



## Municipality of Dysart et al

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*"The Heart of the Highlands"*

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March 23, 2021

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Letter of support for the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation**

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

Dysart and the County of Haliburton have long been a home of the arts, with the Haliburton Guild of the Arts started in 1967. 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 Municipality of Dysart et al supports in principle the creation of an arts centre in Haliburton County. Our latest Cultural Plan, developed in 2013, includes the creation of an arts centre. 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.

Sincerely,

Mayor Andrea Roberts  
on behalf of Dysart et al Council