



Association of  
Canadian Archivists

Association canadienne  
des archivistes

email [aca@archivists.ca](mailto:aca@archivists.ca) [www.archivists.ca](http://www.archivists.ca)

The Honourable Shelly Glover P.C. M.P.  
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

February 27, 2014

Dear Minister Glover,

I am writing to you on behalf of the members of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) to express our concerns by the lack of financial support for archives and archival institutions in *Budget 2014, The Road to Balance: Creating Jobs and Opportunities*.

Established in 1975, the ACA 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 community was reassured by both your predecessor, the Honourable James Moore and your own stated intention to ask the next Librarian and Archivist of Canada to determine whether the extremely successful National Archival Development Program (NADP) could be restored within LAC's budget. Therefore, we were surprised and disappointed this was not mentioned in the budget even though the Government seems committed to sustained funding through the announcement of 105 million dollars of core culture and arts funding. Additionally the Government has increased funding to the Virtual Museum of Canada (an increase of 4.2 million for a budget of 6.2 million) and to the Online Works of Reference (an increase of 1.2 million for a total of 2.1 million). The NADP, which was cut in April 2012, supported archival initiatives across Canada. Its annual \$1.7 million matching funds programme was distributed to archives throughout the 10 provinces and 3 territories and effectively administered by the Canadian Council of Archives. The elimination of this successful and efficient programme has had negative consequences for the Canadian archival network and, in particular, for small and medium sized archives. While we laud funding for the Virtual Museum of Canada and the Online Works of Reference, we emphasize that access to archival materials is more essential than ever; we cannot celebrate milestones such as Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, if our historical documents are not preserved, described, and made available in archival repositories staffed by trained archivists.

Our members are also concerned about this government's trend to administratively group entities such as the Virtual Museum of Canada under the rubric of the Canadian Museum of History. While such groupings are understandable, we hope that similar considerations are not underway



Association of  
Canadian Archivists

Association canadienne  
des archivistes

email [aca@archivists.ca](mailto:aca@archivists.ca) [www.archivists.ca](http://www.archivists.ca)

for Library & Archives Canada (LAC). As LAC has a legislated record-keeping mandate for the Government of Canada, the ACA strongly believes that the LAC must remain an agency under the executive branch of government.

Lastly, we are concerned with the lengthy delay in the appointment of a new Librarian & Archivist of Canada. After all the tumult of the last few years, Canadians, the archival community and LAC staff need to see the appointment of a permanent Librarian & Archivist committed to preserving and promoting Canada's documentary heritage and great tradition of sound record-keeping practices.

Should you desire to speak further on these matters, ACA leadership is available to meet via phone, e-mail or in person at your offices in Toronto or in Winnipeg.

Best Regards,

*Original signed by Loryl MacDonald*

Loryl MacDonald  
President, Association of Canadian Archivists