



Ministry of Culture

PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN 2007/08

ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07

ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

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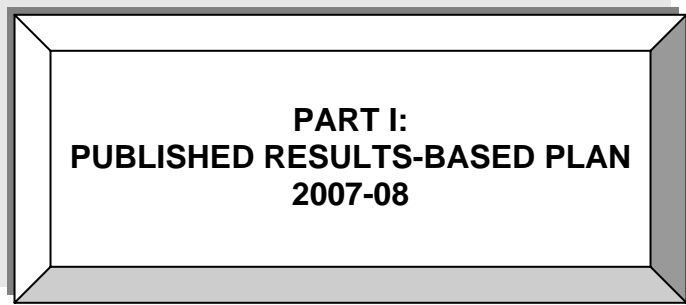
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MINISTRY CONTACT:

Guy Lepage
Communications Branch
416-314-3497

OR VISIT US AT:

www.culture.gov.on.ca



**PART I:
PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN
2007-08**

MINISTRY OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Culture supports Ontario's arts and cultural industries, protects its heritage resources and assists the public library system to improve the social and economic vitality of the province.

The ministry promotes and markets Ontario's cultural and heritage attractions to realize their full economic potential. It works with local communities and cultural agencies to enhance and preserve Ontario's culture and heritage.

Ministry Vision

The Ministry of Culture provides leadership in fostering a cultural and creative environment in Ontario. Working together with the cultural community and other partners, the ministry champions a bold and transformative strategy for the 21st century that focuses on the creative economy; vibrant, livable communities; civic engagement; and a strong and stable culture sector.

Key Strategies

The Ministry of Culture has four key strategies for 2007/08:

- Fostering a creative economy
- Building vibrant, liveable communities
- Promoting civic engagement
- Supporting a strong and stable culture sector

Ministry Responsibilities, Programs and Services

The Ministry of Culture administers legislation, develops policy and delivers programs and services to maximize the significant contribution the arts, heritage, libraries, cultural industries and cultural agencies make to Ontario's social, cultural and economic well-being. It fosters strategic alliances among stakeholders and provides them with the tools to be innovative and to increase their sustainability and self-reliance.

The ministry provides transfer payments for operational funding to ministry agencies, libraries, museums, provincial heritage organizations, and other support to the cultural sector.

In partnership with its agencies, provincial and community-based organizations, other ministries, federal and municipal governments and the private sector, the ministry works to enrich the quality of life in Ontario and to promote success for students through the arts and culture.

The ministry stimulates an environment in which high-growth cultural industries — film and television production, book and magazine publishing, sound recording and digital media — can thrive and drive economic prosperity. Strategic investments in cultural tourism enable cultural agencies and attractions to increase their market reach and develop new audiences and products to boost tourism across Ontario.

As a leader in heritage conservation, the ministry helps to build community capacity to preserve and protect Ontario's unique and irreplaceable heritage resources. The ministry also supports equitable access to information resources for all Ontarians through public libraries, fostering literacy, an excellent quality of life and prosperity through lifelong learning.

Through the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the ministry helps to build stronger, safer communities through support for charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts and culture, sports and recreation, human and social services and environmental sectors.

Ontario's cultural agencies provide or fund educational programming for hundreds of thousands of young people each year. They stimulate economic growth through support for our cultural industries and cultural tourism. They are stewards of our built and natural heritage and centres of excellence and innovation. The ministry's agencies include:

Attractions:

- Art Gallery of Ontario
- McMichael Canadian Art Collection
- Ontario Heritage Trust
- Ontario Science Centre
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- Royal Ontario Museum
- Science North

Regulatory/Advisory:

- Conservation Review Board
- Minister's Advisory Council for Arts and Culture

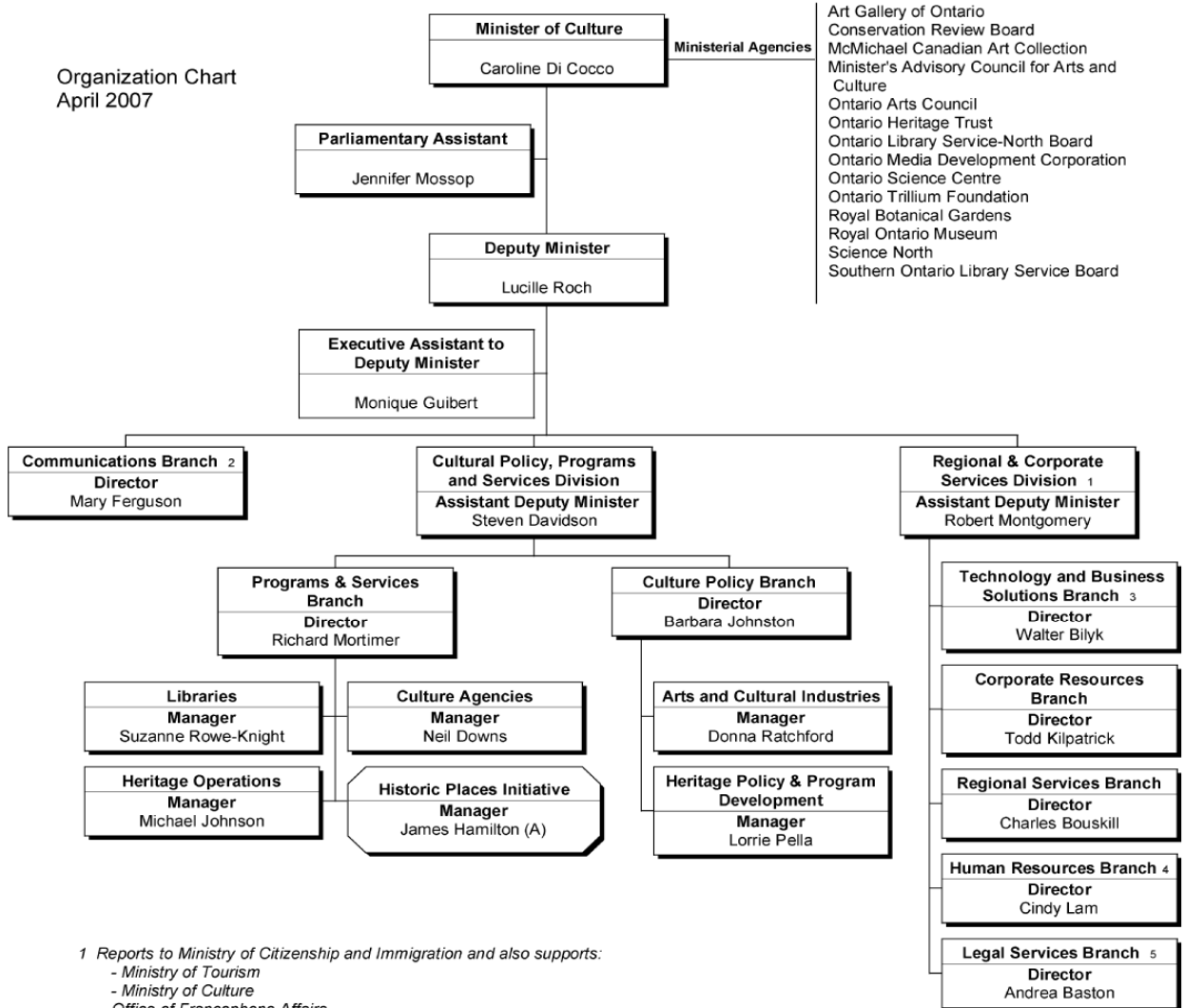
Services:

- Ontario Arts Council
- Ontario Media Development Corporation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Ontario Library Service – North Board
- Southern Ontario Library Service Board

