



Briefing Note Advice to Minister

Date: July 31, 2018

Cliff #: 34132

Issue: Meeting with Erica Mattson, Executive Director of the BC Museums Association

Background / Facts:

- Founded in 1957, the British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA) is a provincial arts service organization representing British Columbia's museum, gallery, and related heritage communities.
- The BCMA delivers programs and services to the benefit of its members and the sector at large, including the provision of networking, advocacy and professional development opportunities.
- The BCMA has over 400 members across the Province, most of who receive funding from Community Gaming Grants and/or the BC Arts Council (BCAC).
- The BCMA received \$63,000 Arts and Cultural Service Organizations Operating Assistance grant from the BCAC and \$37,250 from Community Gaming Grants for fiscal 2017/18.
- The Province has provided financial support to the BCMA for five of its six decades as well; BCMA has been a valuable partner that often acts as an advisor to Ministry staff on the museum sector.
- Other BCMA activities related to the Province and Ministry:
 - Administered the *British Columbia | Canada 150: Celebrating British Columbia Communities and their Contributions to Canada* program on the Province's behalf. More than 220 projects in 150 communities throughout B.C were successful in receiving \$7.6M in funding through this initiative. The contract with BCMA concludes in November 2018.
 - The BCMA's Advocacy committee submitted a [paper](#) to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services during the development of Budget 2018 to raise issues such as increased funding to the BCAC and continued infrastructure funding.
 - At the request of BCMA, the Province declared May 13-20th, 2018 as BC Museums Week.
 - The Gallery, Library, Archive and Museums (GLAM) symposium held on May 8th, 2018. Prem Gill of Creative BC was the keynote speaker. The GLAM Sector partnership is based on a first-of-its-kind Memorandum of Understanding signed between the BC Museums Association, BC Library Association, and Archives Association of BC on March 24, 2017.
 - BCMA and Ministry staff are in contact regarding a draft discussion paper for a provincial digitization initiative for the museum sector. The draft is currently under review.
 - Erica Mattson played an advisory role in the Tumbler Ridge Museum situation and was, for a time, acting as a liaison between the interested groups.
 - The BCMA Conference will be held October 21-23rd in Kelowna. The theme for the conference is Innovation and Technology. A pre-conference workshop on Indigenous cultural competencies was partially funded through the *British Columbia | Canada 150* contract.
- The new BCMA's Indigenous Advisory Council (Council) is a stand-alone committee with the role of championing the Rod Naknakim Declaration, and identifying and building relationships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders to facilitate reconciliation opportunities.
- The Rod Naknakim Declaration was unanimously endorsed in March 2017 by the Council stemming from the 2016 BCMA annual conference where Rod Naknakim of the We Wai Kai Nation presented: "*Museums and Canada's First Nations: A Moral and Legal Obligation – The Colonial Legacy.*"

- He discussed museums, archives and Indigenous peoples working together to realize the goals set out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration.
- He suggested four specific steps museums, archives and cultural institutions can take to work in partnership with Indigenous peoples: 1) Museums acknowledge the fact that the ownership of First Nations artifacts and remains is in the Indigenous peoples; 2) Acknowledge there is an opportunity for museums to decolonize the museums by partnering with the Indigenous owners; 3) The new relationship must result in a space in which there is greater respect and effect for Indigenous peoples and a more authentic experience for museum goers; 4) Costs for repatriation of artifacts and remains should not be born by the Indigenous peoples.

Analysis:

- At the upcoming meeting, the BCMA would like to discuss:
 - administration of the B.C. | Canada 150 grant program;
 - their new Indigenous Advisory Council and the adoption of the Rod Naknakim Declaration;
 - events including BC Museums Week, the provincial GLAM sector symposium and the annual conference in Kelowna this October; and
 - the progress being made in the Province's investment in the BC Arts Council and the development of a community capital infrastructure fund.
- The BCMA may also invite the Minister to attend the upcoming annual conference in Kelowna.

Conclusion / Speaking Notes:

- Acknowledge the contributions of the BCMA to its membership and the sector as a whole.
- Thank Erica for her support of government priorities through their work on the *British Columbia / Canada 150* program and her leadership in supporting the Tumbler Ridge Museum.
- Commend the BCMA's creation of the Indigenous Advisory Council and the commitment to Rod Naknakim's Declaration.
- Highlight the contributions to the arts and culture sector in Budget 2018:
 - Budget 2018 invests an additional \$15 M over three years into the BCAC, making it government's first contribution toward doubling the Council's budget over four years.
 - The \$5 M increases the annual budget to \$29 M.
 - The \$5 M will be put towards new and expanded programs as guided by the BC Arts Council and will provide a greater breadth and depth of funding across the arts sector in B.C.
- Explain that the BC Arts Council is still in the process of allocating the \$5M for 2018/19.
- Also highlight progress related to infrastructure:
 - British Columbia and the Federal Government have signed an agreement outlining the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and is available on the Provincial website.
 - The aim of the community, culture and recreation infrastructure stream will build stronger communities and improve social inclusion. Projects will improve access to and/or increase quality of cultural, recreational and/or community infrastructure for Canadians, including Indigenous peoples and vulnerable populations.
 - Staff within the Ministry are working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on this funding stream.

Attachment(s): N/A

Contact: Sandy Carroll, Deputy Minister, (778) 698-0450