, 1860