

Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport, Government of Ontario Standards for Community Museums in Ontario are referenced in Regulation 877 – Grants for Museums, the provincial regulation that governs the allocation of operating grants to Ontario's community museums. Eligibility for Community Museums Operating Grants is contingent on museums meeting both the requirements in the regulations as well as the standards.

Standards for Community Museums in Ontario

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Governance Standard | 6. Research Standard |
| 2. Finance Standard | 7. Conservation Standard |
| 3. Collections Standard | 8. Physical Plant Standard |
| 4. Exhibition Standard | 9. Community Standard |
| 5. Interpretation and Education Standard | 10. Human Resources Standard |

Governance Standard

As a community museum, you must be governed according to standards and be open and accountable to the public for your decisions.

Finance Standard

As a community museum, you must demonstrate fiscal responsibility.

Collections Standard

As a community museum, the artifacts you keep represent your community's heritage. To protect their value, you must maintain a well-organized, managed and documented collection.

Exhibition Standard

As a community museum, your exhibits provide an important link between your community and its heritage. In the planning and presentation of exhibitions, you must strive for accuracy of information, relevance to the community, effective communication, opportunities for learning and engagement, and the safe display of artifacts.

Interpretation and Education Standard

As a community museum, your interpretation and education programs allow the community to interact more closely with your collections and information and reach audiences of all ages, interests and abilities.

Research standard

As a community museum, research is an ongoing activity and is reflected by your well-researched exhibits, interpretation, publications and educational programming, As well as helping staff researchers, you also have a responsibility to assist outside researchers.

Conservation Standard

As a community museum, you have a responsibility to protect and preserve the collection entrusted to your care, so that future generations have the opportunity to enjoy and learn from it. You will demonstrate the stewardship of your collection by following procedures that ensure its long-term preservation.

Physical Plant Standard

As a community museum, your buildings and grounds must provide a safe and functional environment for visitors, staff, the collection and associated activities. This objective must be balanced with the need to preserve the integrity of heritage buildings as artifacts themselves, as well as archaeological resources present on the property.

Community Standard

A community's heritage is part of its identity. As a steward of the community's heritage, the museum is actively engaged in the community and responsive to its needs. The museum is accessible and relevant, and draws support from its community.

Human Resources Standard

As a community museum, your ability to fulfil your museum's purpose depends largely on the professionalism and capabilities of your staff. You are better able to meet your mandate and carry out activities if you recruit qualified staff and provide ongoing training opportunities. As an employer, you are concerned with the safety, security, wellbeing and continued motivation of the people who work with you.