

**Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario**



WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Parks Commission has made changes to Upper Canada Village that threaten the site’s historic integrity, limit its capacity to educate visitors about Canada’s pre-Confederation past and ultimately, result in a much-diminished visitor experience;

WHEREAS, the changes include eliminating 23 costumed interpreters who, in past seasons, educated visitors about life in the 1860s, and the growing commercialization of this respected living history museum, including the conversion of a rare heritage building, Cook’s Tavern, into a restaurant and potentially, a bar;

WHEREAS, heritage buildings will be closed to visitors for three to four hours each day because they will not be staffed, leaving the buildings and their contents, precious historic artifacts, many of them donated by local families, vulnerable to theft and vandalism;

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, an agency of the Government of Ontario, made these changes with the help of a \$13 million grant from the province;

AND WHEREAS, the degradation of this cultural icon, created to preserve the past and honour the heritage of those communities flooded by the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway, is a concern for all citizens of Canada;

THEREFORE, we the undersigned call on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to demand the reversal of the changes implemented thus far and the establishment of a public forum for the express purpose of creating a vision for Upper Canada Village based on community input, including that of municipal councils, heritage societies, concerned citizens and employees.

Name	Address	Signature







