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NOV 23 2016

Ms. Rita Davies
Chair
Ontario Arts Council
121 Bloor Street East, 7th Floor
Toronto, ON M4W 3M5

Dear Ms. Davies:

Thank you for your ongoing leadership as Chair of the Ontario Arts Council (OAC).

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 OAC'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 OAC for its 2017-18 fiscal year.

As you know, your agency is mandated by the *Arts Council Act, R.S.O. 1990*, to foster the creation and production of art for the benefit of all Ontarians. 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 OAC helps to accomplish through delivery of its mandate.

To ensure that services are provided in accordance with your mandate and government priorities, I expect that OAC will align its planning with ministry priorities set out in my mandate letter, and establish strategies to support those priorities. OAC will focus on supporting the goals of the Ontario Culture Strategy, including contributing to an Arts Policy Framework and working with the ministry to develop and deliver the framework for the Indigenous Cultural Revitalization Fund; measuring and reporting on the progress of the OAC's "Vital Arts and Public Value: A Blueprint for 2014-2020"; and providing the

ministry with regular updates on the implementation of the new online granting system and streamlined granting programs.

To achieve and maintain the highest levels of accountability, OAC 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 as well as the new requirements with respect to executive salaries and compensation. The OAC 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 its business objectives are met.

I appreciate the hard work being undertaken by OAC'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
Peter Caldwell, Director and Chief Executive Office, Ontario Arts Council