

BRIEFING NOTE ON THE ELIMINATION OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Purpose

To provide background on the benefits, efficiencies and successes of the National Archival Development Program (NADP) delivered on behalf of the Government of Canada by the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA), and which Library and Archives Canada (LAC), eliminated without notice on April 30, 2012.

Background

CCA is a registered charity incorporated since 1986 and has supported Canadians' efforts to preserve, understand, and access their past for 26 years. Since it first received federal funding in 1986, CCA has also acted as a third party delivery partner responsible for the adjudication and the distribution of resources to archives in communities throughout every province and territory, and for the development of standards and best practices.

Even before the archival community launched major collaborative database updates (MemoryBC.ca, ARCHIVESCANADA.ca), and before CCA worked with LAC on the creation of goals and objectives for the National Archival Development Program, the Canadian archival community voiced its unequivocal and continuing support of CCA as coordinator for the Canadian archival system.

"It is important for the CCA to maintain programs addressing the needs of a wide variety of Canadian archival institutions

5 (2%) disagreed ; 2 (1%) neutral ; 199 (97%) agreed

The Canadian archival community will best be strengthened by ensuring provincial/territorial adjudication and determination of priorities within their region

10 (5%) disagreed ; 23 (11%) neutral ; 169 (84%) agreed

Provincial funding allotments should be abolished – all grants should be adjudicated at the national level and only the best, regardless of region, should be funded.

172 (85%) disagreed ; 25 (12%) neutral ; 6 (3%) agreed

Library and Archives Canada should take over the responsibilities of the CCA secretariat

148 (76%) disagreed ; 41 (21%) neutral ; 6 (3%) agreed

Library and Archives Canada should take over the responsibilities of the CCA Board

158 (80%) disagreed ; 37 (19%) neutral ; 3 (1%) agreed"

Page 21, 2003 CCA Survey of Councils and Institutions, Summary Report, May 2004

On April 30, 2012, Fabio Onesi, LAC Director General of Stakeholder Relations, verbally informed CCA's executive director that NADP was retroactively eliminated effective March 31, 2012. No transition plan was proposed by LAC, only 30 days payment of NADP related expenses was offered. No written confirmation has yet been received from LAC.

The National Archival Development Program, which was funded by LAC at \$1.7m, was designed to develop programs in support of the archival community in Canada under Section 8(1)(i) of the LAC Act. Its objective was to realize the mandate of the LAC as set out in the Preamble to the Act (C) and Section 7(f) "to support the

development of the library and archival communities” of Canada. These funds were designated, not for internal LAC use, but rather for the benefit of the archival community.

LAC’s decision to terminate this program has had an immediate and devastating impact on Canada’s archival community, which is comprised of over 800 local, regional, provincial and territorial archives. These institutions include archives of Canada’s indigenous peoples, ethnic and cultural groups, religious communities, cities and towns, museums, universities, educational institutions, historical societies, and more. The 13 provincial and territorial councils represent these over 800 archives. NADP support contributed to a very substantial component of these councils’ operations, and this component has now been suspended. Following the program termination, 2012/13 employment contracts were cancelled, and 90 projects in 74 institutions were shelved, and the stability of the provincial and territorial councils has been seriously threatened.

LAC has proposed that the Pan-Canadian Documentary Heritage Network (PCDHN), a discussion forum, function as a replacement for NADP:

- PCDHN is a series of meetings in Ottawa with a select group of attendees.
- Funds are spent on travel for participants, not spent on projects in communities across Canada.
- Three meetings have been held since 2010, and these have been marked by inconsistent direction, lack of continuity, and an absence of concrete goals or benchmarks.
- An absence of follow through on commitments and discussions from these meetings has already frustrated participants who have been in attendance.
- An administrative infrastructure of paid public servants will be created at additional cost to LAC instead of leveraging the existing volunteer resources across Canada in each province and territory.
- With an operating budget of less than \$50,000 per year, 51% of archives across Canada have limited operational capacity and are now bereft of the archives advisory services program supported by NADP. These archives will not be assisted through the PCDHN.

