

Minister of Canadian Heritage
and Multiculturalism



Ministre du Patrimoine canadien
et du Multiculturalisme

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5

Her Worship Lisa Helps
Mayor of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 1P6

OCT 03 2018

MAYOR'S OFFICE

OCT 10 2018

Dear Madam Mayor:

Thank you for your letter congratulating me on my appointment as Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism and enclosing a copy of *Create Victoria: Arts & Culture Master Plan*. I appreciate your kind words of encouragement and support and your taking the time to inform me about the many arts and culture initiatives in your city.

I was honoured by the Prime Minister's decision to entrust me with the Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism portfolio, and it is with great enthusiasm that I have accepted this new challenge. I fully intend to support our creative industries and to ensure that Canadian arts and culture are even more accessible to Canadians both at home and abroad.

One of my priorities will be to bring forward an Indigenous Languages Act, co-developed with Indigenous peoples, which will ensure the preservation, promotion and revitalization of First Nations, Inuit and Métis languages. It will be a privilege to support Indigenous peoples in their efforts to increase the use of their languages and strengthen their cultural distinctiveness.

The multiculturalism mandate will also prove to be the ideal occasion for me to showcase diversity, openness and inclusion, as these values are fundamental to a democratic society like ours.

With respect to the development of the building located at 28 Bastion Square as a creative hub, it is my understanding that your office has been in communication with Department of Canadian Heritage representatives. I am also informed that costing estimates and other details relevant to a potential application under the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund are still outstanding.

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I encourage municipal officials to continue their discussions with the Department's Western Regional Office as the project develops. Ms. Erica Tao, Regional Director General, would be pleased to assist your team. She can be reached by telephone at 604-666-2060 or via email at erica.tao@canada.ca. The Department looks forward to further discussions about the development of this interesting project.

Should you wish to follow up directly with my office, feel free to contact Mr. Michel Breau, Director of Operations, by telephone at 819-997-7788 or via email at michel.breau@canada.ca.

With regard to your kind invitation to visit the City of Victoria's local arts, culture and heritage community, please be assured that it has been duly noted. I know that my office has been in touch with yours with the hope of scheduling a meeting while I was in Nanaimo for the Cabinet retreat. Regretfully, it was not possible, but I look forward to taking you up on your offer shortly.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, P.C., M.P.