



Association
of Canadian
Archivists

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May 9, 2012

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

Re: job cuts at Library Archives Canada

Dear Mr. Moore,

The Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) is dismayed with the loss of archival positions at Library Archives Canada (LAC).

The cuts to Library and Archives Canada will lead to the loss of professional archivists who acquire, preserve, and make available Canada's documentary heritage. In your May 8 statement to the House of Commons, you said that LAC will certainly be able to continue meeting its commitments by using new technologies. However, new technologies cannot replace expert staff. The job of an archivist is more than simply pushing papers and dusting off old boxes. Indeed, archivists play a very important role in society. Without them, it would be impossible to access archival materials. Archivists establish and maintain both physical and intellectual control over records of enduring value. Archivists appraise records using an understanding of the historical context in which the records were created, the uses for which the records were intended and the relationship of the records to other sources or stakeholders. Archivists also arrange and describe records in order to allow for efficient and effective access and retrieval. Further, they provide expert advice on the care and management of specialized media. Archivists also facilitate the work of researchers with diverse topics of inquiry. Through their work, archivists ensure the records of today are preserved for future generations. The records can then be used to show the life, ideas, and thoughts of their original creators, linking the past, present and future.

LAC needs resources for professional staff to acquire and to care for our documentary heritage. I urge you to reverse the LAC budget cutbacks.

Best Regards,

Loryl MacDonald
President, Association of Canadian Archivists