Ministry Organization Chart

Organization Chart
April 2007

Ministry of Culture



- 1 Reports to Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and also supports:
 - Ministry of Tourism
 - Ministry of Culture
 - Office of Francophone Affairs
- 2 Reports to Ministry of Tourism and also supports:
 - Ministry of Culture

Dual Reporting Relationships:

- 2 Reports to DM, Ministry of Tourism & Associate Secretary of Cabinet & Deputy Minister of Corporate Communications
- 3 Reports to ADM, RCSD Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration & CIO, Community Services Cluster
- 4 Reports to ADM -RCSD, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration & ADM, HR Services Delivery, MGS
- 5 Reports to ADM -RCSD, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration & Assistant Deputy Attorney General, MAG

Note:

The Investment & Development Office, Ministry of Tourism also provides support to Ministry of Culture

(A) Denotes "Acting"

Legislation

THE MINISTER, UTILIZING THE POWERS CONFERRED ON HER UNDER THE MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE ACT, INsofar AS IT RELATES TO PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES RESPECTING CULTURE, ADMINISTERS THE FOLLOWING STATUTES:

Asian Heritage Act, 2005, S.O. 2005, c. 10

Arts Council Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.30

Art Gallery of Ontario Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.28

Centennial Centre of Science and Technology Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.5

Celebration of Portuguese Heritage Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 22

Foreign Cultural Objects Immunity from Seizure Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.23

German Pioneers Day Act, 2000, S.O. 2000, c. 7

George R. Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. G.7

Hummingbird Performing Arts Centre Corporation Act, 1998, S.O. 1998, c. 37

Irish Heritage Day Act, 2004, S.O. 2004, c. 10

McMichael Canadian Art Collection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.4

Ministry of Citizenship and Culture Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.18 (as it relates to the activities and programs respecting Culture)

Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18

Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44

Royal Botanical Gardens Act, [1989 c.Pr.22]

Royal Ontario Museum Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. R.35

Science North Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. S.4

South Asian Heritage Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 29

Tartan Act, 2000, S.O. 2000, c. 8

United Empire Loyalists' Day Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c. 42

Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs)

The Ministry's agencies, boards and commissions are:

- Art Gallery of Ontario
- Centennial Centre of Science and Technology (Ontario Science Centre)
- Conservation Review Board
- McMichael Canadian Art Collection
- Minister's Advisory Council for Arts and Culture
- Ontario Heritage Trust
- Ontario Library Service – North Board
- Ontario Media Development Corporation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Province of Ontario Council for the Arts (Ontario Arts Council)
- Royal Botanical Gardens
- Royal Ontario Museum
- Science North
- Southern Ontario Library Service Board

The Ministry's Crown Foundations are:

- Art Gallery of Ontario Crown Foundation
- Canadian Opera Company Crown Foundation
- Canadian Stage Company Crown Foundation
- National Ballet of Canada Crown Foundation
- Ontario Foundation for the Arts
- Royal Botanical Gardens Crown Foundation
- Royal Ontario Museum Crown Foundation
- Shaw Festival Crown Foundation
- Stratford Festival Crown Foundation
- Toronto Symphony Orchestra Crown Foundation

PUBLISHED RESULTS-BASED PLAN 2007/08

Key Strategy: Fostering a Creative Economy

The most prosperous economies are those where the arts, culture and heritage thrive. Culture contributes to community-building and economic growth across Ontario. By bringing together talent and technology, culture spurs creativity and innovation across all sectors, helping to build a competitive and creative economy.

Ontario's entertainment and creative cluster is an emerging economic driver. At its core are the cultural media industries – film and television, book and magazine publishing, music and interactive digital media — which contribute more than \$6.7 billion to the provincial economy and support over 36,000 jobs. The ministry will continue to develop this high-growth sector to bring economic prosperity and jobs to Ontario.

The ministry will work with its cultural attraction agencies and local, regional and provincial cultural organizations to promote cultural tourism and attract more cultural tourists — a high-spending segment of the tourism market — to Ontario.

Key initiatives for 2007-08

- Implement the Entertainment and Creative Cluster Strategy, including ongoing investment in the cultural industries through the \$7.5 million Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund, a three-year program to promote capacity building, marketing innovation and skills development.
- Work with the Ontario Media Development Corporation to expand Ontario's share of the global entertainment market. Over the last two years, the OMDC has received \$33 million in new funding to support content creation, marketing and promotion and business development in the cultural media industries.
- Help Ontario remain competitive in attracting foreign film and television production by extending the Ontario Production Services Tax Credit to March 31, 2008.
- Expand eligibility for the Computer Animation and Special Effects Tax Credit.
- Promote the expansion of the Ontario Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit to include video game developers and smaller multimedia companies.
- Continue to support Ontario's cultural attraction agencies to help them attract cultural tourists domestically and internationally.
- Work with the Ministry of Tourism, Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation, culture and tourism sector partners to increase cultural tourism and promote Ontario's many and diverse cultural products and experiences.
- Celebrate the success of the government's \$50.5 million investment in Toronto's cultural renaissance by maximizing the tourism potential of new and expanded cultural facilities, including the grand opening in June 2007 of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal galleries at the Royal Ontario Museum.
- Support the Toronto International Film Festival in building a permanent home, with groundbreaking to take place in Spring 2007. The province has invested \$25 million in the new Festival Centre, which is expected to quadruple attendance to two million visitors a year.

- Stage the inaugural LuminaTO — Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity in June 2007 and plan for following years. This 10-day celebration will showcase Ontario's artists and attract new visitors to Ontario.
- Boost the economy and jobs in areas experiencing slower growth, through capital investments made in cultural facilities, including libraries and museums.

Key Strategy: Building Vibrant, Liveable Communities

Arts and culture play a vital role in each and every community across Ontario, providing experiences that enrich our lives and enhance the education of our young people. Investing in culture contributes to quality of place and helps build strong and prosperous communities that reflect and celebrate Ontario's cultural diversity. In 2007-08, the ministry will continue to help communities across the province protect and foster Ontario's built, cultural and natural heritage.

The Ontario government recognizes the power of culture to transform communities. In 2007-08, the ministry will continue to work with municipal partners to support municipal cultural planning, e.g., the strategic and integrated use of local cultural resources in community building, economic development and all aspects of municipal planning.

Parents and educators are coming to realize that learning about and through the arts promotes higher academic achievement and strengthens student engagement. The ministry will work with its cultural agencies, culture and education partners across the province to champion arts education in our schools and in the community.

The ministry will contribute to building strong, vital and creative communities across Ontario with ongoing support for arts, culture and heritage through the Ontario Arts Council and Ontario Heritage Trust, and by supporting community charities and not-for-profit organizations through the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Key initiatives for 2007-08

- Deliver guidelines and training tools to help our heritage partners protect Ontario's heritage at the local, regional and provincial level.
- Continue to work with the federal government and other provincial/territorial partners to implement the Historic Places Initiative (HPI).
- Develop outreach programming to help communities identify, protect and realize the full potential of their cultural heritage assets, and develop tools and resources to advance municipal cultural planning across Ontario.
- Support historical organizations in their efforts to preserve and protect Ontario's heritage through funding and the provision of advisory services.
- Work with the Ontario Heritage Trust to preserve, protect and promote Ontario's built and natural heritage, with \$10 million invested in 2006 to repair and improve sites owned by the OHT, and promote OHT's popular Doors Open Ontario program.
- Continue to work with municipalities on the local Heritage Property Tax Relief program to assist owners with protected heritage properties.

