



## ONTARIO CULTURE STRATEGY

### Making a Written Submission

On September 24, 2015, the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS), formally launched public consultations regarding the development of the first-ever Ontario Culture Strategy.

MTCS has developed a Discussion Paper and is seeking your input through town halls, online discussions, and written submissions. For more information on the Ontario Culture Strategy public consultations, visit: [www.ontario.ca/culturetalks](http://www.ontario.ca/culturetalks)

Written submissions can be any length, can respond to the [Discussion Paper](#) or to any topic you wish to discuss regarding the value of culture in the province. Please note that the contents of the submissions received will become part of the public record and may be made available for public viewing, either in person or electronically. As with every municipal government, every community is different and each has its own unique cultural values and institutions. We encourage you to share the stories and insights about what culture means to your community, and how your local government helps to support this.

Written submissions must be made through [Ontario's Environmental Registry](#) website by **Monday December 7, 2015**, or by email to: [CultureTalks@ontario.ca](mailto:CultureTalks@ontario.ca)

***Don't miss this chance to be a part of a major shift in cultural development in the province!***

Items to consider including in your written submission:

#### **A) Overall message about the importance of culture in the province**

- CULTURE IS VITAL to the prosperity of our communities. Through the lens of respect, sharing and inclusiveness, describe the importance of culture in Ontario through your own municipality's experiences. For example, how has culture:
  - Transformed your municipality?
  - Created jobs or new businesses in your municipality?
  - Made your municipality more attractive to live, work, and visit?

*Reinforce* the message that culture is important to your municipality's quality of place and the creation of a robust business environment, and it is crucial to Ontario's long-term success.

#### **B) The role of culture at the municipal/regional/county level**

- LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ARE IMPORTANT and have a major direct impact on Ontario's cultural development. Describe the unique role your local government undertakes to enhance Ontario's culture sector. For example, does your local government:
  - Have a culture plan?
  - Invest in arts, cultural industries, cultural heritage, or public libraries?
  - Own or maintain cultural assets for the community?
  - Work with the local community to increase cultural experiences and programming?



Reinforce the message that all governments, including local governments, have a role in helping to promote the value of culture in Ontario. Share stories, case studies, images, and numbers showcasing your municipality's work and investment in culture.

### C) Detailed elements of what the Ontario Culture Strategy should address

- ONTARIANS EXPECT local governments to be actively involved and want greater involvement by their local governments. How can the first-ever Ontario Culture Strategy help your local government? For example, would you like to see the following? If so, include this in your written submission, along with other requests specific to your municipality:
  - **Emphasize the importance of local governments in the Ontario Culture Strategy Guiding Principles, recognizing that culture is different everywhere and highlight the unique role of local governments in supporting Ontario's diverse municipalities;**
  - **Invest in funding for municipalities to boost the implementation of municipal cultural plans, and strengthen the management and development of local cultural resources; and**
  - **Advance the role of local governments in fostering an environment in which arts, cultural industries, cultural heritage, and public libraries thrive in communities by partnering with relevant professional networks and organizations on the creation of new resources and tools, professional training, and knowledge sharing opportunities.**

Prepared by: Creative City Network of Canada Ontario Members

Municipal members of the Creative City Network of Canada in Ontario have prepared this 'how to' guide to support local governments in preparing a written submission. We are culturally and geographically diverse local governments in Ontario that represent about 75% of Ontario's population in urban, rural, and remote communities. We are all proud Ontario members of the Creative City Network of Canada. For more information, visit: [www.creativecity.ca](http://www.creativecity.ca)

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 City of Brampton  
 City of Brantford  
 City of Burlington  
 Town of Collingwood  
 City of Guelph  
 County of Haldimand  
 Town of Halton Hills  
 City of Hamilton  
 Town of Huntsville  
 City of Kawartha Lakes  
 City of Kingston  
 City of Kitchener

City of London  
 City of Markham  
 Town of Minto  
 City of Mississauga  
 City of Niagara Falls  
 Town of Oakville  
 City of Orillia  
 City of Oshawa  
 City of Ottawa  
 Town of Pelham  
 City of Peterborough  
 Town of Pickering  
 Town of Port Hope

Town of Richmond Hill  
 Municipality of Sioux Lookout  
 County of Simcoe  
 City of St. Catharines  
 City of Sudbury  
 City of Thunder Bay  
 City of Timmins  
 City of Toronto  
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 Region of Waterloo  
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