

## Urgent Letter to Torontonians about museum closures

November 13, 2011

I am writing to you as Torontonians who love this city to tell you that our city's most valuable heritage assets, the City of Toronto museums, are threatened with closure. Montgomery's Inn, Gibson House, Zion Schoolhouse and Market Gallery, 4 of 10 city-run museums, are being shut down as part of Mayor Ford's budget cuts.

This is an assault on all of us and our civic identity. These museums are cherished community touchstones and the Mayor has no right to shut them down for a paltry amount of supposed tax savings. They serve as community hubs for all kinds of events including children's programs, language training for new residents, farmers markets, and special events. Inside each museum is a host of objects, many original to these 19th century buildings, carefully preserved by Torontonians for many generations. They help us appreciate the great city in which we live. You can check out the great work and programming of our city museums at <http://www.toronto.ca/culture/museums/>.

Become part of the coalition to stop these cuts by

- \* Phoning or e-mailing your City councillor and the Mayor
- \* Signing the petition at the website  
<http://togethertoronto.ca/campaigns/museums/>
- \* Forwarding the petition to your family and friends. The website will help you do that electronically

We will keep you posted on our campaign as the City's Budget process unfolds over the next few months.

John Bessai

Friends of Toronto Museums

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