While we recognize that the Government of Canada is taking action to reduce its fiscal deficit, this program contributed to modest job creation in knowledge development and dissemination, local and regional economic stimulation and the preservation and access to Canada’s documentary heritage.

Elimination of the NADP hurts Canadian jobs, undermines Canada's standing in the global information market, penalizes what has until now been a robustly growing sector of the economy, and turns away millions in potential investment dollars. It also irreparably damages Canada’s documentary heritage, penalizes citizens who wish to understand their past, and sets Canada back years in its efforts to be at the leading edge of the digital revolution in archives and records management.

The effective functioning of the Canadian archival system and the expertise of the forward-thinking individuals who contribute to the CCA and NADP have made it possible for Canada to become a major player in a highly specialized and profitable sector of the world information economy for a very modest investment. The Government of Canada’s recent program evaluations and audit have underscored the importance of this program to the Canadian archival community and the value it adds to our collective knowledge and understanding of Canada and its history and peoples. It is no wonder, then, that the archival community both at home and abroad has been united in its dismay over this proposed course of action.

Misrepresented Information

On May 31, 2012, at the Canadian Library Association annual conference, the Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Daniel Caron, mistakenly stated that 60% of NADP funds were spent on administration. In fact, program

administration accounts for 11% of the total annual funding envelope, and the average percentage of funds spent on administration for projects carried out by individual archives was 0.95%, as documented in NADP final report for 2010/11.

The Facts

Since its inception in 1986, the CCA has been an innovative and forward thinking organization leveraging matching resources of at *least 50%* for each NADP investment, even though the Terms and Conditions of this contribution program did not require an investment from applicants.

Contribution allocation for projects across Canada: (65%) \$1,115,000

Development of capacity (standards, preservation, advisory services committees, the ARCHIVESCANADA.CA public database of archival information): (24%) \$ 410,000

Program Administration: (11%) \$ 185,000

Total NADP: \$1,710,000

NADP funding level had been stable at \$1.7m per year since its inception in 2006.

The program received Ministerial renewal in March 2011.

Summative Evaluation and Audit Comments:

- "... the adjudication process of applicants for NADP **funding is adequate and efficient ...**" Page 12, Section 3.3B, Audit of the National Archival Development Program, Audit Report June 2010, Audit Services Canada, Library and Archives Canada, June 2010
- "The findings of this Summative evaluation support the findings and recommendations of previous evaluation reports and **confirm the need to continue the National Archival Development Program (NADP)**. It is the recommendation of this evaluation report that **the funds of the program be increased in order to cover the expected inflation rate and in order to support initiatives in coping with the digital environment.**" Summative Evaluation of the National Archival Development Program, Section 5.4, Recommendation 1, **PRA Inc and the Evaluation Group** at Library and Archives Canada, Approved by LAC Evaluation Committee November 23, 2010
- "The NADP was found to be highly relevant to the needs of the archival community. For many institutions, it **represents the sole opportunity for financial assistance. Should the NADP be discontinued, institutions would likely have difficulties in preserving and making available to Canadians the nation's archival collection.** The present level of support provided has not increased with inflation, and does not reflect the increasing financial pressures faced by the archives to preserve access to Canada's documentary heritage, in particular digital records." Summative Evaluation of the National Archival Development Program, Section 5.1, **PRA Inc and the Evaluation Group** at Library and Archives Canada, November 23, 2010
- "**The program aligns well with the mandate and Strategic Outcome of LAC.** All program objectives correspond to the mandate as described in government documents. The program also demonstrates some alignment with the recent modernization initiative in that it **strongly promotes a collaborative approach to addressing the challenges of a changing information environment** and recognizes the need to adapt to change in the way that users interact with archives." Summative Evaluation of the National Archival Development Program, Section 5.1, **PRA Inc and the Evaluation Group** at Library and Archives Canada, November 23, 2010.

About ARCHIVESCANADA.ca

A revolutionary upgrade to ARCHIVESCANADA.CA, the public database of Canada-wide archival information, was scheduled to go live autumn 2012. This highly anticipated project was developed in partnership with the provincial and territorial councils, their member institutions, LAC, and the Department of Canadian Heritage; all invested resources to create an easy-to-use Web application that provides access to hundreds of thousands of historical documents, images and other national treasures that would be available from the comfort of a classroom, home or office.

