

News Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Canada supports The Robert McLaughlin Gallery through the Tourism Relief Fund

The Robert McLaughlin Gallery receives \$20,000 from Central Counties Tourism through FedDev Ontario to support the return of RMG Fridays

January 26, 2023
Oshawa, Ontario

The tourism sector is vital to the economy and jobs in Oshawa and across Durham Region. As the largest public art gallery and an anchor institution in the Region, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG) plays a vital role in pandemic recovery. Located in Downtown Oshawa, the RMG attracts visitors from across the region and beyond to our Permanent Collection, special exhibitions, programs and events. Culture is a proven economic driver and by bringing visitors to the downtown. Through events and exhibitions, the RMG supports artists and attracts audiences to Oshawa who also help support local businesses.

The [RMG](#) has received a non-repayable contribution of \$20,000 from Central Counties Tourism to support RMG Fridays. Prior to the pandemic, RMG Fridays were a highlight of the events calendar in Durham Region. These free community events were designed for all ages and have featured live music in our Permanent Collection gallery; short film screenings courtesy of Durham Region International Film Festival (DRIFF); a studio activity from our learning team; and food and drink from various Durham-based businesses.

This funding is part of the Government of Canada's [Tourism Relief Fund](#), delivered by the [Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario](#) (FedDev Ontario). Central Counties Tourism received \$8.65 million from FedDev Ontario to help local tourism organizations and businesses safely welcome back visitors, recover from the impacts of the pandemic and prepare for future growth.

This investment will help The Robert McLaughlin Gallery adapt and recover to attract new visitors and drive economic growth in Oshawa and Durham Region.

Quotes

"Tourism is a cornerstone in economies across southern Ontario. That is why our Government has invested \$78 million through southern Ontario's Regional Tourism Organizations and Indigenous Tourism Ontario to help tourism businesses meet their potential and contribute to growing local economies. Supporting these organizations will ensure that we have strong communities that welcome more and more visitors, now and into the future."

- *The Honourable Filomena Tassi, Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario*

"The RMG was thrilled to receive this support for RMG Fridays to enable us to hold these events outdoors in summer 2022 as audiences became more comfortable gathering. We supported artists and performers we otherwise would not have been able to host, attracting over 1100 people to our events."

- *Lauren Gould, CEO, The Robert McLaughlin Gallery*

"The visitor economy creates thriving, vibrant communities across Ontario. Visitors bring new money into a community and for many businesses in York, Durham and Headwaters, these additional revenues can mean the difference between staying solvent and having to shutter their doors forever. Central Counties Tourism applauds

the Government of Canada for recognizing the importance of growing our collective capacity to welcome and entertain visitors. Its investment in tourism is helping municipalities and individual businesses build compelling destinations that will attract visitors and residents alike. The economic impact from the Tourism Relief Fund will be felt for years.”

- *Chuck Thibeault, Executive Director, Central Counties Tourism*

Quick facts

- The Robert McLaughlin Gallery (RMG) believes that art cultivates connected and caring communities. As an artist-centered and community-oriented public art gallery in Durham Region, we bring people from diverse backgrounds together to engage with art that inspires new perspectives, generates meaningful conversations, and creates a sense of belonging. Annually, the RMG welcomes thousands of patrons to engage with our: exhibitions, education programs, volunteering opportunities, event spaces, shop, artist-in-residence program, and digital programming. Admission to the RMG is FREE.
- Central Counties Tourism is the provincially-funded not-for-profit dedicated to developing, supporting and promoting tourism in Durham Region, York Region and the Headwaters Tourism Region. Since its inception, the organization has assisted dozens of municipalities through destination development and hundreds of tourism-related businesses to grow their capacity, strengthening the visitor economy in the region.
- The Government of Canada’s [\\$500-million Tourism Relief Fund](#) is helping tourism-oriented businesses and organizations recover from the pandemic and prepare for future growth.

Associated Links

- [The Robert McLaughlin Gallery](#)
- [Central Counties Tourism](#)
- [FedDev Ontario](#)
- [Tourism Relief Fund \(TRF\)](#)

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About The Robert McLaughlin Gallery

[The Robert McLaughlin Gallery](#) (RMG) is the largest public art gallery in Durham Region. We believe that art cultivates connected and caring communities. As an artist-centered and community-oriented public art gallery in Durham Region, we bring people from diverse backgrounds together to engage with art that inspires new perspectives, generates meaningful conversations and creates a sense of belonging. We build relationships with diverse artists and communities through art. The RMG works in collaboration with artists, partners, and audiences to present dynamic and inspiring collections, exhibitions and programs in an inclusive and equitable environment. Today, the RMG’s collection of over 4,700 works focuses on telling the continuing story of Canadian abstraction. Each year we present Permanent Collection exhibitions alongside special exhibitions of contemporary art and

artists. We prioritize engaging diverse audiences in new and familiar ways through our programming. We foster community connections and partnerships to create a greater sense of belonging. We reimagine the gallery, making space for all. Annually, we welcome 38,000 visitors and 10,000 participants to engage with us and what we offer.

About Central Counties Tourism

[Central Counties Tourism](#) was established as a regional tourism organization in 2010 under a framework developed by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, following the completion of the Ontario Tourism Competitiveness Study. Our mandate is to identify sustainable best product and practices that will build a stronger and more competitive tourism industry within the region. We are funded by the Ontario Government and managed as a not-for-profit organization by a voluntary tourism industry board. Central Counties Tourism works with the existing tourism offices within the regions of York and Durham, and Headwaters, who are each responsible for product development and marketing to tourism consumers within the local municipalities. Our mission is to increase tourism in the region by promoting and developing unique and competitive tourism products that attract high yield visitors from outside the Central Counties region.

For 13 years, the Government of Canada, through [FedDev Ontario](#), has worked to advance and diversify the southern Ontario economy through funding opportunities and business services that support innovation, growth and job creation in Canada's most populous region. The Agency has delivered impressive results, which can be seen in southern Ontario businesses that are creating innovative technologies, improving productivity, growing revenues, creating jobs, and in the economic advancement of communities across the region. Learn more about the impacts the Agency is having in southern Ontario by exploring our [pivotal projects](#), our [Southern Ontario Spotlight](#), and FedDev Ontario's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).