- Help students succeed and reach at-risk youth through arts education. For instance, in partnership with the Ontario Arts Council and Ontario Arts Foundation, deliver the Arts Education Partnership Initiative, a new \$4 million program to encourage private sector donors to support new or enhanced arts education projects in our schools and communities.
- Advance the efforts of the Ontario Arts Council to support cultural activities that contribute to vital and creative communities. The 2007 Ontario Budget included a \$15 million annual funding increase to the Ontario Arts Council by 2009-10.
- Support arts and culture in the 905 region with an additional \$1.2 million provided to the McMichael Canadian Art Collection.
- Increase annual funding to the Ontario Trillium Foundation by \$20 million by 2010, to meet the needs of Ontario's diverse community-based charities and not-for-profit organizations.
- Work with community partners to ensure the successful completion of 62 cultural capital projects approved for \$146.9 million in funding from the Sports, Culture and Tourism Partnerships (SCTP). Seventeen projects are still in progress.

Key Strategy: Promoting Civic Engagement

Ontario's public and First Nations libraries are vital hubs of literacy, learning and information in our communities. By providing free and equitable access to traditional and digital information resources, they empower Ontarians to succeed in the knowledge-based economy and actively participate in community life.

In 2007-08, the ministry will continue to work with the library community to strengthen and improve library services in Ontario. The ministry will also engage with Aboriginal communities to develop new strategies and approaches for the disposition and management of Aboriginal artifacts.

Key initiatives for 2007-08

- Strengthen the role of Ontario's public and First Nations libraries as community hubs. In 2006 and 2007, the province made one-time investments of \$15 million and \$5 million respectively to enhance library programs and services across Ontario.
- Improve access to digital information for all Ontarians through the province's \$8 million investment in Knowledge Ontario, a multi-sector initiative involving 6,500 public, school, college and university libraries.
 - Improve service at public and First Nations libraries in Northern Ontario through the province's \$1 million investment in the Ontario Library Service – North's Joint Automation Server project, to be launched in June 2007.
 - Continue to support high speed access services in 150 public libraries through the ministry's internet connectivity program, with an additional 49 public and First Nations libraries joining the program in 2007.
- Continue to review public library support in Ontario to ensure the greatest benefit to our public and First Nations libraries and library users.

- Continue to partner with ServiceOntario to provide access to government information services in public libraries.
- Continue to engage Aboriginal communities in archaeology and support the Ontario Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs' New Approach to Aboriginal Affairs.

Key Strategy: Supporting a Strong and Stable Culture Sector

Artists and arts organizations are fundamental to the development of a creative economy in Ontario. They foster innovation, creativity and quality of place, and give our province a competitive edge for the 21st century. They reflect the best of who we are to ourselves and to the world.

In 2007-08, the ministry will champion Ontario artists through proposed legislation that would recognize their value to Ontario society. The ministry will continue to support artists and arts organizations through the Ontario Arts Council and other ministry programs to build the capacity of our cultural sector.

Community museums play a vital role in telling the stories of our province and its people. The ministry will continue to work with community museums across Ontario to ensure their sustainability as a cornerstone of community life.

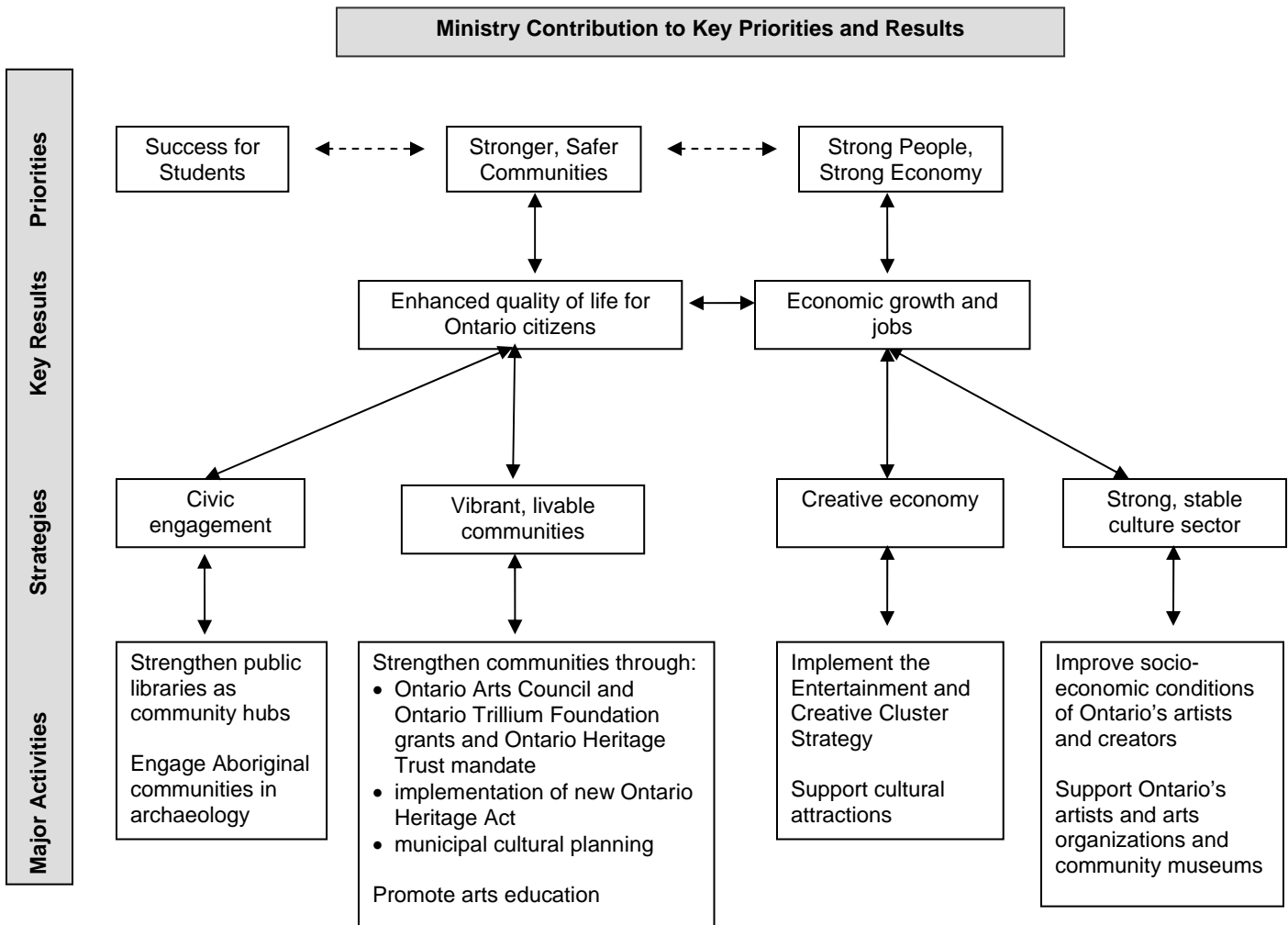
Key initiatives for 2007-08

- Support Ontario artists and arts organization through a \$15 million annual funding increase to the Ontario Arts Council by 2009-10.
- Provide Ontario's arts organizations with a stable source of income to support their operations through enhancement of the Arts Endowment Fund, which is administered by the Ontario Arts Foundation. The government made a one-time investment of \$10 million to the fund in the 2007 Budget.
- Recognize the contribution of artists to Ontario through proposed legislation on the Status of Ontario's Artists.
- Develop services and tools to provide artists with business assistance that is tailored to their unique needs.
- Develop new training and apprenticeship opportunities for emerging and professional artists.
- Support the development of Ontario's cultural sector through the Cultural Strategic Investment Fund, which provides targeted funding for projects that help the sector overcome barriers to economic and creative growth.
- Showcase Ontario's artists and cultural products locally and internationally.
- Enhance support to community museums through a \$2.3 million annual funding increase for the Community Museum Operating Grants program, beginning in 2007-08.
- Invest in public and First Nations libraries to provide a basic level of operating support.
- Continue to work with the ministry's cultural agencies and attractions to ensure their sustainability and build their capacity for future growth.

