

**LAURIE SCOTT, MPP**  
Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock



September 2, 2021

To the committee of the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, Canadian Heritage,

I am pleased to offer my support for the feasibility study Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation will be conducting to assess the possibility of a new arts centre in Haliburton County.

The County of Haliburton has 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 spurred the creation of three annual studio tours. The county has also attracted a number of full-time and part-time residents 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 collective of forward-looking community leaders, this ultimately led to the Guild of the Arts becoming the Haliburton School of the Arts, a campus of Fleming College.

It is evident that arts and culture play a large part of the economic well-being and quality of life in the county. Being the home of the Haliburton School of the Arts, multiple amateur performing arts groups, and two annual summer performance events (The Highlands Summer Festival and Highlands Opera Studio), a new arts centre could be very beneficial to this growing community. From potential job creation to increased shopping and nightlife options, I look forward to the results from the feasibility study outlining what future prosperity a new arts centre could bring to Haliburton County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Laurie Scott, M.P.P.  
Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock