



The Canadian Council of Archives

The Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) is a coordinating body whose mission is to nurture and sustain the nationwide efforts of over 800 archival organizations — member institutions all operating independently but sharing a common passion for Canada's rich and wonderfully varied history. Millions of documents, heritage photographs, maps and audio-visual material are held in these institutions, nationally, regionally and locally. The Council's goal is to work with its many stakeholders and partners to ensure preservation of and access to all these materials for teaching, learning, promotional and general interest purposes.

Together we
strive to make
Canada's memory
accessible to all.

CCA member institutions include archives from every province and territory, as well as the Library and Archives Canada, and professional organizations such as the Association des archivistes du Québec and the Association of Canadian Archivists. Together, these bodies are the custodians of Canada's documentary heritage, covering every subject imaginable — from history, politics, sociology and government, to business and industry, literature, the arts, technology, medicine, the environment, religion, sports and the family.

Founded in 1985, the CCA is unique in that it works with individual Provincial and Territorial Councils of Archives to identify common needs and long-term goals, then presents the results in a single, unified voice. This way, a collective harmonization of efforts reduces the need to repeat processes that have already been developed.

The Council, in concert with its members, collaborates on strategic, financial and administrative initiatives with many related organizations, including the Library and Archives

Canada, the National, Provincial and Territorial Archivists Conference, the Canadian Conservation Institute, the Bureau of Canadian Archivists and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Council's Board of Directors meets quarterly to coordinate the development of best practices in order to maximize the effectiveness of individual endeavours; to streamline efforts with respect to policy advocacy and funding issues; to manage the new *Archives Canada* Internet database (a portal site leading to a massive and growing body of online archival information); and for general awareness and information-sharing purposes. The main focus nevertheless remains a continuing effort to increase the volume of organized and accessible records for everyone to experience.

Three committees operate under the Board's direction. One focuses on new and advanced methods for preserving archives for future generations; another develops and promotes standardized methods and practices so that records and archives can be organized and described to best facilitate access and research; and the third is responsible for the maintenance and revision of the Canadian Rules for Archival Description. Temporary committees are also established, from time to time, when required for special projects.

The success of the CCA is directly attributable to the founding efforts of a nationwide spontaneous movement of individual archivists who saw a need for and an opportunity to work together. Now, after nearly a quarter-century of perseverance, the relationship has come of age. The benefits for educational and research institutions, community and cultural organizations, cultural industries — and for Canadians in general — are recognized, acknowledged and increasingly significant in promoting a distinctive and vibrant Canadian identity. Together we strive to make Canada's memory accessible to all. ●

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