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September 07, 2001

William Thorsell
President
Royal Ontario Museum
100 Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Thorsell,

I have recently arrived at the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (CTOT), which supports a very active public affairs program. One of the stars this year has been the Mackay Exhibition in Taipei, on which the Royal Ontario Museum and the Shung Ye Museum have collaborated so successfully. Taipei is the first stop of what we hope will be a multi-city tour in Taiwan. I took an early opportunity this week to visit the Mackay Exhibition and meet with Shung Ye's Director, Mr. Eric Yu.

Beyond the compelling story of Mackay's relationship with the aboriginal and greater Taiwanese community, and the uniqueness of the collection itself, I was particularly impressed with two aspects of the Exhibition: the quality of its presentation, and the overwhelming local response. Director Yu passed me a large binder full of newspaper coverage of the Exhibition and the many VIPs who have visited.

The exhibition, which could not have happened with the support of both ROM, our many sponsors and the Shung Ye Museum itself, has been a public relations coup for Canada here in Taiwan. Despite its small scale, the Exhibition has been professionally presented and publicized by Shung Ye. The result has strengthened Canada's image as an effective and historic partner in Taiwan's development, and has boosted the profile of the ROM and Canadian cultural institutions generally.

In his first meeting with me, Director Yu noted his concern regarding questions raised by the ROM about the future of the proposed tour of the Mackay Exhibition to other Taiwan venues. Given the high profile and active local Government support which the Exhibition has received, I fear that a decision not to support the proposed tour would negate some of the good will and positive publicity which the Exhibition has generated. I am confident that Shung Ye remains a capable partner for the ROM, and can assist other local venues in meeting the ROM's requirements. CTOT will remain actively engaged with both Shung Ye and the ROM, in order to actively support the tour going forward.

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