



To our Donors, Members, Volunteers and Visitors,

I would like to start by thanking all of you who participated in our recent survey! This data is extremely helpful. We are approaching our reopening on Monday, June 29 and are hard at work preparing for your arrival.

We greatly appreciate the support of all of our Members and recognize that you have been unable to utilize your membership during our closure. Therefore, we will be extending all memberships by four months to make up the time you have missed.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our province's front-line workers. These individuals have given so much to our community over the past several months. As a way to say thank you, The Rooms will offer free admission to front-line workers and their families from Monday, June 29 to Sunday, July 5, 2020.

In my next letter I will provide more details about the new health and safety protocols that you will see on your next visit to The Rooms. To assist with ensuring appropriate physical distancing within our building, we are introducing timed ticketing.

We are excited about The Rooms upcoming 15th Anniversary on June 29, the first day we reopen to the public. Please help us celebrate this milestone by bringing your blanket and a picnic and join Fergus O'Byrne from 2 pm – 4 pm in the Fortis Courtyard and Amphitheatre. There is plenty of space on our lawn to practice safe physical distancing. Other anniversary activities include an outdoor scavenger hunt and draws for prizes. Stay tuned to our website for more details.

We will be reinstating our regular summer hours when we reopen. Don't forget we're open on Wednesday evenings until 9 pm and on Friday evenings until 10 pm. I'm pleased to share that our Free Post-Secondary Student Fridays received great uptake before we closed in March, so we will continue this initiative.

Throughout its history, The Rooms has been a place for discussion, debate and dialogue. Never has this role been more important than right now when our community is being challenged to address issues of racism, equality and past injustices. Representation has been incorporated into The Rooms curatorial practices since opening our doors in 2005 and is further demonstrated in our current suite of exhibitions.

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Opened weeks before The Rooms closed due to the pandemic, the exhibition **What Carries Us: Newfoundland and Labrador in the Black Atlantic** brings an African-diasporic perspective to Newfoundland and Labrador's place in centuries-long global migration and trade relationships.

Renowned UK artist John Akomfrah's **Vertigo Sea** re-opens at The Rooms on June 29th. Partially shot off the coast of Newfoundland, the immersive film explores histories of colonialism, global commerce, forced migration and environmental catastrophe – subjects that remain all too pressing in today's world.

During her residency at The Rooms, artist Melissa Tremblett spent time with objects from our collections, including tea dolls made by her grandmother, renowned Innu artist Madeline Michelin. I am pleased to let you know her exhibition **Melissa Tremblett: Reprise**, has been extended for the summer and is on exhibit in our Level 3 art gallery.

Our level three museum exhibition **Connections: This Place and its Early Peoples** and our level four museum exhibition **From This Place: Our Lives on Land and Sea** provide detailed accounts of the Indigenous Peoples of Newfoundland and Labrador and includes accounts from recent immigrants to the Province.

During this time of unprecedented challenges around the world, the critical role of arts, heritage and culture in our lives has been clearly demonstrated. Without you, our valued supporters, our ability to continue to work for the betterment and enrichment of our community would not be possible. Please consider supporting The Rooms by paying us a visit once we reopen, sharing our social media posts or by making a financial contribution to our collections acquisitions fund.

On behalf of all of us at The Rooms, thank you for contributing to our success over the past 15 years. We can't wait to welcome you back on June 29.

Sincerely,
Anne Chafe,
CEO (Interim), The Rooms Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador

