

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Diefenbunker awarded \$104,600 in provincial funding to support operations



**Ottawa, Ontario, November 19, 2021** — The Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum embraces a light at the end of the tunnel leading to post-pandemic recovery after receiving critical funding from the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Thanks to the Community Building Fund, the Diefenbunker will be able to maintain its facilities and operations and keep the museum open for visitors.

As a national historic site, museum, and registered charity, the Diefenbunker relies on support from the government and individual donors to continue sharing its history with local, national, and international visitors. Executive Director Christine McGuire and three members of the Diefenbunker's Board of Directors were joined by the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and MPP for Kanata-Carleton, for the official funding announcement. "The Diefenbunker is profoundly grateful to the Ontario government for its invaluable support, especially during these difficult times," said Christine McGuire. "The museum and its stories play a crucial role in interpreting this country's past — and our collective future. These critical funds will allow us to keep our blast doors open and our lights on, as we continue to serve our visitors from across Canada and around the world."

The museum re-opened to the public in July of this year. Funds from the provincial government go toward key operational costs such as building maintenance and utilities, allowing the Diefenbunker to continue providing a safe experience for visitors as the museum introduces its new exhibitions and virtual educational programming. Visitors can once again step into history in this once-top secret, four-storey underground bunker, immersing themselves in the stories and the people of the past that offer valuable lessons to guide our future.

Honourable Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries and MPP for Nepean discussed the importance of this funding for essential expenditures as organizations adapt to the pressures of the pandemic. “COVID-19 has been a challenge for so many not-for-profit tourism, culture, sport and recreation organizations, and I am proud that our government is supporting their recovery through the Community Building Fund,” said Minister MacLeod.

With the support of the Ontario government, the Diefenbunker will continue to thrive as an important historical, cultural, and tourist hub in rural Ottawa. Its blast doors are open, and throughout the fall and winter, a warm welcome awaits visitors ready to experience the award-winning tours, exhibitions, and programs that the Diefenbunker has to offer.

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**Image caption:**

Announcement of the Diefenbunker: Canada’s Cold War Museum as a Community Building Fund recipient. Pictured left to right: Executive Director Christine McGuire; Board President Susan McLeod; Board Director Colleen Kelley; Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and MPP for Kanata-Carleton; and Board Director Joe Brown. Image courtesy of the Diefenbunker.

Additional images are available upon request.

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**About the Ontario Trillium Foundation**

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario’s non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario’s economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit [otf.ca](https://otf.ca) to learn more.

**About the Diefenbunker: Canada’s Cold War Museum**

The Diefenbunker is a four-storey, 100,000-square-foot underground bunker, built in secret between 1959 and 1961. During the Cold War, government and military officials were to take shelter here in the event of a nuclear war. The bunker was active as Canadian Forces Station Carp until it was decommissioned in 1994. Since 1998, the Diefenbunker has operated as a community museum housed inside a national historic site. It is a non-profit, charitable



organization committed to the preservation, interpretation, and display of Canada's Cold War history. It boasts award-winning tours, events, and programs that offer a unique perspective of Canada and the Cold War. It draws close to 70,000 visitors from around the world annually.

**Diefenbunker: Canada's Cold War Museum | Diefenbunker: Musée canadien de la Guerre froide**

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