



May 9, 2012

The Honourable James Moore  
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Re: the elimination of the National Archival Development Program (NADP)

Dear Mr. Moore,

I am writing you on behalf of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) to express dismay over the elimination of the National Archival Development Program (NADP).

For the past 26 years the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) has administered the NADP (and its predecessors) on behalf of Library and Archives Canada to support archival initiatives across Canada. The \$1.7 million matching funds programme is distributed to archives throughout the 10 provinces and 3 territories.

The elimination of this successful and efficient programme will have dire consequences for the Canadian archival network and, in particular, for small and medium sized archives. The NADP has funded:

- Development of the national on-line catalogue of archival descriptions, and its provincial and territorial counterparts, enabling all archives, including the very small, to reach Canadians
- Provision of archival and preservation advice to archives
- Jobs for new graduates from Canada's archival programs
- Access to archival holdings information on-line
- Outreach and educational activities in communities to help small institutions manage their archives
- Cataloguing of archival materials to make them accessible to the public
- Site assessments to both urban and rural archives, to safeguard Canada's documentary heritage

Further, the ACA believes that the elimination of this Program is in contravention of the *Library and Archives of Canada Act* which obliges the LAC to "7(f) to support the development of the library and archival communities". Further, we believe that this compromises the role of the Librarian and Archivist of Canada to "8 (i) provide professional, technical and financial support to those involved in the preservation and promotion of the documentary heritage and in providing access to it."

In your May 7 statement to the House of Commons, you stated that Library Archives Canada was working with archives around the country to ensure that collections are



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accessible. However, archives need resources to take care of the records in their custody. Much support for archives has come from the NADP.

The ACA therefore urges you to reverse the elimination of the NADP. The NADP has greatly contributed to the preservation of Canada's documentary heritage and proven vital to keeping alive our connections with our collective past.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loryl MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loryl MacDonald  
President, Association of Canadian Archivists