



Association of
Canadian Archivists
Association canadienne
des archivistes

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Amrik Virk
Minister of Technology, Innovation, and Citizens' Services
BC Government
Room 346
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

AND

Jack Loman
CEO, Royal BC Museum
Royal BC Museum
675 Belleville Street,
Victoria, BC V8W 9W2

May 5, 2015

Dear Hon. Amrik Virk and Prof. Jack Loman,

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) to applaud the agreement announced on April 15, 2015 (<http://www.newsroom.gov.bc.ca/2015/04/agreement-reached-to-address-archival-backlog.html>) between the Government of BC and the Royal British Columbia Museum to fund the transfer to and processing of 33,000 boxes of governmental records by the BC Archives. This should, indeed, as it is hoped, improve citizens' access to information.

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. History has shown that systemic problems with recordkeeping go unnoticed until there is a need to access records for legal, media, or evidentiary reasons; so the ACA sees this agreement as a very positive step toward ensuring that government records will be available in a manner that supports openness and transparency in governance and will enable evidence-based decision-making.

The ACA is encouraged that important records including court records, dissolved company files, improvement district case files, executive correspondence, and records of commissions of inquiry among other documents will all receive proper long-term archival care at the Royal BC Museum.

Again, congratulations to you all on reaching such an important agreement.

Sincerely,

original signed by Kathryn

Kathryn Harvey
President, Association of Canadian Archivists