



**Written Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in
Advance of the Upcoming 2024 Federal Budget**

By: Canadian Museums Association (CMA)

Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** That the government increase Museums Assistance Program (MAP) funding to a total of **\$47 million** over the 5-year period from 2023 to 2028.
- **Recommendation 2:** That the government provide a one-time investment of **\$100 million** to support funding for climate change mitigation strategies for heritage organizations across Canada.
- **Recommendation 3:** That the government provide **\$2.5 million** in dedicated funding over 5 years starting in 2023 to support decolonization efforts within the heritage sector.
- **Recommendation 4:** That the government increase Young Canada Works (YCW) core funding earmarked for museums by **\$19 million** over the 5-year period from 2023 to 2028.

Recommendation 1: That the government increase Museums Assistance Program (MAP) funding to a total of \$47 million over the 5-year period from 2023 to 2028.

We recommend that the government increase funding for the Museums Assistance Program (MAP) to \$47 million total over 5 years from 2023 to 2028. This increased investment in MAP, along with the Department of Canadian Heritage's planned policy renewal around the National Museum Policy, will be an important step in 2023 to help museums in their role as economic drivers. Additional investment through MAP will support museums as they create new jobs, deliver wider economic impact, green their operations, and become more innovative, inclusive, and resilient.

MAP funding did not reach its intended 1994-95 target of \$18 million. Adjusted for inflation, this would equal about \$34 million today. With inflation remaining above the Bank of Canada's target rate of 2.0%, we urge indexing MAP funding to inflation moving forward so it can continue operating effectively.

According to the 2019 [Value Study of GLAMs in Canada](#) study, every dollar invested in museums yields four dollars in direct benefits for society. Investing in museums is an important part of building economic and social resilience, particularly in smaller communities.

MAP is also oversubscribed, with applicant demand exceeding available funds. Increasing the MAP envelope will help more museums, especially small and remote ones, access much-needed support. This will strengthen museums' ability to serve communities during a time of rising costs and economic uncertainty. We believe this wise investment will yield significant returns in terms of museum sustainability, innovation, implementation of UNDRIP, green operations, new jobs, and community resilience.

Recommendation 2: That the government provide a one-time investment of \$100 million to support funding for climate change mitigation strategies for heritage organizations across Canada.

The CMA urges the federal government to create a one-time \$100 million green infrastructure fund for museums and heritage organizations across Canada. This aligns with a similar request from the British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA).

Climate disasters like wildfires and floods have directly threatened museums across the country, damaging irreplaceable heritage. All museums and heritage sites nationwide face escalating climate risks. We must take urgent action to protect our collective heritage for future generations.

BC's past provincial green infrastructure funds for heritage organizations were highly successful, creating local jobs and supporting long-delayed sustainability upgrades. However, these programs were heavily oversubscribed, revealing extensive unmet need. A federal fund would enable similar broad impact coast to coast.

This investment will help Canada meet sustainability goals while stimulating local economies. It will make museums and heritage sites more resilient in the face of climate change, preserving our nation's arts, culture, heritage, and environment for the future. The time to act is now. We urge the federal government to make this visionary commitment to protecting our shared history and culture.

Recommendation 3: That the government provide \$2.5 million in dedicated funding over 5 years starting in 2023 to support decolonization efforts within the heritage sector.

As outlined in Budget 2023, the federal government is making investments in Indigenous self-determination and well-being, including \$76.3 million for First Nations governance, \$5 million for an Economic Reconciliation Framework, \$2 billion for an Indigenous Health Equity Fund, and \$4 billion for Indigenous housing.

Funding to decolonize heritage institutions complements these broader Reconciliation efforts. Museums, historic sites, and cultural institutions play a key role in representing Indigenous histories, knowledge and perspectives. But systemic change is required to dismantle lingering colonial structures and attitudes.

Dedicated funding would facilitate Indigenous partnerships, policy changes, repatriation of cultural heritage, and inclusion of Indigenous voices in exhibits and programs. This aligns with the government's commitments to economic and social equity for Indigenous communities. While we are cognizant that, on average, 20% of MAP funds are allocated to Indigenous Heritage for projects related to the preservation, management, and presentation of Indigenous cultural heritage in Canada, our recommendation of an investment of \$2.5 million is for dedicated funding for the specific goal of decolonization within the heritage sector.

The CMA's Moved to Action report, developed as a response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Call to Action #67, has made 10 recommendations to activate UNDRIP in the museum sector. The report has reinforced the need for specific legislation, funding and support for Indigenous repatriation, cultural centers, collections strategies, legal compliance reviews, and training.

An investment of \$2.5 million over 5 years would enable institutions to make tangible progress on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action related to decolonization. It would build capacity for reconciliation through new staff positions, Indigenous advisory councils, and cultural competency training.

We recommend this strategic investment to accelerate decolonization of the heritage sector, consistent with the government's ambitious goals for Indigenous self-determination as outlined in Budget 2023.

Recommendation 4: That the government increase Young Canada Works (YCW) core funding earmarked for museums by \$19 million over the 5-year period from 2023 to 2028.

We recommend the government increase Young Canada Works (YCW) core funding for museums by \$19 million over 5 years from 2023-2028.

Supplemental YCW funding has been provided to museums since 2016. While appreciated, supplemental funds are approved unpredictably, often after each fiscal year starts. This disrupts planning and recruitment, forcing employers to cancel or shorten youth work terms. Without stable multi-year core budgeting, museums cannot reliably leverage resources, plan programs, and provide quality opportunities.

This is especially true for the graduate internship component delivered by the CMA, which relies heavily on supplementary funding. Without it, we can only fund 4-5% of internship applications.

In 2018-2019 when supplementary funds augmented core funding, YCW internships averaged 845 hours. In 2022-23 with only core funding, internships averaged just 820 hours despite higher per-position limits. Clearly, fluctuating supplementary timelines reduce program quality and impact.

The solution is increasing core YCW funds on a permanent, multi-year basis. This provides stability for strategic planning, hiring, and maximizing youth experiences. It aligns with modern fiscal practices. Demand for museum YCW positions remains strong; we urge core funding increases to meet this need. Sustained investment will strengthen museums' capacity to provide meaningful employment enriching youth and broadening their future capacity. The time has come to transition YCW from unpredictable supplements to stable core funding, thereby realizing the program's full potential.