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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

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*Hon. Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.*

Member of Parliament / Député(e)  
Thunder Bay—Superior North / Thunder Bay—Supérieur-Nord

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October 21, 2022

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)  
New Horizons for Seniors Program  
Government of Canada  
P.O. Box 538 Station Don Mills  
North York, ON M3C 0N9

Re: Support Letter for CAHEP's Young at Art: Sparking Creativity

Dear: Review Committee

As the Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for the Community Arts & Heritage Education Project (CAHEP) proposal: *Young at Art: Sparking Creativity Program*.

CAHEP is an important community partner in the city of Thunder Bay who plays a vital role in the enrichment and preservation of culture in our region. The organization's collaborative approach allows them to deliver cost-effective, high-quality arts and heritage workshops and exhibitions while providing opportunities for professional artists, community members and marginalized populations. To date, the organization has run a number of successful programs to inspire and deliver art in many forms to the community.

The proposed Young at Art: Sparking Creativity program, a unique community-engaged arts program, builds on CAHEP's past successes. The program itself engages 8-10 ethno-culturally diverse low-income seniors, youth artists, racialized International Students, and 100+ other participating seniors at PR Cook Apartments in varying degrees of involvement. The high degree of interaction and engagement will foster tremendous community benefit, promoting collaboration, understanding and inclusion. Specifically, the Young at Art Program will provide an engaging, safe, and positive environment for seniors to demonstrate creativity, develop creative-thinking skills, build social connections, and explore new technologies. Through the program, participants are expected to see improvements in mental well-being, particularly emotional regulation, depression, loneliness, and anxiety, cognitive functioning, and memory.

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As a community-engaged arts program, Young at Art meets the NHSP national Priority 1 and Priority 3 as it empowers marginalized seniors, which addresses social isolation and ageism; utilizes a blend of face-to-face activities with virtual technologies (i.e., Google Drive, YouTube, Facebook, etc); and improves mental health. It requires intensive intergenerational mentoring (from seniors to youth artists and racialized International Students/newcomers) and will target ethno-culturally diverse low-income seniors at PR Cook Apartments.

I applaud the vision and leadership of CAHEP for their work on this proposal and their efforts to enrich the lives of seniors, young people, our growing International Student population, and the broader community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hajdu'.

Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Member of Parliament  
Thunder Bay-Superior North