



Fugitive Slave Chapel project receives support from Canada Cultural Spaces Fund

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONDON, ON (October 12, 2022) - The fundraising campaign to relocate and restore London's Fugitive Slave Chapel at Fanshawe Pioneer Village has received a \$150,000 contribution from the Government of Canada through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund. This funding will support up to fifty percent of the capital expenses of relocating the building from Grey Street to Fanshawe Pioneer Village, as well as half of the renovation and restoration expenses related to the project.

Once at the Village, the Chapel will be restored and preserved as an exhibition and programming space. The Museum is working with partners from London's Black community to develop interpretation which will include the history of the building and London's involvement in the Underground Railroad, as well as commemorating the region's diverse Black histories.

"The Fugitive Slave Chapel is an important cultural space that can help us better understand the mistakes of the past. Our government is committed to combatting racism and building a brighter future where our society embraces diversity at every step. This restoration is necessary in continuing to educate, promote dialogue and encourage unity." - Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage

"We are extremely grateful for the Government of Canada's contribution towards this project. The restoration and preservation of the Fugitive Slave Chapel has been long awaited by the community and with this funding in place, we hope to have the restoration completed before next summer." - Dawn Miskelly, Executive Director.

Additional Background: British Methodist Episcopal (BME) Church of Canada offered the heritage building known as the Fugitive Slave Chapel as a gift to the London and Middlesex Heritage Museum in 2021.

Built in 1848 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Fugitive Slave Chapel served London's Black community as a place of gathering and worship until 1869, when the congregation moved to the newly built Beth Emanuel Church. The chapel was home to many who fled their enslavement on the Underground Railroad and is the oldest surviving building in the area representing London's Black histories.

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This project has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada.
Ce projet a été rendu possible en partie grâce au gouvernement du Canada.

Canada



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BN/Charitable Registration #
129874541 RR0001

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