

Ontario Supporting Cultural Tourism in Whitby \$ 20,000 Investment will Create Jobs and Boost Local Economy



WHITBY – The Ontario Government is supporting the growth and sustainability of cultural tourism, creating jobs and boosting the local economy in Whitby. Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby, announced that BMK Event and Promotions Inc. will receive \$20,000.00 in funding through the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF). "The Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF) is a cultural tourism investment program that helps cultural organizations develop, promote and present high-quality, high-profile events and exhibitions designed to bring new visitors to communities across Ontario," said Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of

Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security and Children, Community and Social Services. "Organizations such as BMK Event and Promotions Inc. is a pillar of our community. This support will enable them to improve on programs that are essential to the well-being of people Whitby, making a positive difference for years to come." The Ontario Government, through OCAF, is supporting BMK Event and Promotions Inc. to develop, promote and present Durham Summer Fest 2025. The event will provide a free, family friendly atmosphere, cultural entertainment and food stalls. Today's funding announcement is part of the Government's overall investment of \$6million into OCAF projects across the province over the next three years. "Arts and culture organizations across Ontario enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike by providing one-of-a-kind events that proudly showcase the best that our province has to offer," said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "The investments that our

Government is making through OCAF will help to bring these wonderful projects to life, while boosting local business, creating jobs and enabling audiences of all ages to experience unique, made-in-Ontario programming that will create lifelong memories." OCAF funds are provided as partially repayable loans, which enable more projects to be supported. For every \$1 that the Ontario Government invests, \$1.69 is in turn invested in cultural tourism. "We at BMK Event and Promotions are incredibly grateful to the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund for this vital support. This funding is a game-changer—it enables us to expand Durham Summerfest into an even more vibrant celebration of culture, community, and creativity in the Durham region. With this investment, we can continue offering free, family-friendly programming that unites people, supports local artists and businesses, and highlights the rich cultural diversity of our community." - Bilal Khan, Director, BMK Event and Promotions

Notice to property owners:

Destroy the noxious weeds

Notice is hereby given to all persons in possession of land, in accordance with the

Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990 Chapter W.5, Sections 3, 16 and 23 that unless nox-

ious weeds growing on their lands within The Regional Municipality of Durham are destroyed throughout the season, the Municipality may enter upon said lands and have the weeds destroyed, charging costs against the landowner, as set out in the Weed Control Act.

The main purpose of the Weed Control Act R.S.O. 1990 is to reduce the impact of noxious weeds on the industries of agriculture and horticulture. Primarily, this Act applies to agricultural and horticultural lands that generate income or other benefits to agriculture. This excludes lawns, gardens and private areas for personal enjoyment and leisure.

Urban areas Sections 3, 13, 16 and 18 of the Weed Control Act do not apply to noxious weeds or weed seeds that are far enough away from any land used for agricultural or horticultural purposes. No one will be persecuted as it is not posted properly and or officially by the Region.



IS CANADA STILL THE COUNTRY WE THOUGHT IT WAS?

By Dale Jodoin

Over the past two decades, many Canadians have noticed something changing. The country feels less united, less fair, and more dangerous. Across schools, courtrooms, and political offices, a growing number of people are asking: Is this still the Canada we were promised? From weak school systems to unequal justice and a rising wave of climate extremism, some say Canada is heading down a troubling path.

Across the country, teachers are struggling to keep control in classrooms. Over the years, school systems have shifted their focus—from discipline and structure to emotional comfort. Some students now feel free to yell, act out, or even threaten others without facing serious consequences.

"Respect is gone in many classrooms," says one retired educator. "Students are told they're always the victim, so they don't take responsibility for bad behavior."

As a result, many young people are growing up without learning how to follow rules, listen to others, or work through problems peacefully. This has led to more conflict—not only in schools, but also later in life.

Canada's legal system was built on the idea that everyone is equal under the law. But more people are beginning to feel that justice isn't being served fairly.

In some cases, the punishment depends more on who you are than what you did. Certain groups seem to get lighter sentences, while others face harsher ones. Scam artists, repeat criminals, and violent offenders are often released back into the community with little punishment.

This has caused many Canadians to lose faith in the justice system. When people don't trust the courts, they may feel they need to solve problems on their own.

Canada's political leaders once focused on building roads, creating jobs, and protecting families. Today, many seem more focused on headlines and global image.

Regular people say they feel left behind—especially those in rural areas or working-class neighborhoods. While taxes rise and living costs grow, Canadians see billions spent on programs that often don't help them. Many believe politicians care more about big business, foreign interests, or social media trends than about the average citizen.

One small business owner shared: "It feels like the people in charge don't even live in the same country we do."

Caring for the planet is a good thing. Most Canadians agree we need to reduce pollution and protect nature. But a growing number of people have turned climate action into something more dangerous.

Radical groups have started vandalizing businesses, attacking pipelines, and even threatening people with different opinions. These acts aren't peaceful protests—they're attacks. Yet many politicians and media outlets avoid calling them out.

"When you can't question something without being silenced or punished, it becomes like a religion," one analyst said. "And when people act on it with violence, that's extremism."

Canada is not prepared for this new kind of domestic threat. Law enforcement often backs off. Politicians avoid speaking up. But the damage is real—jobs lost, property destroyed, and public fear on the rise.

There is growing concern that young Canadians who still believe in fairness, law, and order will eventually give up on the system. They may stop voting. They may stop speaking out. Some may even feel forced to take action into their own hands when no one else will.

That is when a country becomes unstable.

"When good people stop believing the rules work, things fall apart fast," said one retired police officer. "And that's where we're headed if we don't fix this."

Can Canada Still Be Saved? Yes—but change needs to happen now.

Schools must return to discipline, structure, and respect.

Justice must be equal and fair for all—no matter your background.

Leaders must listen to regular Canadians, not just activists or corporations.

And Canada must be brave enough to deal with violent climate extremists the same way it handles any other threat.

Canada is not just a flag or a place on a map. It's an idea—one built on fairness, safety, and opportunity. But if we lose those values, we lose the country.

There is still time to make things right. But it will take strong voices, open eyes, and a public that refuses to stay silent.

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