



Ontario Culture Strategy actions related to Indigenous communities

July 2016

The Ontario government is releasing its first Culture Strategy, based on extensive engagement with Indigenous partners and communities, culture stakeholders and the public. The strategy sets out a vision, principles and four overarching goals to guide the government's support for culture over the next five years. These goals are to promote cultural engagement and inclusion, strengthen culture in communities, fuel the creative economy and promote the value of the arts throughout government. Each goal includes strategies and actions.

The following is a list of action items in the Culture Strategy that specifically mention Indigenous communities. It is expected that many of the other actions will also support Indigenous priorities.

Goal 1: Promote cultural engagement and inclusion

Strategy 1. Reduce barriers and encourage greater participation in culture

- Bring together Ontario government granting partners to share best practices and increase access and inclusion throughout the application and assessment process, and ensure that representatives of communities who may face barriers to accessing culture funding are actively involved in the discussions, including Indigenous, Francophone and ethno-cultural communities, people with disabilities and people who are Deaf, and people living in rural and remote areas.

Strategy 2. Inspire the next generation and help youth build careers in the culture sector

- Support youth cultural camps in Indigenous communities to build leadership and promote awareness of traditional knowledge and languages through daily hands-on activities.

Strategy 3. Strengthen our relationship with Indigenous communities and work towards reconciliation

- In collaboration with Indigenous peoples, establish an ongoing dialogue to address shared culture priorities, such as preservation of Indigenous cultural heritage and languages and participation in all aspects of Ontario's cultural life.
- Help facilitate cross-cultural understanding between First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and museums and other culture organizations to create stronger relationships and partnerships.
- Provide an Indigenous Cultural Revitalization Fund to support cultural activities in Indigenous communities, with the goals of revitalizing cultural practices, raising awareness of the vitality of Indigenous cultures in Ontario and promoting reconciliation.

Goal 2: Strengthen culture in communities

Strategy 1. Help build strong community-based culture organizations

- Work with First Nation public libraries to better understand their unique needs and identify opportunities for responding through improved supports.

Strategy 2. Conserve and promote Ontario's diverse cultural heritage

- Develop additional tools to help communities identify and protect their cultural heritage, including guidance on cultural heritage landscapes, cultural planning, and the interests of Indigenous communities in conserving cultural heritage, to support municipalities in implementing the Provincial Policy Statement (2014).ⁱ
- Work with Indigenous partners, archaeologists, museums and other stakeholders to develop a framework to improve conservation of archaeological artifacts so that current and future generations can learn about and understand our past.
- Review the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists to reflect the evolving practice of archaeology in land use and development contexts, including the engagement of Indigenous communities and the care of artifacts.

Strategy 3. Connect people and communities by sharing and celebrating our diverse heritage and cultures

- Bring together culture and tourism agencies and attractions and Indigenous partners to increase public awareness and understanding of Indigenous histories, cultural heritage, knowledge and ongoing contributions to arts and culture in Ontario.

Goal 3: Fuel the creative economy

Strategy 1. Make Ontario a culture leader at home and internationally

- Collaborate with government partners and the tourism industry to identify opportunities to grow cultural tourism in Ontario, including Francophone tourism and Indigenous-led tourism, and offer authentic and compelling visitor experiences.

Goal 4 will promote the contributions of artists and the broader arts sector throughout the Ontario government to help integrate the arts into a range of policy and program areas.

ⁱ Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "Land Use Planning: Provincial Policy Statement." 2014. <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page215.aspx>.