

Minister of Canadian Heritage  
and Multiculturalism



Ministre du Patrimoine canadien  
et du Multiculturalisme

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M5

AUG 16 2019

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



Dear Madam Mayor:

I am writing in response to your correspondence expressing your support for the Royal BC Museum's (RBCM) modernization project. I appreciate your taking the time to write on this matter.

The Government of Canada recognizes that new investments in infrastructure can create and support economic prosperity. Cultural institutions play an important role in Canadian society, and cultural infrastructure is an important part of Canada's social infrastructure. Cultural spaces help build dynamic and connected communities, allow local economies to grow, create spaces for Canadian artists to collaborate and innovate, and provide opportunities for Canadians to experience arts, culture and heritage activities.

Please be assured that the Department of Canadian Heritage recognizes the RBCM's vision and dedication towards building a new facility. The Department's Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) supports the improvement of physical conditions for arts, heritage, culture and creative innovation through renovation and construction projects, the acquisition of specialized equipment and feasibility studies related to cultural spaces.

Regional departmental officials have been in contact with RBCM representatives about its modernization activities. Given the anticipated size of the RBCM's redevelopment plan, the CCSF does not offer a scale of support that could meet the level of investment needed for the Museum's project.

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The Investing in Canada Plan (ICP), which falls under the purview of Infrastructure Canada, may be a more appropriate fit for federal funding.

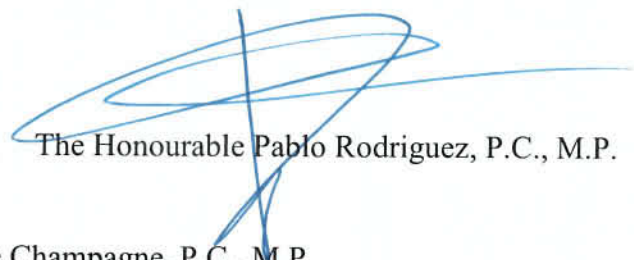
Under the ICP, projects must be prioritized by provincial and territorial governments before they are submitted to Infrastructure Canada for consideration. Should the Government of British Columbia identify the Museum's new facility as a priority for funding, it could be eligible under the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure component of the ICP.

It is my understanding that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure of British Columbia oversees the administration of the bilateral agreement that provides federal funding under the ICP. I therefore encourage RBCM representatives to pursue this conversation with provincial government officials. I also encourage representatives of the Museum to continue their discussions with regional departmental officials to explore whether other components of the redevelopment plan might align with the CCSF, such as specialized equipment for the new facility.

Given his responsibility for the ICP, I have also taken the liberty of forwarding our correspondence to the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, for his information.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



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

c.c.: The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.