



**CANADIAN
MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION**

CMA NEWS — April 22, 2020

Culture and heritage groups seek targeted COVID-19 support

Associations representing Canada's museums, science centres, zoos, aquaria, public and botanical gardens and historic places have all joined forces and today (April 22) issued the following [open letter](#) to the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage.

The open letter highlighted the critical risk to the safety and security of collections across the country and asked for the government's increased attention in three key areas: immediate financial relief, an investment in digitization and considerations for the sector in a post-COVID-19 world.

The letter follows a panel discussion which took place last week, at an [online conference](#) organized by the Canadian Museums Association, in which organizations shared common concerns and challenges and explored what can be done by working together. Moving forward, the group will be working collaboratively on issues of common concern.

Federal government announces support for students

Today (April 22), the Prime Minister announced the [Canada Emergency Student Benefit](#) (CESB) and other support for students in terms of job creation and funding.

The information we have in relation to this support to students is limited at this time. In its announcement, the government notes that it will expand existing federal employment, skills development, and youth programming to create more student jobs, placements, and other training opportunities. We expect this will have a direct bearing on the Young Canada Works program, delivered by the CMA, however we do not have any further detail at this time.

We commit to sharing updates with the museum community on these developments as soon as they are available.

RBC Foundation Mentorship Program — deadline extension

Given challenges for organizations as a result of the pandemic, we have extended the deadline for employer applications for the [RBC Foundation Museum Mentorship program](#) to **May 15, 2020**.

This great program provides quality, mentored learning experiences for emerging museum professionals over four to six months. It's designed to enhance employability skills, while structured mentoring helps to coach and champion participants to future success. It is ideal for graduates or enrolled students (ages 18 to 35) of museum and arts studies programs, curators, conservators, and arts administrators. The program is administered by the CMA with the generous financial support of the Royal Bank of Canada's RBC Foundation. For more information and to register, visit [our website](#).

CMA Survey

Your input is critical to ensuring the CMA's work reflects the needs of the museum community in Canada. So please take a few moments to share your views with us. The survey is open until April 24. [CMA Strategic Planning: Community Engagement Survey](#)