Key Priorities & Results

The Ministry of Culture directly supports the achievement of three key priorities:

- Strong People, Strong Economy
- Stronger, Safer Communities
- Success for Students



Performance Measures

The Ministry of Culture's performance measures for 2007-08 will include:

- Maintaining attendance at cultural attraction agencies at 3.1 million visitors;
- Increasing attendance at Doors Open events from 0.445M (target) in 2006-07 to 0.465M in 2007-08;
- Establishing a baseline to measure the number of learners that benefit from programs offered by the ministry's cultural agencies;
- Increasing the amount leveraged by Ontario Trillium Foundation grants (in volunteer hours, in kind donations and funds raised) from \$1.50 for each dollar invested in 2006-07, to \$1.60 for each dollar invested in 2007-08;
- Increasing the use of Ontario's public libraries by two per cent; and
- Increasing the growth of employment in Ontario's cultural industries (vs. other key Canadian jurisdictions) by two per cent.

MINISTRY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Ministry of Culture directly supports the achievement of three key priorities:

- Strong People, Strong Economy
- Stronger, Safer Communities
- Success for Students

Within its planned allocation, the ministry will focus on:

- Creative Economy
- Vibrant, Livable Communities
- Civic Engagement
- Stronger, Stable Culture Sector
- Infrastructure Projects including Repair and Rehabilitation

2007-08 Ministry Investment in Priorities

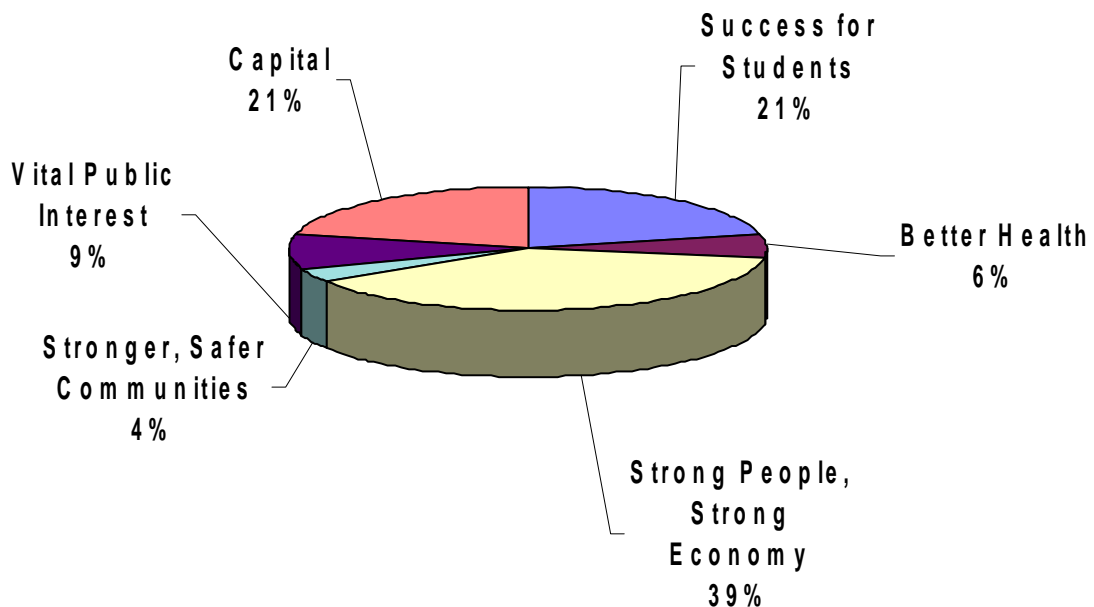


Table 1: Ministry Planned Expenditures 2007/08

| Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M) 2007/08 | |
|--|--------------|
| Operating (1) | 318.9 |
| Capital (2) | 31.6 |
| Total Ministry | 350.5 |

Note 1: Operating total includes \$46.1M in consolidated adjustments

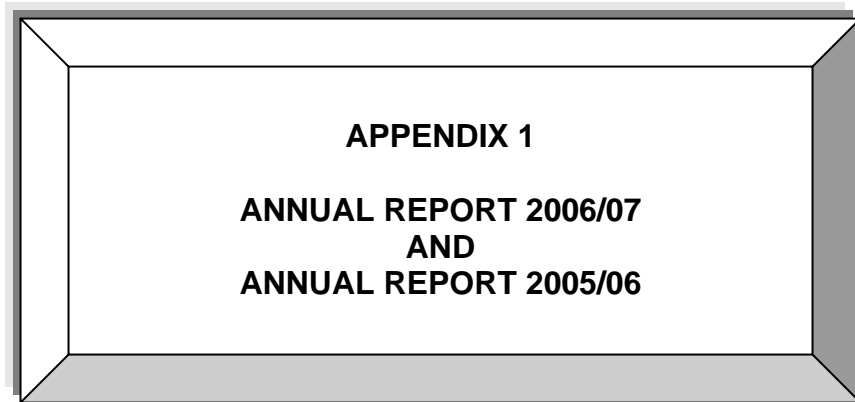
Note 2: Capital total includes \$10.0M in consolidated adjustments

Table 2: Operating and Capital Summary by Vote

The Ministry of Culture's purpose is to create an Ontario that is enriched by a thriving arts and cultural sector that contributes to an innovative economy, promotes life-long learning, safeguards our heritage and enhances the quality of life for all citizens.

| Votes/Programs | Estimates | Change from 2006-07 | | Estimates | Interim | Actuals |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2007-08 | Estimates | | 2006-07 | Actuals | 2005-06 |
| | \$ | \$ | % | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| OPERATING AND CAPITAL | | | | | | |
| Ministry Administration | 1,579,400 | 49,200 | 3.2 | 1,530,200 | 1,625,500 | 2,036,560 |
| Culture | 166,102,800 | 13,045,500 | 8.5 | 153,057,300 | 178,963,000 | 193,475,530 |
| Ontario Trillium Foundation | 105,001,000 | 5,000,000 | 5.0 | 100,001,000 | 100,000,000 | 100,000,000 |
| Capital | 21,584,200 | (35,314,200) | (62.1) | 56,898,400 | 78,258,900 | 172,990,578 |
| Total Including Special Warrants | 294,267,400 | (17,219,500) | (5.5) | 311,486,900 | 358,847,400 | 468,502,668 |
| Less: Special Warrants | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total to be Voted | 294,267,400 | (17,219,500) | (5.5) | 311,486,900 | 358,847,400 | 468,502,668 |
| Special Warrants | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Statutory Appropriations | 62,699 | 12,455 | 24.8 | 50,244 | 50,244 | 47,632 |
| Consolidations - Operating | 46,112,000 | (2,998,000) | (6.1) | 49,110,000 | 34,755,100 | 41,233,700 |
| Consolidations - Capital | 10,025,200 | 4,881,300 | 94.9 | 5,143,900 | 6,841,000 | (34,329,700) |
| Ministry Total | | | | | | |
| Operating and Capital | 350,467,299 | (15,323,745) | (4.2) | 365,791,044 | 400,493,744 | 475,454,300 |
| Assets | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Assets to be Voted | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Estimates for the previous fiscal year are re-stated to reflect any changes in ministry organization and/or program structure. Interim actuals reflect the numbers presented in the Ontario Budget.



APPENDIX 1

ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07
AND
ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06

2006/07 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2007 Ontario Budget highlighted the important contribution of Ontario's artistic and cultural industries to the economic health of the province and the quality of life of Ontarians. The government made significant one-time investments, through both the Fall Economic Stimulus Package (\$6.8 million) and at year-end, to support the cultural sector and promote the continued development of the high-growth entertainment and creative cluster.