By slashing funding for this project, the government has effectively voted with its wallet to terminate the most extensive effort to provide digital access to heritage in the history of Canada. Only \$70,000 was required to complete the final phase of this project, which has been in progress since 2006. The made-in-Canada software behind this project is endorsed by international bodies, including the World Bank, UNESCO, and the government of the United Arab Emirates.

NADP supports the following activities in communities and institutions across Canada:

- Outreach and educational activities in communities to help institutions manage their archival treasures
- Development of the national on-line catalogue of archival descriptions ARCHIVESCANADA.ca, and its provincial and territorial counterparts, so all archives – including the very small – can reach Canadians
- Provision of free archival and preservation advice to archives across the country
- Jobs for new graduates from Canada's archival studies programs
- Access to archival holdings information online
- Cataloguing of archival materials to make them accessible to the public
- Training opportunities for local archives run by volunteers or one-person operations
- Site assessments for both rural and urban archives, to safeguard Canada's documentary heritage
- Preservation of at-risk documents and other archival materials, including electronic records

Recent NADP Successes:

NADP in 2010-2011

- 590.66 metres of records described and made accessible to Canadians
- 89 projects completed
- 378,878 items digitized
- 142 individuals employed
- 70 institutions directly supported
- 60 workshops given to 1,264 participants
- CCA advisors and conservators answered 5,636 expertise requests and made 186 site visits

NADP in 2009-2010

- 567.47 metres of records described and made accessible to Canadians
- 85 projects completed
- 365,473 items digitized
- 114 individuals employed
- 71 institutions directly supported
- 30 workshops given to 741 participants
- CCA advisors and conservators answered 5,594 expertise requests and made 165 site visits

Where are NADP projects?

Province	City	2010-11	2011-12	Cancelled 2012-13
Alberta	Athabasca	1		
	Calgary	1	2	1
	Edmonton	6	5	5
	Grande Prairie		1	
	High River		1	
	Medicine Hat			1
	Wetaskiwin		1	1
British Columbia	Burnaby	1	2	1
	Kelowna	1		
	Langley	1		
	New Westminster		1	
	North Vancouver			1
	Port Coquitlam	3	4	3
	Richmond	1		
	Vancouver	2	5	2
	Victoria		1	1
	West Vancouver			1
Whistler		1	1	
Manitoba	Amherst		1	
	Brandon	1		
	Winnipeg	8	3	6
New Brunswick	Fredericton	4	5	3
	Moncton	2	1	1
	Sackville			2
	Saint John	1	1	1
	St Andrews	1		1
New Foundland & Labrador	Mount Pearl		1	
	St Johns	5	5	5
	Trinity	2	1	
Nova Scotia	Cole Harbour			1
	Dartmouth	1		
	Halifax	6	5	6
	Lake Charlotte			1
	Sydney	1	1	1
	Yarmouth		1	
Northwest Territories	Fort McPherson	1		
	Yellowknife	1		2
Nunavut	Cambridge Bay	1		1
	Pond Inlet			1
Ontario	Brampton			1
	Dundas	1		
	Napanee	1		
	North York			1
Toronto	8	4	7	
Prince Edward Island	Charlottetown	2	1	1
Quebec	Gatineau	1	1	1
	La Tuque	1		
	Laval			1
	Mont-Laurier			1
	Montreal	9	6	7
	Québec	2	3	2
	Rivière-du-Loup		1	
	Saint-Hyacinthe	1	1	
	Saint-Jérôme			1
	Sherbrooke			1
	St-Jean-Chrysostome			1
	Thetford Mines			1
	Westmount		1	1
Saskatchewan	Lloydminster			1
	North Battleford	1	1	
	Regina	2	3	4
	Saskatoon	4	1	2
Yukon	Dawson City		1	1
	Old Crow	1	1	1
	Teslin		1	1
	Whitehorse	4	3	2