



**Canadian Council of Archives
Conseil canadien des archives**

May 16, 2012

Honourable Marjory LeBreton
Senator of the Senate
Leader of the Government

Dear Senator LeBreton,

Re: Debates of the Senate, May 10, 2012: Elimination of the National Archival Development Program

As the Chair of the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA), I am writing to provide you information on the elimination of the National Archival Development Program (NADP) by Library and Archives Canada (LAC) on April 30, 2012. This program's elimination was the issue raised in the Senate by the Honourable Claudette Tardiff (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) on May 10, 2012.

LAC's decision to eliminate NADP is a matter separate from LAC's decision to reduce their own staffing and services; LAC's decision to eliminate this program will have a far-reaching and devastating impact on the Canadian archival community in every province and territory, and community archives' ability to preserve our nation's history now and for future generations.

CCA is the third party delivery body for NADP. Founded in 1985, the Canadian Council of Archives' mission is to nurture and sustain the nationwide efforts of over 800 archival organizations – member institutions, small and large, all operating independently, but sharing a common goal to preserve and make accessible Canada's rich and varied history.

NADP distributes \$1.71 million in government funds, a figure which has not changed since the federal cuts of the 1990s. Through Canada's 13 provincial and territorial archives councils, NADP is a cost-shared program which supports employment opportunities for recent graduates from Canada's archival and information studies programs, helping them to compete in new knowledge economy businesses. NADP provides post-appointment training opportunities to heritage sector staff, educational outreach to Canadians through online access to archival holdings, and preservation of at-risk archival materials in all formats, including modern

electronic records. NADP has, and does, build capacity in the community for the benefit of all. This decision is having a domino effect across the country, devastating community archives' ability to serve Canadians.

NADP has provided the Government of Canada with an excellent return on its investment. The average project funded through provincial and territorial NADP allocation sees 55% of the total cost actually contributed by the applicant, in the form of cash and in-kind funds. Elimination of NADP will affect all those who use these priceless historical sources: teachers, students, historians, genealogists, authors, and filmmakers. Significantly, loss of the program will hurt the Federal Government, both directly and indirectly, as various Federal initiatives and federally funded activities are heavily dependent on archives across the country making authentic and reliable primary sources available to support Government's efforts to improve the lives of Canadians: two recent examples are the processes surrounding Residential Schools and the use of Agent Orange. NADP elimination will have an impact on cultural industries, accountability processes, and our nationhood.

I have attached for your information a fact sheet on the NADP and CCA.

Sincerely,



Lara Wilson
Chair, Canadian Council of Archives

C: Honourable Claudette Tardif (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)

C. Honourable Hugh Segal

/attachments