



FY16 PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT
ROM LEARNING



YOUR MUSEUM. YOUR IMPACT.

As one of the largest extracurricular educational institutions in Canada, the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) plays a pivotal role in enhancing the formal instruction of students through experiential, object-based learning programs. Enabled by the generosity of our donors, the depth and reach of these experiences helps bring learning to life in a way not possible in the classroom, stimulating their curiosities and igniting lifelong passions.

Thank you for supporting Museum learning opportunities that help broaden the horizons of children and youth.

Fiscal year for April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

A NEW SPACE FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNING

Excelling in our globalized and interconnected world demands a new set of skills from today's students, where learning environments like the new ROM Makerspace are critical to preparing future generations of changemakers.

Students today engage with education in much different ways than those in previous generations. In our media-saturated and technology-driven culture, children and youth have become increasingly self-directed and are motivated most when reciprocally engaged in the journey of discovery. At the same time, our societies have shifted towards a knowledge economy, where 21st century skills—competencies such as creativity, communication and collaboration—have become a new intellectual currency.

To prepare students to lead in tomorrow's dynamic and ever-changing societies, the new ROM Makerspace is uniquely cultivating the skills critical to future success. The generous support of donors has enabled the conversion of the Museum's Digital Learning Gallery into a vibrant new hub for experiential learning, connecting students with the ROM's collections and research through digital technologies and arts-based, process-oriented activities.

Since opening in September 2016, the ROM Makerspace has engaged **704 participants** in collaborative activities, where they innovated, designed and prototyped solutions with real-world applications. By placing young persons at the centre of their own learning, this engagement helps cultivate future leaders with the skills and mindset to identify and seek solutions to societal challenges.



MEETING THE DYNAMIC NEEDS OF TODAY'S STUDENTS, EDUCATORS AND EMPLOYERS

Our world has dramatically changed in recent decades, demanding a renewed set of competencies from the next generations of leaders. To prepare students for success in the 21st century, the new ROM Makerspace develops skills across four core learning outcomes.¹



Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills



Creativity and Innovation Skills



Communication and Effective Listening Skills



Collaboration Skills and Leadership

¹ Partnership for 21st Century Learning. (2016). *Framework for 21st Century Learning*.



REMEDIATING THE GAP IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

How donor support is fostering understanding of the historic and contemporary contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canadian societies through ROM learning and outreach programs.

While much public attention has centred on the glaring challenges faced by Indigenous students in on-reserve schools, the 83 per cent of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students attending publicly-funded schools in Ontario,² too, face numerous barriers that can limit their academic success and personal wellbeing. Among these barriers, difficulties in adequately integrating Indigenous content in the curriculum can negatively effect a sense of identity among Indigenous children and youth, which may lead to disengagement in the educational process.

Recognizing the ROM's important role in connecting learners with collections that foster greater cultural understanding, the Museum launched the Indigenous Outreach and Learning Program in 2014. Enabled by the support of donors, this initiative continues to make strides in deepening the integration of Indigenous narratives and perspectives in the ROM experience. For the 2015-16 school year, **3,179 Indigenous and non-Indigenous students** participated in guided visits that explored the many valued contributions that Indigenous peoples have made to Canadian societies. With only 29 per cent of elementary school and 47 per cent of

secondary school teachers in Ontario receiving training on the instruction of Indigenous issues,³ many educators lack the confidence to approach this subject matter in the classroom. Accordingly, the accessibility of these guided school visits is critical to addressing systemic barriers that often limit the engagement of Indigenous children and youth in their own learning, which can further widen the achievement gap for this audience.



MY JOB IS TO TALK ABOUT DIFFICULT TRUTHS, BUT ALSO TO CHANGE THE CONVERSATION ON INDIGENOUS HISTORY AND CULTURE.

J'net AyAy Qwa Yak Sheelth
ROM Indigenous Outreach and Learning Coordinator

Essential to this impact is the donor-funded position of J'net AyAy Qwa Yak Sheelth ("one who gives away and still stands tall"), ROM Indigenous Outreach and Learning Coordinator. In her role, J'net works closely with educators and Indigenous knowledge carriers across the province to maximize opportunities for students to engage in Museum learning. To ensure that the ROM's educational programming is directly informed by Indigenous community members in the education sector, J'net established the Indigenous Advisory Circle in 2014 to help guide the development of educational programming and to support the ongoing training of ROM educators who deliver the Museum's educational mandate—incredible achievements made possible by donors.

² Ministry of Education, Ontario. (2013). *A Solid Foundation: Second Progress Report on the Implementation of the Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework*.

³ People for Education. (2015) *Ontario's Schools: The Gap Between Policy and Reality*.

ROM LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS



95,174

Students in total welcomed to the ROM last year from schools across the province, engaging in guided tours and hands-on, multisensory learning programs linked to the Ontario curriculum.

SCHOOL VISITS BURSARIES



19,649

Student visits to the ROM enabled by the School Visits Bursary Program

Established in 2004 to help make the ROM more accessible to learners in communities across Ontario, the School Visits Bursary (SVB) Program provides much-needed support to remove the financial barriers to a class trip to the ROM.

Sustained by our generous partners, the SVB Program subsidizes the cost of transportation, guided visits of the Museum's galleries and multisensory learning programs facilitated by ROM educators. Last year, the SVB Program helped bring learning to life by enabling ROM visits for **19,649 students**.

ROM TRAVELLING PROGRAMS



288,897

Persons in total reached through the ROM's Travelling Programs

For students and teachers in schools where geographic barriers may pose challenges to visiting the ROM, our Travelling Programs help bring the wonder of Museum experiences to audiences in underserved communities.

Last year, our Travelling EduKits—portable cases that include real ROM artifacts and resource materials—reached **136,232 students**. Also, our Travelling Planetariums reached **3,775 students**; and our Travelling Exhibitions, made available on loan to educational institutions across Canada, reached **148,890 persons**.

ROM LEARNING PORTAL



55,000+

Persons reached online through the ROM Learning Portal

Supporting the ROM's commitment to fostering deeper engagement with visitors and making its learning programs more accessible, the ROM Learning Portal offers an online suite of digital learning activities that connect the Museum's collections and research to subjects spanning science, history, arts and culture.

Last year, more than **55,000 students and educators** accessed materials on the ROM Learning Portal—a resource that helps enhance the exploration of galleries during ROM visits, while also extending learning when students return to the classroom.