



MEMORANDUM ON THE ELIMINATION OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

“Of all 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.”

- Sir Arthur Doughty, Dominion Archivist, 1924

The Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) has supported and financed Canadians’ efforts to preserve, understand, and access their past for almost thirty years. Since it first received federal funding in 1986, the CCA’s distribution of resources to archival efforts throughout Canada has drawn high praise from federal auditors and has received repeated commendations from users, heritage institutions, universities, and the international archival community.

National Archival Development Program (NADP) Termination – Context

On April 30, 2012, Library and Archives Canada (LAC) eliminated the CCA-administered National Archival Development Program (NADP), whose funding levels have remained stable at \$1.7m per year since its inception in 2006. This program supports a very significant portion of the archival enterprise in Canada – it helps archivists in all our communities to acquire, preserve, and make available the invaluable records of Canada’s past and present for today’s citizens and for all future generations. NADP funding also provided for the CCA’s operating expenses – without it, the CCA will effectively cease to exist.

The NADP has a direct positive impact on the communities of all Canadians; its elimination will have a far-reaching and devastating impact for documentary heritage across Canada. It is not an exaggeration to say that we now face the collapse of the Canadian archival system - a system that is composed of an interlocking network of federal-level standards-generating bodies, provincial professional associations, and the heritage institutions they support. These include the archives of Canada’s indigenous peoples, ethnic and cultural groups, religious communities, cities and towns, museums, universities, educational institutions, historical societies, and more.

The effective functioning of this 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 – CCA/NADP-funded products are being endorsed by international bodies including the World Bank, UNESCO, and government of the United Arab Emirates. 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.

The decision to eliminate 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 foreign 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.

Immediate Results of NADP Termination:

- 11 of the 13 provincial and territorial archival councils are projected to collapse entirely within six months. Many have already suspended operations. With both these councils and the national-level CCA eliminated, there will effectively be no bodies capable of coordinating archival efforts in Canada.
- 90 projects, which had already been fully approved, have been cancelled; this will result in job losses at 74 institutions. This also represents, in many cases, permanent loss of vulnerable archival records.
- 17 professionals will immediately lose their jobs – 6 at the CCA secretariat itself and 11 further archives advisors and conservators across the nation. This loss of expertise will vastly impede efforts to preserve Canada's heritage for years to come.
- The loss of the dedicated Archival Advisors and Conservators means that Canadian archivists no longer have any central resource for seeking professional advice and expertise.
- The national office of the CCA, which shares premises with the *Canadian Historical Association* (CHA) and the *Association of Canadian Archivists* (ACA), is closing. CHA and ACA have been summarily ordered to relocate their national offices immediately.
- Operations that support the development of ArchivesCanada.ca, an internationally-groundbreaking national catalogue of archival descriptions¹, are endangered. Other NADP-supported portals at provincial level, such as MemoryBC, are similarly threatened. Canadians' access to their own history will be crippled as a result – accessing the same information will now require more effort and expense on the part of both archives and users.
- The management assistance the CCA provides to the *National Archival Appraisal Board* (NAAB) and the *North American Archival Network International Council on Archives* (NAANICA) is threatened.
- Canada will become the only country in the history of the world to develop and implement an archival standard for arrangement and description at public expense only to abandon it.

Reaction:

“The Executive of the CHA...considers these cuts to be grave threats to our archival institutions and our ability to use those as historians. Quite simply, if carried out, the tools we depend on as historians, journalists, creative writers and artists, to preserve and share our national memory will be crippled. New resources will not come to light, the digital tools that make our work lighter will not be developed, and existing archival resources will not be protected.”

- Canadian Historical Association

The CCA has worked diligently for 26 years to create a skilled, dedicated, and cost-effective network of archives professionals. The Canadian archival community is well respected internationally, attracting top professionals and creating revenues far in excess of the \$1.7 million that is being cut...(t)he effects of these cuts on the ability of Canadians (and others) to access their documentary heritage is severe.”

- Society of American Archivists

The Canadian library and archival communities expect leadership on professional issues from their national institution, including standards for activities and support for the provision of quality library and archival services to Canadians across the country. These expectations cannot adequately be met with the level of resources now available...”

