



Canadian Council of Archives
Conseil canadien des archives

June 13, 2013

Honourable James Moore
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages

Dear Minister Moore:

Re: National Archival Development Program

I am writing as Chairperson of the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) regarding your recent comments concerning the National Archival Development Program (NADP). On behalf of Canada's 13 provincial and territorial archives councils, the more than 800 archival institutions in this country and the 7,041 individuals who signed a petition asking for the NADP program to be reinstated (attached), we thank you for speaking about a possible reinstatement of this vital program. We hope that the next Librarian and Archivist of Canada will be open to this discussion. However, with every week of delay in reinstating the NADP, archival material in communities remains inaccessible and at risk.

In light of the June 11 funding announcement for new programs to support Canada's history, we ask that this excellent initiative be complimented with a swiftly revived NADP grants and contributions program, which will ultimately help those Canadians accessing the History Fund and other Heritage initiatives. For these new programs to achieve their maximum impact, access to archival documentation is essential. We cannot celebrate and study our past if Canada's historical documents are not available to the target audience of your funding announcement.

As I mentioned to you in my letter of May 10 of last year, CCA's management of the NADP, as well as the program itself, was positively audited by Audit Services Canada in June 2010. At the time of the NADP's cancellation by Daniel Caron on April 30th, 2012, 90 projects had been approved by the CCA peer-review adjudication process. Recognizing your newest efforts to promote Canadian history, the opportunity is available to move rapidly so that the archival community can support your goals. CCA would be pleased to work with our colleagues from Library and Archives Canada (LAC) to make this happen.

With past financial assistance programs from Canadian Heritage and LAC, the archival community has always done its part, normally exceeding the 50% match required for a federal contribution. Canada's archival community has never shied away from meeting its responsibilities and doing the work needed to preserve our documentary heritage, but our capacities are finite. Reinstatement of the National Archival Development Program will benefit all Canadians – now and for generations to come.

Sincerely,

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