The ministry's key strategies in 2006-07 included:

- Investing in the entertainment and creative industries
- Enhancing the economic condition of artists
- Sustaining the ministry's culture agencies
- Protecting our heritage
- Supporting our public libraries
- Encouraging Ontario's Francophone culture
- Helping students succeed

INVESTING IN THE ENTERTAINMENT AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

The Entertainment and Creative Cluster is an emerging engine of economic growth, contributing to dynamic and strong communities across Ontario. The cluster includes a broad range of creative content industries, including film and television production, sound recording, and book and magazine publishing. It also includes fast-growing new media industries (e.g. digital special effects and interactive digital special effects and interactive productions like video and computer games) and independent artists, authors, musicians and filmmakers.

Developing New Approaches and Solutions

In September 2006, the ministry launched the \$7.5 million Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund. This new program provides opportunities for cluster companies to form new partnerships to develop fresh approaches and solutions to shared challenges.

The first grants were awarded in February 2007, with 14 projects receiving \$1.8 million to help Ontario's entertainment and creative industries grow and move into new markets by promoting new content development, innovative marketing and distribution, and skills training.

The fund is administered by the Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC), and will roll out over three years, through 2008-2009.

The OMDC also received additional one-time funding of \$5 million in 2006-07 to promote and leverage investment, jobs and content creation in Ontario's cultural industries.

Enhancing Tax Credits for the Cultural Industries

The 2006 Budget included an extension of the Ontario Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit to open it up to games developers and other content producers who were previously not eligible, while also increasing the rebate level for certain producers from 20 per cent to 30 per cent.

In February 2006, the government also renewed for another year the enhanced (18 per cent) Ontario Production Services Tax Credit (OPSTC), to ensure that Ontario remains an attractive place for foreign film productions. Tax credits to assist the cultural industries are currently worth an estimated \$153 million.

Promoting Ontario's Creative Industries — At Home and Abroad

In December 2006, Minister of Culture Caroline Di Cocco led a delegation to the Canadian Radio and Television Commission's public hearings on aspects of the regulatory framework for over-the-air television. The Minister acknowledged the dramatic technology changes occurring within the cultural industries and commented on the need for incentives to help Ontario's creative industries move toward high definition and other emerging technologies.

Several of Ontario's leading digital media companies, together with representatives of the OMDC and the New Media Business Alliance, travelled to India with Premier Dalton McGuinty in January to boost Ontario's profile as a producer of innovative and quality entertainment products, and to seek out new business opportunities in one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

This was the first time that the entertainment and creative cluster was part of a government business mission to promote Ontario's dynamic new media sector abroad.

Building Creative Cities

In the future, successful cities and regions will be those that value and develop their creative assets, both as high-growth sectors in their own right and as magnets for creative, well-educated, high-achieving people.

The ministry encourages all municipalities to integrate culture into their daily business through ongoing outreach to promote the benefits of municipal cultural planning. Since 2005, the ministry has sponsored eight Municipal Cultural Planning forums and 4 workshops, attracting over 1,500 elected officials as well as cultural, municipal and community leaders from 245 municipalities across the province. Two additional forums targeted at Francophone communities were delivered in 2007, which attracted over 50 participants from 12 municipalities. The ministry also provided information sessions and presentations at a variety of conferences and events throughout Ontario.

Since 2005, 35 municipalities have begun the Municipal Cultural Planning process and five have adopted integrated cultural plans: Ajax, Barrie, Ingersoll, Orillia and Prince Edward County.

In July 2006, the Creative Cities Leadership Team released its report, *Imagine a Toronto...Strategies for a Creative City*. Funded by the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Research and Innovation, *Strategies for Creative Cities* was a joint venture between Toronto and London, England, to bring together leading creative entrepreneurs and urban thinkers.

Drawing on international best practices, they developed specific strategies to enhance the growth of the arts and creative industries, including film and television, books and magazines, interactive digital media, and design and architecture, and maximize their role in the competitiveness of both cities.

Promoting Cultural Tourism

In 2006, the Ministry made a strategic investment of \$50.5 million to complete seven cultural renaissance projects in Toronto. The new Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts opened its doors to great acclaim in June. The much-anticipated grand opening of the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal at the Royal Ontario Museum will take place in June 2007.

The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) will also break ground on its new Festival Centre in 2007. TIFF received \$12.5 million towards the construction of the centre in March 2007, fulfilling the government's \$25 million commitment to the project. The new Festival Centre will provide a fitting home for one of the world's foremost film festivals, and will house galleries, five cinemas, an education and conference centre, retail space, restaurant and a year-round ticket facility.

The government provided one-time additional funding of \$5.5 million in 2006-07 to LuminaTO — Toronto Festival of Arts and Creativity, bringing the total provincial investment in this world-class event to \$7.5 million. The 10-day festival will take place in June 2007, and is expected to attract 600,000 visitors, including 150,000 tourists. It will also provide a spectacular showcase for Toronto's new and expanded cultural renaissance facilities.

The ministry also provided support for product development, marketing and capacity building of cultural tourism through the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund.

ENHANCING THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF ARTISTS

Artists make significant and lasting contributions to Ontario's economy, quality of life, education, innovation and individual/community health and collective identity.

The future economic success of our province is directly tied to our ability to attract and retain our artists and entrepreneurs.

In 2007, the Ontario government introduced new legislation to recognize artists' contributions to Ontario's creative economy and establish Ontario's first arts and culture strategy. The proposed legislation would provide opportunities to celebrate artists and their work in communities throughout the province.

The Minister's Advisory Council for Arts and Culture developed a Report on the Status of the Artist in the 21st Century which was instrumental in the development of the proposed legislation and other key initiatives to support Ontario's artists. Their report reflects the views of thousands of individual artists, arts organizations, unions and others who participated in one of the most extensive consultations ever undertaken in the arts and culture sector.

To create a dynamic environment in which artists can collaborate and generate creative energy, the ministry invested \$3 million in the Artscape Green Arts Barns, located in Toronto's St. Clair and Bathurst neighbourhood. The funding will help to redevelop brownfields and the historic Wychwood TTC streetcar repair barns into a 61,000 sq. ft. multi-tenant arts facility and community centre. The centre will include artists' live/work studios, rehearsal space, offices for non-profit arts and environmental organizations, and space for year-round community events and festivals.

The ministry celebrated artistic achievement in Ontario with the presentation of the first-ever Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts to Toronto dancer Peggy Baker. A renowned performer, choreographer, teacher and mentor, Ms. Baker received a \$35,000 prize. An additional award of \$15,000 was presented to an emerging artist in the same field — Toronto dancer, producer and choreographer Yvonne Ng — who was selected for this distinction by Ms. Baker.

In addition to Ms. Baker, the finalists for the inaugural Premier's Award were playwright Judith Thompson of Toronto, De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre Group of Wikwemikong (Manitoulin Island), artist Juan Geuer of Almonte, Ottawa Chamber Music Society and Le Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario of Sudbury.

The ministry continued to support Ontario's artists and arts organizations through \$39.9 million in annual funding to the Ontario Arts Council (OAC). In 2006-2007, the OAC funded 1,224 individual artists and 866 organizations. These grants benefited artists and arts organizations in 255 communities across Ontario.

The government made a one-time investment of \$10 million to the Arts Endowment Fund, which is administered by the Ontario Arts Foundation. The fund provides eligible Ontario arts organizations with an additional source of income to support their operations.

