

Ministry of Education

Minister

Mowat Block
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2**Ministère de l'Éducation**

Ministre

Édifce Mowat
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ontario

May 3, 2018

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to share that our government is investing \$3 million in [Music Canada's](#) musical instrument refurbishment program, known as The Three R's Music Program, that will support schools across Ontario.

Our government recognizes the important role that the arts play in supporting the success and well-being of students. This investment will help increase access to music education by improving the inventory of musical instruments available to Ontario's publicly funded schools. It will also give Ontario schools the opportunity to increase engagement in music education, and will help to connect students' learning experience to Canada's dynamic music industry. This is an exciting opportunity for Ontario students all across the province.

This funding is part of the \$21 million investment in arts education announced in the 2018 Budget. In support of the Ontario Arts curriculum, Grades 1-12, we intend to engage with our partners this fall on how to best allocate this funding to enhance student learning in, about, and through the arts. Foundational to these investments will be an opportunity to create space to support cultural diversity, including respect for Indigenous peoples' culture, perspectives, and knowledge. Resources and professional development materials will be co-developed with advice and input from the ministry and the education sector.

As part of [Music Canada's](#) program to refurbish and repair musical instruments in Ontario schools, they will:

- Encourage the public to donate their used/unused musical instruments;
- Raise students' awareness about different aspects of Canada's music industry and provide students with access to Francophone and Anglophone Canadian artists;
- Maintain and make available an inventory of refurbished donated musical instruments for all 72 school boards across Ontario;
- Prioritize outreach to at-risk, racialized and Indigenous youth across the province; and
- Engage with Indigenous partners to determine how best to meet the needs of remote and rural Indigenous communities.

The Ontario government is committed to arts education because it supports the development of critical and creative thinking skills, which support student achievement and well-being. The Ministry of Education strongly believes that education in the arts helps children excel at many levels: intellectually, physically and emotionally.

Thank you for your commitment to the success and well-being of Ontario students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Indira Naidoo-Harris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Indira Naidoo-Harris
Minister of Education
Minister Responsible for Early Years and Child Care

c: Trustee Associations