



Association of
Canadian Archivists
Association canadienne
des archivistes

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Mayor Bowman and City Councillors
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

May 25, 2015

Dear Mayor Bowman and City Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) to support the renewal and revitalization of the City of Winnipeg Archives building at 380 William Avenue.

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. The archival collections held by the City of Winnipeg Archives are of considerable municipal significance with records dating back to 1873. The premise at 380 William Avenue suffered storm damage in 2013 and has been closed to the public since then.

Given that the municipal archives has been operating for well over a year in a "temporary" location at 50 Myrtle Street, the ACA hopes that a more satisfactory solution will be found providing the City of Winnipeg Archives the best modernized and environmentally sound upgrades possible. Such upgrades to the important heritage building, an original Carnegie Library, would include appropriate temperature and relative humidity controls, storage space for specialized collections, and appropriate light levels in all storage as well as public access spaces to ensure the proper preservation of collections. Upgrades for user access would also ideally include improved accessibility features in public spaces and greater ease of access in the loading bay area.

A strong recordkeeping system with regular transfer of records of archival importance is a foundational component of openness and transparency in government. Providing access to records about their city, their identities, and their heritage helps build a robust and knowledgeable citizenry. Thus, on behalf of the ACA, I encourage City Councillors to support the necessary improvements to 380 William Avenue so it can once again be a vibrant landmark and heritage destination housing such a critical archive of the city's history.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Harvey
President, Association of Canadian Archivists