Not-for-profit cultural organizations across Ontario also benefited from funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Between April 1st, 2006 and March 31st, 2007, the Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded 1,430 grants worth \$95,762,400, with the arts and cultural sector receiving 23 per cent of this funding. The rest of the funding was allocated to: Environment (eight per cent); Human and Social Services (44 per cent); and Sports and Recreation (24 per cent).

SUSTAINING OUR CULTURE AGENCIES

Ontario's cultural agencies provide boundless opportunities for Ontarians and visitors to our province to learn and explore the world around them – everything from the fine arts and plant life to archaeological artifacts and science and technology.

In June 2006, the ministry invested \$2.57 million in the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) to help it become more stable and attract new customers. This investment is the ministry's share of a total of \$3.85 million to be provided to the Gardens over three years by the City of Hamilton, Halton Region and the Province of Ontario, and is in addition to the ministry's annual funding to the RBG of \$1.9 million.

The one-time transitional funding is helping support the Royal Botanical Gardens' transformation in key areas including marketing, partnership development and outreach, education and research, and horticulture and conservation.

The Ontario government has also committed over \$2.3 million for capital improvements at the RBG, with matching funds from the federal government's Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program. Major features include the RBG Centre parking lot expansion, a signalized vehicular entrance off Plains Road, a new entrance garden at the RBG Centre, accessibility improvements and the redevelopment of several gardens.

In March 2007, the ministry provided the McMichael Canadian Art Collection with an additional \$1.2 million to support its work in preserving and exhibiting Canadian art. The McMichael is the only major public art gallery devoted solely to the collecting and exhibiting of Canadian art. Its permanent collection includes almost 6,000 artworks by Tom Thomson, the Group of Seven, their contemporaries, and First Nations, Inuit and other artists who have contributed to the development of Canadian art.

PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

In 2006-07, the ministry began to implement the strengthened Ontario Heritage Act, including regulations to support new municipal and provincial powers and new provincial museum standards

Communities across the province have used tools and resources developed by the ministry to embrace heritage conservation as a key component of municipal cultural planning. The Ontario Heritage Act provides a framework within which municipalities can ensure the conservation of properties of cultural heritage value or interest. It also encourages citizen participation in heritage conservation by empowering municipalities to establish municipal heritage committees to advise on local heritage matters.

The ministry has also encouraged municipalities to nominate their historic places to the Canadian Register of Historic Places. A listing on the register recognizes and celebrates the importance of a historic place to its community, province or nation. More than 300 Ontario sites are now listed on the register.

The Ontario Heritage Trust's annual Doors Open Ontario program continued to grow in popularity in 2006, with more than 40 community events attracting 415,425 site visits. Every year, from April to October, Doors Open provides residents and visitors with a unique opportunity to discover first-hand Ontario's hidden heritage treasures. Since the program was launched in 2002, nearly two million visits have been made to heritage sites participating in this exciting initiative.

The \$190-million Fall Economic Stimulus Package included a total of \$6.8 million for 23 projects supporting art galleries, museums, libraries, theatres and the restoration of heritage buildings across the province. Among the grant recipients was the Oil Museum of Canada, which is preparing to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the world's first commercial oil well.

SUPPORTING OUR LIBRARIES

Ontario's public libraries play a key role in supporting literacy and learning; fostering an appreciation of literature and culture; and providing information resources to newcomers, job seekers, small businesses and entrepreneurs.

The role of the library is enhanced in smaller communities as these libraries often face greater demands and unique challenges in serving local residents. In 2006-07, the ministry made a one-time investment of \$5 million in additional funding to enhance the vital role of Ontario's rural, remote and First Nations libraries as community hubs of literacy, learning and access to information.

The new investment is providing 552 public libraries that serve communities of under 20,000 people with one-time funding of \$9,000 each. The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries is also receiving a grant of \$32,000 to promote the interests of Ontario's public libraries and help them achieve common goals.

The ministry undertook an extensive review of public library support in Ontario in 2006-07, to help articulate a new vision for libraries in Ontario and to ensure that existing provincial resources are focused effectively to bring the greatest benefit to Ontario's libraries and library users.

The review was informed by stakeholder input through focus groups, interviews with library leaders, library leader dialogues, a Deputy Minister's Discussion Forum and an open call for submissions. A report summarizing the findings of the review and key recommendations will be shared with library leaders in 2007.

ENCOURAGING ONTARIO'S FRANCOPHONE CULTURE

The ministry marked the 20th anniversary of Ontario's French Language Services Act with a grant of \$105,000 to support the Stratford Festival's Don Juan Project. The funding assisted the Festival with staging English and French language productions of Molière's *Don Juan*. This was the Festival's first French-language production in half a century, and at the end of Stratford's 2006 season, it moved to the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde's presentation facility in Montreal.

Through its Cultural Strategic Development Fund, the ministry provided over \$25,000 to Direction Ontario (formerly Destination Nord) to support the development of authentic cultural content and products related to Champlain 400 celebrations. The ministry also partnered with the Office of Francophone Affairs to provide the Festival franco-ontarien 2006 inc. with \$100,000 in support of the 32nd edition of this annual festival, taking place in June 2007.

Ontario-Québec Cooperation Initiative

On June 2, 2006, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty and Québec Premier Jean Charest signed a protocol for cooperation, including an agreement for cooperation on culture.

The Ontario-Québec Co-operation Initiative (OQCI) will enhance the cultural ties between the two provinces. It will present new opportunities to share and showcase Ontario's culture through a range of joint activities and projects, including cultural exchanges and co-productions.

HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

Arts education and other cultural experiences provide children and youth with effective and engaging means to build their confidence, express their individuality and creativity and improve their learning of core school curriculum (e.g. math, literacy and writing skills).

In May 2006, the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education jointly provided \$4 million to launch a new program to encourage private sector support for arts education — the Arts Education Partnership Initiative (AEPI). The AEPI matches money raised by arts organizations from private sector donors to support new or enhanced arts education projects. The new program is administered by the Ontario Arts Foundation, in cooperation with the Ontario Arts Council.

Both ministries have also partnered to provide a total of \$6 million over five years for Learning Through the Arts. This program, administered by the Royal Conservatory of Music, trains teachers to deliver core curriculum subjects using an interactive arts-based approach.

Other arts education initiatives include community and school projects and programs supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Arts Council, with a total value of \$14 million over the past two years.

The ministry's cultural attraction agencies provide year-round educational programming, onsite and in the classroom. They are also enthusiastic participants in the Fun Pass program, which provides elementary school children with free admission to 15 provincial attractions.

Delivered in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, the Fun Pass was expanded in 2006-07 to provide 1.4 million students across the province with the opportunity to learn, stay active and have fun over summer through the many historic, natural, scientific, artistic and recreational experiences available at the ministry's cultural attraction agencies.

Table 1: Ministry Expenditures 2006/07

| | Ministry Interim Actuals (\$M) 2006/07 |
|--|---|
| Operating (1) | 315.4 |
| Capital (2) | 85.1 |
| Staff Strength (3) (as of March 31, 2007) | 513.7 |

Note 1: Operating total includes \$34.8M in consolidated adjustments

Note 2: Capital total includes \$6.8M in consolidated adjustments

Note 3: Includes Ministry staff , and staff from Ontario Science Centre, Ontario Media Development Corporation and Ontario Heritage Trust.

2005/06 Annual Report

The important contribution of culture to economic prosperity and quality of place in communities across Ontario was recognized in the 2005 Ontario Budget, and through significant new investments to develop the economic potential of the entertainment and creative cluster, promote cultural tourism, protect Ontario's heritage and support arts education.

