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**FACULTY OF  
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Dear Councillor Carroll,

We are writing to express our support for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's request for funding for Black Creek Pioneer Village.

As members of the team of York University historians who have worked in partnership with Black Creek Pioneer Village on the "Changing the Narrative" project since 2017, we have seen the value of the museum's partnership with academics and five southern Ontario First Nations in reimagining the site's interpretation to tell more inclusive stories about the region's past. We are very excited to see the years of collaborative research connecting Indigenous and settler histories in the region materialize in creative exhibitions and community-minded programming throughout the site. As York University historians and neighbours of Black Creek Pioneer Village, we look forward to continuing what has been a meaningful partnership, one that has engaged our graduate students and enabled our undergraduate students to gain hands-on experience in the interpretation and communication of the history of the Greater Toronto Area.

Given our longstanding relationship with Black Creek Pioneer Village, we have seen the impact of budget cuts over the years. The reduction in the hours that Black Creek Pioneer Village is open to the public, combined with reductions in full time staff and costumed interpreters, have meant fewer opportunities to do what the site does best: interact with visitors. Without funding from the City of Toronto, additional reductions will be required which will affect the viability of partnerships such as ours and the ability of site staff to create research-based programming that meets the demands of twenty-first century audiences.

Please support TRCA's request for funding Black Creek Pioneer Village.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Bonnell".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan Ojiig Corbiere".

Prof. Jennifer Bonnell and Prof. Alan Ojiig Corbiere

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