



Governor Nathan Deal
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

September 16, 2012

Dear Governor Deal:

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) to encourage you to reverse your decision to reduce the budget to the Georgia State Archives.

Established in 1975, the Association of Canadian Archivists is a national not-for-profit organization representing over 600 archivists in Canada. With headquarters in Ottawa, the ACA's mandate is to provide the archival profession leadership and to facilitate an understanding and appreciation of Canada's archival heritage.

We were disturbed to learn that, as a result of budget cuts, the Georgia State Archives will be closed to the public after November 1, 2012. Archival records provide evidence documenting the activities of public leaders and protecting the rights of all citizens. Reducing access to archives reduces the public's ability to hold officials accountable for their actions and would thus undermine a fundamental pillar of democracy. Further, restricting access to the state archives impoverishes Georgia's heritage. Without access to archives, how can historians and students write their histories, genealogists understand their ancestors, and citizens know their state's rich past? Indeed, as the International Council of Archives' Universal Declaration on Archives states, open access to archives enriches our knowledge of human society, promotes democracy, protects citizens' rights and enhances the quality of life. Surely, you do not wish to be the governor of the only state in the country that will not have a central location where citizens can research and review the historical records of their government and state.

The rights of citizens to access information about Georgian society must not be compromised. We urge you to restore the Georgia State Archives' budget. Anything less is an abdication of your government's responsibility to uphold democratic values and to nurture Georgia's rich collective memory.

Best Regards,



Loryl MacDonald
President