

Nov 28, 2023

Dear members of the Board of Directors and CEO/Director of the Art Gallery of Ontario,
We, recipients of Governor General's Awards in Visual and Media Arts from across the country, are writing to express our alarm and disapproval of the forced departure of Wanda Nanibush, Curator Indigenous Art, and co-head of the Indigenous and Canadian Art Department at the AGO.

The AGO's own public statements of Wanda Nanibush's extraordinary accomplishments and all she has brought to building relations with Indigenous artists and communities, makes her exit shocking.

The forced departure of Wanda Nanibush is an act of political censorship with shades of a new McCarthyism. It undermines principles of artistic freedom and freedom of speech. It also reveals a shallowness to the AGO's supposed commitment to reconciliation, decolonization, and justice for Indigenous people, and to social justice more generally.

Wanda Nanibush's forced departure severely damages the reputation and credibility of the AGO and sets a dangerous precedent in Canadian art that demands protest.

Sincerely,

Jamelie Hassan, GGA, 2001

Paul Wong, GGA, 2005

Lisa Steele and Kim Tomczak, GGA, 2005

Vera Frenkel, GGA, 2006

Tanya Mars, GGA, 2008

Rita McKeough, GGA, 2009

Robert Fones, GGA, 2011

Jan Peacock, GGA, 2012

Diana Nemiroff, GGA, 2012

Greg Payce, GGA, 2013

William D. MacGillivray, GGA, 2013

Chantal Pontbriand, GGA, 2013

Jayce Salloum, GGA, 2014

Robert Houle, GGA, 2015

Louise Déry, GGA, 2015

Philip Hoffman, GGA, 2016

Marnie Fleming, GGA, 2016

Landon Mackenzie, GGA, 2017

Philip Monk, GGA, 2017

Glenn Lewis, GGA, 2017

Mike Hoolboom, GGA, 2017
Sandra Semchuk, GGA, 2018
Midi Onodera, GGA, 2018 21
Wyn Geleynse, GGA, 2018
Jeff Thomas, GGA, 2019
COZIC (Yvon Cozic and Monic Brassard),
GGA, 2019
Andrew James Paterson, GGA, 2019
Ali Kazimi, GGA, 2019
Ruth Cuthand, GGA, 2020
Jorge Lozano, GGA, 2020
Deanna Bowen, GGA, 2020
Bonnie Devine, GGA, 2021
Cheryl L'Hirondelle, GGA, 2021
Lori Blondeau, GGA, 2021
Monique Régimbald-Zeiber, GGA, 2022
Carole Condé and Karl Beveridge, GGA, 2022
FASTWURMS, GGA, 2023
Shannon Walsh, GGA, 2023
David Garneau, GGA, 2023
Germaine Koh, GGA, 2023