



May 27, 2018

Mr. Stuart Johnston  
President, Canadian Independent Music Association  
30 St. Patrick Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5T 3A3

Dear Mr. Johnston,

Thank you very much for providing us with the opportunity to respond to the Canadian Independent Music Association election questions. Please find attached our completed response.

In 2014, the people of Ontario elected a Liberal government that promised to build Ontario up. We promised to create jobs and growth, improve retirement security for workers and build the next generation of infrastructure.

And we delivered. We made historic investments in hospitals, schools, transit, roads and bridges. We strengthened the economy, leading to the lowest unemployment rate in 17 years and economic growth that outpaces the United States and Europe. We made university and college tuition more affordable for the middle class and completely free for 235,000 students.

But we have more to do. I believe government should be there for people who need help. It's the reason why I entered public life. I believe the way we care for one another is our greatest strength — and government's greatest responsibility.

So we've made a deliberate choice to invest in more care and opportunity. We're investing in more health care, more child care and more support for people where they tell us they are falling behind. And we're making sure people can take advantage of every opportunity to get a good job and get ahead in life.

Thank you again for all your work and strong advocacy and I look forward to speaking soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen Wynne'.

Kathleen Wynne

Leader, Ontario Liberal Party

**Ontario Liberal Party**

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## Canadian Independent Music Association– Liberal Response

### **1. Commit to continuing to invest in the Ontario Music Fund at the current funding levels? (Y)**

Ontario's vibrant and diverse music industry is a vital contributor to Ontario's cultural and economic prosperity. That is why, in 2013, we introduced the Ontario Music Fund. Since then, the fund has contributed \$57 million to the province's music industry. We stand by the continued investment that the OMF receives and we are committed to maintaining the funding at current levels.

### **2. Commit to increasing the Ontario Music Fund with Staged annual increased tied to the inflation or more? (N)**

Two years following the 2013 launch and success of the OMF, we committed to having the fund be made permanent as an annual \$15 million investment. Since then, further consultations of the fund with industry stakeholders resulted in a number of program enhancements to ensure that it meets the needs of Ontario's thriving music industry. As demand and success of the OMF increases, we are happy to have discussions on how funding is determined.

### **3. Commit to being our voice in engaging with U.S politicians and advocate for the elimination of the U.S visa requirements for Canadian artists touring in the US? (Y)**

We believe that the U.S-Canada relations should provide flexibility to address our rapidly growing creative sector. That said, visas falls under federal jurisdiction and decisions made with respect to visa concerns would fall under their purview. As a province, we are committed to having continued conversations with our counterparts on the federal level regarding barriers to success. Our government will always advocate for Ontario artists to ensure that they have the supports they need to navigate our ever evolving music industry, both in Canada and beyond.

**4. Commit to supporting and growing Ontario’s live music sector, which drives local economies through venues, festivals, tourism and other economic drivers? (Y)**

As a government, we are absolutely committed to supporting our booming live music sector. In fact, we launched the Ontario Live Music Strategy in effort to drive our growing music sector, increase tourism, and support regional business growth. As part of the strategy, we aim to position Ontario as a premier global destination for live-music, both through grassroots developments and through expansions of live music opportunities

**5. Commit to policies and funding that facilitates the creation and retention of intellectual property (music) with Ontario’s commercial music industry? (Y)**

Our government has always worked hard to bridge gaps where they exist. While intellectual property rights fall under federal purview, Ontario is committed to providing supports for the culture sector when and where we can. In 2018, the federal budget purposed an Intellectual Property Strategy. We believe there is potential for the culture sector to gain from this initiative and we are committed to establishing inroads where possible.

**6. Commit to working with the commercial music industry to develop opportunities for priority groups including artists/entrepreneurs as women, indigenous, LGBTQ+, people of colour, youth, Franco-Ontarian, etc? (Y)**

We have – and continue to be – committed to working with our creative partners to create and maintain an inclusive music industry. This is reflective in the priority streams we fund through our partner agencies. A diverse, unique and well-supported music industry is essential to helping talented artists find opportunities and grow professionally.