The Ministry of Culture's key strategies in 2005-06 included:

- Investing in Ontario's cultural experiences
- Protecting Ontario's heritage
- Supporting Ontario's cultural industries
- Helping students succeed

INVESTING IN ONTARIO'S CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

The Ministry of Culture fostered cultural diversity, economic prosperity and quality of life in Ontario by supporting the arts and cultural sector in creating and celebrating Ontario's distinct cultural experiences.

Ontario's Cultural Renaissance

In 2006, the Ministry made a strategic investment of \$50.5 million to complete seven cultural renaissance projects in Toronto — the construction of a new Canadian Opera House and major capital expansions at the National Ballet School, Royal Ontario Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, Royal Conservatory of Music and Ontario Science Centre.

Upon completion, these initiatives will change the cultural landscape in Toronto and Ontario. With some of the world's foremost architects at the helm, the new and expanded facilities will provide a dynamic showcase for our cultural heritage and achievements. They are expected to attract new and repeat visitors to our province, and firmly establish Ontario as a "must-see" cultural tourism destination.

The 2006 Budget included \$2 million for the Toronto Community Foundation's "Arts on Track" initiative to revitalize three Toronto subway stations as exciting gateways to the city's cultural attractions. A further investment of \$11.6 million supported three community cultural projects in Ottawa — a new concert hall for the Ottawa Chamber Music Society, a new home for the Great Canadian Theatre Company and the Orleans Arts Centre and Town Centre Project.

In championing these initiatives, and through its ongoing support for more than 62 community cultural infrastructure projects funded through the Sports, Culture and Tourism Partnerships program, the ministry is helping to spark a cultural renaissance across Ontario to create a quality of place that is unsurpassed.

Promoting Cultural Tourism

The 2005 Ontario Budget featured a new investment of \$5 million to promote cultural tourism in Ontario. Two of our foremost theatre festivals — the Shaw Festival and Stratford Festival — each received \$400,000 to support late season tourism marketing initiatives. This resulted in an attendance spike for both festivals.

In 2006, the ministry worked in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation to launch a new cultural tourism marketing campaign. This one-of-a-kind campaign generated more than 50,000 user sessions on a dedicated website — www.ontarioculture.ca — that showcased and promoted Ontario's diverse cultural experiences, attractions and products.

In Fall 2005, the ministry made an initial investment of \$1 million to support the development of a major new arts festival in Toronto, to take place in 2007. The Toronto International Arts Festival (now called "LuminaTO") will highlight the newly unveiled cultural renaissance facilities, and showcase Ontario's creativity to the world. It is expected to attract 600,000 visitors, including 150,000 tourists, and generate \$100 million in visitor spending.

The ministry also invested \$300,000 through the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF) to help bring the Rogers Chinese Lantern Festival to Ontario Place. The highly-anticipated North American premiere of this spectacular cultural festival would feature 30 elaborate, grand-scale lantern installations, an authentic marketplace, Chinese cultural performances and thousands of traditional art and red silk lanterns.

OCAF helps maximize the tourism potential of special events, exhibitions or performance programs mounted by the province's arts, heritage and cultural organizations, with support for start-up costs, marketing and promotion. As of 2006, OCAF has committed \$25.3 million to 201 projects in more than 110 Ontario communities.

Supporting Our Artists and Arts Organizations

Artists are fundamental to Ontario's creative output and economic well-being. Throughout 2005-06, the ministry supported the Minister's Advisory Council for Arts and Culture in conducting an extensive examination of the economic conditions of the artists in our province.

The Council launched a comprehensive consultation process that included an online survey in which more than 3,600 artists, arts associations and experts participated; roundtables with key organizations, associations, unions and producers; and individual meetings with major artist organizations. The Council also created an online discussion forum for individual artists to continue the dialogue. The Council submitted an interim report on its key findings to the Minister of Culture in 2006.

The ministry continued to support Ontario's artists and arts organizations through the Ontario Arts Council (OAC). In 2005-06, the OAC awarded \$35.7 million in grants to 1,268 individual artists and 836 organizations in 253 communities across Ontario. In 2006-07, the OAC increased its support to the Aboriginal community, Francophone artists and arts organizations, strengthened its community outreach and enhanced its arts education programs for children and youth across Ontario.

Celebrating Excellence in the Arts

In February 2006, the ministry announced the establishment of the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts, with a call for nominations for the inaugural award, to be presented in February 2007. The award recognizes outstanding achievement and contribution to arts and culture in Ontario by an individual or group. The recipient of the award will receive \$35,000, with an additional \$15,000 awarded to a promising newcomer in the same field.

Fostering Creative Communities

The ministry played a ground-breaking role in promoting the importance of municipal cultural planning in developing creative, prosperous communities. The ministry sponsored six municipal cultural planning forums, designed to increase awareness and build capacity for cultural planning. The forums were attended by over 900 elected officials, including 15 mayors, as well as municipal staff, local cultural, business and community leaders.

The ministry was the lead sponsor of the Creative Places + Spaces²: Risk Revolution conference, held in Toronto in Fall 2005. More than 600 community and business leaders, urban experts and policy makers came together to explore the process and benefits of creativity and innovation. The ministry also supported the Council for Business and the Arts in Canada in redesigning its Art\$Vest program to focus on arts and business partnerships that support municipal cultural plans. The new program was launched in four communities in 2005 — Sudbury, Prince Edward County, the Region of Waterloo and Peterborough.

Building Strong Communities

The ministry continued to support the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) in building strong and vital communities. In 2005-2006, the OTF realigned its granting programs to better match government priorities.

The OTF invested nearly \$95 million in 1,444 grants to charitable and not-for-profit organizations across Ontario. Approximately 24 per cent of OTF funding, totalling more than \$22.5 million, was awarded to the arts and culture sector. Other sectors benefiting from OTF grants were the environment, human and social services, and sport and recreation. More than 209,000 people contributed 6.2 million volunteer hours as a result of Ontario Trillium Foundation grants.

Strengthening Our Cultural Agencies

In 2005-06, the ministry undertook a number of initiatives to increase the sustainability of its cultural agencies. Ontario's cultural agencies are the cornerstones of creative communities in our province. They are the stewards of our cultural heritage, important tourism catalysts and key partners in education.

The ministry worked with the public funders of the Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG) to preserve this unique cultural attraction as a showcase of our natural heritage. On April 1, 2005, a community stakeholder committee appointed by the Minister released its report on a long-term sustainability and growth strategy for the Gardens. The RBG's financial position and economic performance improved through the year, enabling the RBG to end 2005 with a surplus of \$42,105. The RBG's operations continued to improve through 2006.

The ministry undertook a review of the Ontario Media Development Corporation in 2005, to ensure that the agency's mandate, programs and services continue to meet the priorities of Ontario's cultural industries. About 100 stakeholders, representing each of the six cultural industries, were consulted during the review.

The Ministry also initiated a financial review of the Ontario Library Services agencies — Ontario Library Service-North and the Southern Ontario Library Service. Both agencies are committed to working with the ministry to respond to the service priorities of public libraries and to meet the needs and expectations of library users.

PROTECTING ONTARIO'S HERITAGE

In April 2005, the Ontario Legislature passed landmark legislation to strengthen and improve the Ontario Heritage Act. Key amendments to the act included:

- New municipal powers to prevent demolition of heritage sites;
- New provincial powers to identify, designate and prevent demolition of heritage sites;
- Provision to create standards and guidelines for provincially owned heritage property;
- Improvements to the municipal designation process;
- Strengthened protection for heritage conservation districts;
- Increased provincial protection for significant marine heritage sites;
- Enhanced provisions to conserve archaeological resources; and
- Streamlined provisions for provincial heritage agencies.

