



October 19, 2012

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

Re: *Canada's 150th Anniversary in 2017*

Dear Minister Moore,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) concerning the Standing Committee of Canadian Heritage's report, *Canada's 150th Anniversary in 2017*.

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.

We are pleased to see that Government of Canada has begun planning Canada's 150th anniversary. We also appreciate that commemoration of Canada's varied histories will be central to the celebrations. However, the Association of Canadian Archivists is very concerned that the Standing Committee of Canadian Heritage has overlooked the significant role that archives and archivists must play in this celebration.

A variety of museum issues and perspectives are mentioned in the *Canada's 150th Anniversary in 2017* report. However, the only voice for Canadian archives in the report is that of Daniel Caron, Librarian and Archivist of Canada (LAC). While we hope that LAC will play a significant role in the celebrations, LAC only represents a small part of Canada's vast and rich archival landscape. Canada's vibrant archival community includes hundreds of archives such as provincial and territorial archives, university archives, municipal archives, local community archives, religious archives, and various other thematic archives – all of which are vital in the preservation of and access to Canada's heritage.

In order for the celebrations to be successful and to have an enduring legacy for future generations, the Canadian archival community must be consulted and involved in planning Canada's 150th Anniversary celebrations. A large portion of museum exhibits will contain archival material and will certainly require archival research. Additionally, IT initiatives must involve archivists in order to ensure that digital preservation standards and controls are in place so that digital records created for the celebrations will remain usable and accessible over time to future generations.

As you know, archives have long been involved in discussions and celebrations of Canada's unique culture. In 1951, the Royal Commission in the Arts, Letters and Sciences (better known



as the Massey Commission) wrote “(T)he great importance to the nation of the proper preservation of all significant written records is perhaps not fully appreciated” and that one remedy “lies in proper public understanding and support of archival institutions, national and provincial, and in their mutual co-operation.” We hope that Canada’s sesquicentennial anniversary will be the catalyst for Canadians to value archival records and their preservation. As former Dominion Archivist, Sir Arthur G. Doughty, stated: "Of all our national assets, Archives are the most precious; they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization."

I am available to meet with you or your staff to discuss as to how archives and archivists can be more fully involved in the sesquicentennial celebrations.

Best Regards,

Original signed by Loryl MacDonald

Loryl MacDonald

President, Association of Canadian Archivists