



March 10, 2021

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation on behalf of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, located in Haliburton County, 2.5 hours North East of Toronto.

Algonquin Highlands and the County of Haliburton have long been a home of the arts, with such institutions as the Group of Seven, the Dorset and Stanhope Museums and the cultural heritage of the region celebrated with Heritage Days, Snowball and more. Since then, the region has become home to many artist studios and eventually spurring the creation of two annual studio tours. The county has also attracted a number of residents and cottagers active in all disciplines of the arts instrumental music, singing, film, stage, painting, sculpture, pottery, and jewelry just to name a few. Thanks to a number of community leaders, this ultimately led to the Guild of the Arts becoming the Haliburton School of the Arts, a campus of Fleming College.

The Township of Algonquin Highlands supports, in principle, the creation of an Arts Centre in Haliburton County. Our latest Cultural Plan, developed in 2013, includes a number of goals which support this mission: Foster Community; Enhance Tourism Opportunities; Develop Four Season Economy; and Advance the Arts, notably in partnering with other organizations in the community, such as the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation.

Haliburton County is well known for being a community that has been very supportive of the arts. Being the home of the Haliburton School of the Arts, multiple amateur performing arts groups, plus two annual summer performance events (The Highlands Summer Festival and Highlands Opera Studio), a new Arts Centre is a logical next step in the evolution of cultural offerings of our growing community. Add to that, with a population growth rate larger than the provincial average, a new Arts Centre would be a driver for the local economy and increase tourism year-round in the region.

If you have any questions please contact the undersigned at 705-489-3554 or email cmoffatt@algonquinhighlands.ca

Yours truly,

Carol Moffatt,
Mayor

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