

Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport

Minister

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NOV 23 2016

Professor Thomas Symons
Chair
Ontario Heritage Trust
10 Adelaide Street E, 3rd Floor
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Professor Symons:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership as Chair of the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT).

Ontario's board-governed agencies are vital partners in ensuring the delivery of high quality services to Ontarians. The people of Ontario depend on you to provide leadership to your agency's board, management and staff. Together with your fellow board members, you establish the goals, objectives, and strategic direction for the agency consistent with your agency mandate, government policies, and my directions where appropriate.

I appreciate the work undertaken by your board and staff in developing OHT's 2016-17 Business Plan. I look forward to hearing about the results of your plan.

As you begin to undertake your 2017-18 business planning, and pursuant to the requirements of the *Agencies and Appointments Directive*, this letter sets out my expectations for OHT for its 2017-18 fiscal year.

As you know, your agency is mandated by the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990*. to advise and make recommendations to the Minister on any matter relating to the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario; receive, acquire and hold property in trust for the people of Ontario; support, encourage and facilitate the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario; preserve, maintain, reconstruct, restore and manage property of historical, architectural, archaeological, recreational, aesthetic, natural and scenic interest; and conduct research, educational and communications programs necessary for heritage conservation, protection and preservation. Concurrently, supporting arts and culture in Ontario to bring us together and make our communities and economy stronger is one of the priorities in the Premier's mandate letter to me which OHT helps to accomplish through delivery of its mandate.

To ensure services are provided in accordance with your mandate and government priorities, I expect that OHT will align its planning with ministry priorities set out in my mandate letter and establish strategies to support those priorities. Specifically, OHT will

focus on supporting the goals of the Ontario Culture Strategy; and supporting government initiatives that strengthen our relationships with Indigenous communities and work toward reconciliation.

To achieve and maintain the highest levels of accountability, OHT will work with the ministry to review and enhance governance, fiscal management and sustainability, and accountability processes to reflect best practices and ensure compliance with Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet direction. The OHT also will maintain an effective system of internal controls and compliance with applicable requirements to promote transparency and accountability and will be required to manage any operational, strategic and financial risks to help ensure business objectives are met.

For 2017, OHT will deliver special programming that celebrates Canada's and Ontario's 150th anniversary.

I appreciate the hard work being undertaken by OHT's Board and staff and wish you continued success.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor McMahon', written in a cursive style.

Eleanor McMahon
Minister

c: Maureen Adamson, Deputy Minister
Kevin Finnerty, Assistant Deputy Minister, Culture Division
Beth Hanna, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Heritage Trust