The ministry consulted with stakeholders throughout 2005 on regulations and guidelines to ensure effective implementation of the new amendments. Four new regulations were introduced in January 2006, governing criteria for the municipal designation of heritage properties, criteria for provincial heritage designation, protection of our most sensitive marine archaeological sites and licensing to conduct archaeological fieldwork in Ontario.

The ministry developed new resources to help communities protect and promote their heritage assets, including an introductory guide to identifying, protecting and promoting community heritage, and a tool kit of publications and guides to help municipalities understand the new act and create successful heritage programs.

In December 2005, the Ontario government partnered with the City of Toronto to acquire a significant part of the site of Upper Canada's First Parliament, located in downtown Toronto. The Ontario Heritage Trust assumed ownership of this portion of the site, and is working with stakeholders to develop options and strategies for its long-term preservation.

The Ontario Heritage Trust's stewardship role in protecting and preserving some of our most significant heritage sites was recognized in the 2006 Ontario Budget, with \$10 million in new funding to assist with capital maintenance and repairs at built and natural heritage sites owned and operated by the Trust.

A unique heritage site, celebrating Ontario's industrial heritage, received a new lease on life with a \$10 million grant to Evergreen Commons to help preserve the Don Valley Brick Works. The Brick Works produced the bricks for many of Ontario's heritage buildings, including Queen's Park and Toronto's Old City Hall. Provincial support will help to revitalize existing buildings and trail systems at the site, creating an innovative cultural centre and exciting new tourism attraction.

The ministry continued to work with the federal government, provincial and territorial partners to build a culture of heritage conservation Canada-wide through the Historic Places Initiative (HPI), which complements the new, strengthened Ontario Heritage Act.

In 2005-06, an extensive community outreach program to provide training in the program tools was undertaken in partnership with such organizations as the Ontario Heritage Trust, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Canada and academic institutions. Ministry staff delivered training presentations and coaching sessions to 46 municipalities, organized eight workshops and exhibited at 14 conferences.

The ministry worked with Parks Canada to secure funding for eligible commercial heritage conservation projects through the Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund (CHPIF). In 2005-6, four CHPIF projects in Ontario were approved, and more successful applications were anticipated. Together, these four projects were eligible for maximum potential federal funding of \$1.9 million.

Another key element of HPI is the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP), a national on-line repository of historic places. As of March 2006, Ontario had listed 187 properties, with many more nominations being prepared.

SUPPORTING ONTARIO'S CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Ontario's film and television industry rebounded throughout 2005-06, thanks to a \$48 million enhancement to tax credits for film and television production. The province increased the Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit from 20 to 30 per cent for five years, and maintained the 10 per cent regional bonus credit. The Ontario Production Services Tax Credit was also increased from 11 to 18 per cent. In the first six months of 2005, production activity bounced back to a level not seen since 2002, with an estimated \$200 million in new production activity.

The Ontario Media Development Corporation also received a one-time infusion of \$23 million in 2005-06 to lead and implement a cluster development strategy.

The 2005 Ontario Budget identified the Entertainment and Creative Cluster as an emerging engine for economic growth. It included enhancements to the tax credits for interactive digital media, computer animation, book publishing and sound recording.

The 2005 Budget also committed \$25 million over five years for the construction of a permanent home for the Toronto International Film Festival. The new Festival Centre will be a focal point for Ontario's film industry. It will house five cinemas, galleries, an education and conference centre, a reference library, retail space, a restaurant and a year-round box office. Once operational, the Festival Centre is expected to have an economic impact of \$200 million a year, quadrupling audience attendance to two million visitors a year.

To ensure the flow of new talent into Ontario's cultural industries, the 2005 Budget included \$10 million over five years to expand programs at the Canadian Film Centre. This investment will provide better access to advanced training and apprenticeship opportunities in film, television and new media, helping Ontario to remain competitive in these high-growth sectors.

Given the contribution of culture to Ontario's economic prosperity, the ministry took a leadership role in advocating for the adoption of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression, which affirms in international law the rights of countries to have cultural policies that ensure the diversity of cultural expression.

The ministry partnered with the Canadian Coalition on Cultural Diversity (CCD) to raise awareness of the convention among Ontario cultural organizations and to secure international commitment to the ratification process. UNESCO member states voted in favour of the convention on October 17, 2005, and in November 2005, Canada became the first country to ratify the convention.

HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

The ministry worked in partnership with the Ministry of Education, its cultural agencies and community organizations to put a priority on arts education and other cultural experiences to help children and youth succeed in school and in life.

In Our Classrooms and Communities

The ministry invested \$323,000 in 10 pilot arts education projects to better address literacy and math scores, increase student achievement, engage youth at risk and promote healthy lifestyles.

The 2005 Ontario Budget committed \$5 million over five years to the Royal Conservatory of Music's Learning Through the Arts program. This classroom-based initiative provides teachers and community artists with training and tools to integrate the arts into the learning process. Learning Through the Arts helps children improve their capacity to learn all aspects of the public school curriculum — including math, science and social studies — through music, language arts, drama, dance and visual arts activities.

The province's support will expand the program's reach to 1,500 new Ontario classrooms over five years, with 38,000 students fully engaged in active, participatory multi-year learning. Special training will also be delivered to meet the needs of Aboriginal communities and francophone and French immersion schools.

Helping to prepare children and youth for success is a granting priority of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This includes broadening learning experiences for children and youth; helping children and youth remain and achieve in school; preparing young children to learn; and providing opportunities for children and youth to experience positive personal growth.

The Ontario Arts Council supports arts education through a variety of grants to artists and arts organizations delivering programs in our schools and communities. In 2005-06, the OAC invested \$1.1 million in the Artists in Education and Aboriginal Artists in Education programs, where professional artists provide hands-on creative learning workshops for young people in the classroom. The OAC also awarded over \$900,000 in grants to arts education organizations and projects.

At Our Public Libraries

Ontario's public libraries are hubs of literacy, learning and information in communities across our province. In the 2006 Ontario Budget, the Ontario government made a one-time strategic investment of \$15 million to strengthen the role of Ontario's public libraries as vital partners in education.

The province invested \$6 million to promote family literacy at public and First Nations libraries that serve communities of fewer than 20,000 people. About 550 libraries across the province each received \$10,500 to undertake new programs or initiatives to promote local learning. The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries also received \$200,000 to market the literacy achievements of Ontario's libraries and conduct research.

The province contributed \$8 million to further the development of Knowledge Ontario, a multi-sector initiative to provide Ontarians with equitable access to digital information and online library services. Ontario Library Service-North also received \$1 million for a joint-server project that will enable northern public and First Nations libraries to share information and improve access to library services in the North.

The ministry provided annual operating support of \$1.4 million to the Virtual Reference Library (VRL), which provides people across Ontario with 24-7 access to the Toronto Public Library's world-class collections, services and online reference and research resources. In October 2005, the TPL partnered with the Ottawa Public Library to launch the Bibliothèque de référence virtuelle (BRV), providing Ontarians with online access to authoritative French-language research and information resources.

The ministry continued to partner with ServiceOntario on a pilot program to provide public access to government information and services at 34 public and First Nation libraries across the province. The results of this partnership were measured and assessed through 2005-06 to see if more libraries can participate in the future.

Table 2: Ministry Expenditures 2005/06

| | Ministry Actual Expenditures (\$M) 2005/06 |
|--|---|
| Operating (1) | 336.8 |
| Capital (2) | 138.7 |
| Staff Strength (3) (as of March 31, 2006) | 536.3 |

Note 1: Operating total includes \$41.2M in consolidated adjustments

Note 2: Capital total includes \$(34.3)M in consolidated adjustments

Note 3: Includes Ministry staff, and staff from Ontario Science Centre, Ontario Media Development Corporation and Ontario Heritage Trust.