BRIAN BOWMAN
MAYOR • MAIRE

August 12, 2016

The Honourable Brian Pallister
Premier of Manitoba
204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Premier Pallister,

I am writing to you today to extend my support for The Manitoba Museum's $19 million *Bringing Our Stories Forward* capital renewal project and the Province of Manitoba's current assessment of the $10 million commitment to the project made by the previous provincial government to this important project.

I recently had the opportunity to tour The Manitoba Museum's newly opened permanent exhibits, *Berens Family Collection* and *We Are All Treaty People*. Dr. Maureen Matthews, the Museum's Curator of Cultural Anthropology described to me the process of collaboration with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and the intent to show that the significance of Treaties didn't end with their signing and the intent that they be the basis for respectful engagement forever.

Our understanding of Manitobans' place in the world is deeper and richer today than it was when the Museum opened its doors in 1970. Winnipeg is a growing, thriving, and diverse city. Now, more than ever, is a time for us to embrace our values of openness and compassion, and realize that acceptance of new people and cultures are what make us strong. As Mayor of the City Of Winnipeg I declared 2016 the Year of Reconciliation and encouraged investment in such initiatives as the Museum is doing in taking the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to do more in bringing forward contemporary stories about Manitoba's Indigenous peoples.

I also had the pleasure of learning more about the Capital Renewal Vision the Manitoba Museum developed with the community. I have been watching the progress on the first step of that Vision from my City Hall window - the $5.3 million expansion and renewal of the Museum's major exhibition centre, Alloway Hall. I understand the expansion was supported in part by the Province of Manitoba and is running on budget and on time to re-open in spring 2017 as part of Canada's sesquicentennial.

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I am delighted to learn that in the second step in that Vision, the $19 million *Bringing Our Stories Forward* project, the Museum will bring new knowledge of Indigenous peoples, as well as stories from recent waves of immigrants to our municipalities, and our coexistence with nature and update these stories using new technology – touch screens, digital animations, smart phone apps – to engage a new generation of Museum visitors. I am going to encourage each City Councillor to tour the Museum like I did to better understand the scope of this project that will renovate 42% of the Museum Galleries, and include the construction of a new Winnipeg Gallery. I trust you can appreciate how important this project will be to celebrating Manitoba's own sesquicentennial in 2020.

Knowing what I do of the objectives of the project, I am confident in lending my voice in support of The Manitoba Museum's applications to all levels of government, municipal included, for the *Bringing Our Stories Forward* project.

On a personal note, my wife Tracy and I became members of The Manitoba Museum in 1999, upgrading that to a family membership a few years after. I know firsthand that The Manitoba Museum excels at providing multi-generational life-long learning. It's time for cherished institutions like The Manitoba Museum to be renewed so that they may better serve our community.

Sincerely,

Brian Bowman
MAYOR
The City of Winnipeg

Cc: Minister Rochelle Squires, Sport, Culture & Heritage
Claudette Leclerc, Executive Director and CEO, Manitoba Museum