



Date: October 24, 2023

To: Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Person's with Disabilities

Re: Canada Summer Jobs Program

This letter is in response for requested feedback regarding the CSJ program from this year. We have in many years past, been successful recipients of the CSJ program, but unfortunately were not successful this year. This outcome severely impacted our financials, especially since we are a non-profit organization strictly operated by volunteers throughout the year. We request CSJ's support for our seasonal operation staff, and it is very difficult for our museum to operate successfully without the program's assistance. We felt disappointment that the program was unable to even fund partial requests as that would have eased the financial burden of our organization.

Regarding the application process, we have found great ease in navigating the online application and correspondence through e-mail with the program officers. There has never been much difficulty communicating with the program officers, and they have always been easy to work with.

I have been informed that our area is over-funded for this program, but organizations like our museum are vital to rural communities. So many of our local organizations are volunteer-based so that we may offer events/programs to the locals of our area, as well as bring in visitors. It is satisfying to know when our government recognizes the impact these small businesses make on our community. My primary concern would be that instead of full denial of requested funding in this program that CSJ would consider even partially funding more organizations as this would ease the financial stress of the organization and provide employment for local youth.

Sincerely,
Etzikom Museum