

McMichael

For Immediate Release

McMichael Canadian Art Collection Announces Temporary Closure on July 26, 2026 to Begin Landmark Redevelopment



Conceptual rendering courtesy of Hariri Pontarini Architects

[July 16, 2026] KLEINBURG, ON – The McMichael Canadian Art Collection, home to one of the foremost collections of Canadian and Indigenous art, announced today that it will temporarily close to the public on the evening of July 26, 2026, to begin a landmark redevelopment of its building and grounds. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2026 and to be completed in 2029.

Plan your visit to explore the collection before the temporary closure. From spectacular landscapes by the Group of Seven to the boldest voices in contemporary art, discover how Canadian artists have shaped how we see this country—and ourselves.

Led by the award-winning Canadian firm Hariri Pontarini Architects, the redevelopment marks the first major investment in the McMichael site in more than forty years, adding 60% more space for exhibitions, education, conservation and public programming while modernizing outdated building systems and facilities. The project will also add state-of-the-art classrooms and studios to nurture the next generation of Canadian creativity, along with purpose-built spaces for events, concerts, lectures, conferences and dining.

This transformative project is made possible thanks to a visionary investment of up to \$50 million over three years from the Government of Ontario. To date, the project has also received an additional \$25 million from the Government of Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program and the vital support of private donors who have contributed more than \$50 million. Together, these contributions will ensure that the McMichael continues to inspire Canadians—and visitors from around the world—for generations to come. The redevelopment will maintain beloved heritage elements of the McMichael's original home, including the low roofline and timber-and-stone construction, and will be designed to meet CAGBC Zero Carbon Building Standards, underscoring the McMichael's strong commitment to environmental sustainability.

During the construction period, much of the McMichael's landmark collection will remain accessible through touring exhibitions of Canadian art across the country and abroad. Educational programs will also continue in schools and other venues.

The renewed McMichael will welcome visitors of all ages with warm, inviting spaces to explore, learn and connect. As a vibrant cultural gathering place, it will play a vital role in building a shared sense of identity and belonging—bringing people together through creativity, inclusion, sustainability and respect for the land and the many stories it holds.

QUOTES

“The McMichael Canadian Art Collection celebrates the Canadian and Indigenous experience, showcasing some of the finest art from across the country. Our government's \$50 million investment will support the redevelopment of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, protect its \$750 million collection and secure the long-term future of one of Canada's most iconic cultural institutions. By investing today, we are ensuring that families can experience these extraordinary works of art in a world-class setting for decades to come.”

— Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming"

“This is a defining moment for the McMichael and for the cultural life of our country. With the extraordinary support of the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, and the generosity of our donors, we are reimagining this beloved institution for the future—expanding our ability to share Canadian and Indigenous art, to educate and inspire, and to welcome more communities than ever before. We can't wait to get started.”

— Andy Pringle, Chair, Board of Trustees, McMichael Canadian Art Collection

“We are delighted to be embarking on this exciting voyage forward, giving Canadians the world-class museum that our rich culture deserves, from coast to coast to coast, and from past to present. The McMichael is the place where it all comes together.”

— Sarah Milroy, Frances and Tim Price Executive Director and Chief Curator

"Our government is proud to support the redevelopment of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, with construction starting this fall. With Canadian sovereignty front and center, the McMichael redevelopment will protect this institution for another generation, promoting the values, identity, and symbols that define us. Ontario's landmark \$50 million investment will renew this iconic space in Vaughan as we stand up for Canada — the True North Strong and Free."

— Stephen Lecce, Member of Provincial Parliament for King–Vaughan

QUICK FACTS

- On April 8, 2025, the Government of Ontario announced an investment of up to \$50 million to the McMichael capital campaign, to ensure that one of the country's most important collections of Canadian and Indigenous art will continue to welcome and inspire visitors of all ages for generations to come.
- On March 3, 2025, the Government of Canada announced a \$25 million investment through the Green and Inclusive Community Buildings (GICB) program to support the McMichael's redevelopment.
- Once completed, the project is expected to add an additional \$20 million in visitor spend to the region.
- The McMichael's permanent collection includes close to 8,000 artworks by Tom Thomson, the Group of Seven and their contemporaries, Indigenous artists, and artists from the many diasporic communities that make up Canada today.
- In 1965, Robert and Signe McMichael offered to donate their collection—as well as their home and land—to the Province of Ontario. Eight months later, on July 8, 1966, the "McMichael Conservation Collection of Art" officially opened to the public.
- The gallery is an agency of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, and receives ongoing support from the Ministry and the McMichael Canadian Art Foundation.

THE McMICHAEL CANADIAN ART COLLECTION

The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is the largest museum in Canada dedicated exclusively to Canadian and Indigenous art, both historical and contemporary. The permanent collection consists of almost 8,000 artworks, including masterworks by Tom Thomson, the Group of Seven and their contemporaries, and generations of Indigenous artists who have shaped and expanded the story of art in Canada. The collection continues to grow, with an increasing number of contemporary works that reflect the evolving narratives of Canadian art today. The McMichael is also the gallery of record for works on paper from the Inuit community of Kinngait (Cape Dorset) as custodians for the Kinngait Archive, which totals nearly 100,000 artworks. The McMichael Canadian Art Collection is an Agency of the Government of Ontario.

Ces informations sont aussi disponibles en français.

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