- Canadian Library Association

¹ ArchivesCanada.ca, which was scheduled to go live this autumn, was developed in partnership with the provincial and territorial councils, their member institutions, Library and Archives Canada, 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.

Difficult Questions for the Future:

- How does the government plan to fund the digitization of Canada's archival heritage, which might cost tens of billions of dollars and require thousands of staff? Why is it withdrawing the single largest pool of federal funding in support of archival digitization?
 - "Digitization" is being proposed as a catch-all solution to the vastly reduced physical access Canadians will have to archival holdings as a result of this and associated budget cuts, but:
 - Less than 2% of Canada's federal-level archival holdings have been digitized in spite of nearly twenty years' diligent effort on the part of LAC.
 - The cost of digitizing a single page of text to current archival standards may run from one to five dollars. Well over one billion pages of text remain to be digitized at LAC alone, and that figure grows every year.
 - Currently, Canada lacks any proposed solution for storing records once digitized. Estimates from the United States Government Accountability Office indicate that developing a Trusted Digital Repository to support these efforts going forward could exceed \$1.5 *billion* in cost.
- How are Canadians to access to their documentary heritage if it is not preserved in the first place?
 - A major thrust of the NADP funding strategy has been the preservation Canada's heritage for future generations. The CCA recognizes that the digitization of analog holdings does not yet represent an especially cost-effective tool for the preservation of vulnerable materials.
- Why are we sending international funding bodies the message that Canada is "closed for business"?
 - Past partners in NADP/CCA sponsored projects have included UNESCO, the World Bank Group, and government of the United Arab Emirates, among others.
 - Projects and partnerships to which the CCA has lent crucial expertise and financial support have generated revenues for Canada while making this country a world leader in a highly specialized and vitally important sector of the information economy. These initiatives have brought and continue to bring enormous financial and intellectual investment to Canada.
 - The decision not to support these and other robustly lucrative opportunities will make Canada a far less attractive place in which to invest.
- What is proposed to offset the loss of resources and expertise associated with effectively de-funding archival education in Canada?
 - Funding for the archival enterprise in Canada administered through the NADP has dovetailed with the CCA's work in archival standards creation to make Canada the world's most attractive destination in the world for international scholarship in Archival Studies.
 - These financial resources bring tens of millions of dollars to Canada each year. Without infrastructure, Canada's capacity to provide training to new archivists will be severely curtailed.
- How is direct and in-kind funding for archival work to be generated if there is no initial stimulus and no body to administer or solicit it?
 - The CCA has been remarkably effective in using NADP funding as a 'seed' to raise further funds in support of archival projects – every dollar spent by NADP in 2011 generated almost a 150% return in equivalent investment from non-Federal sources.
- What messages is Canada sending by undermining Canadian archival professionalism?
 - Canada has become a recognized global leader in archival administration; CCA standards for archival description are recognized as among the best in the world. Canada is now in the embarrassing position of not even having a body to co-ordinate national standards.

NADP AT-A-GLANCE

NADP supports the following activities across Canada:

- Outreach and educational activities in communities to help small institutions manage their archival treasures, particularly in small communities
- Development of the national on-line catalogue of archival descriptions, 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
- Job exposure for new graduates from Canada's archival and information 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 urban and rural 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

- 590.66m 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
- Archives advisors and conservators answered 5,636 expertise requests and made 186 site visits

NADP in 2008-2009

- 703.35m of records described and made accessible to Canadians
- 85 projects completed
- 308,199 items digitized
- 123 individuals employed
- 78 institutions directly supported
- 60 workshops given to 977 individuals
- Archives advisors and conservators answered 2,678 expertise requests and made 127 site visits

NADP in 2009-2010

- 567.47m 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
- Archives advisors and conservators answered 5,594 expertise requests and made 165 site visits

NADP in 2007-2008

- 952.77m of records described and made accessible to Canadians
- 45 projects completed
- 233,073 items digitized
- 133 individuals employed
- 86 institutions directly supported
- 57 workshops given
- Archives advisors and conservators answered 3,159 expertise requests and made 208 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	

Province	City	2010-11	2011-12	Cancelled 2012-13
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		
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