



The Canadian Council of Archives

As one of the three key committees under the direction of the Canadian Council of Archives' Board of Directors, the Preservation Committee has the ultimate responsibility of ensuring that Canada's heritage is preserved through the protection of individual records and archives. The committee reviews research from a number of sources throughout the world and assesses the value of new findings and techniques, and makes recommendations to the board with respect to best practices for preservation.

The Preservation Committee keeps in constant communication with members of the archival community, sharing knowledge and recommendations in areas like basic conservation guidelines and more specific information like how to preserve audio-visual archives, disaster recovery methods and optimal archival temperature and humidity guidelines.

They produce the *National Preservation Strategy* and an extensive communication plan that targets archive educators and science teachers, professional organizations, international colleagues, museums and libraries, and both government and public sector groups with a stake in Canadian archives. Specific communication tactics include the production of brochures, newsletters and website content, and the maintenance of lists related to membership, funding programs and current research projects. Also, committee members are active in writing articles for scientific journals and other publications, presenting the strategy at conferences and seminars and by developing and maintaining personal relationships with the entire archival community.

The Preservation Committee Mandate

- Review applications and forward recommendations to the Board of Directors
- Identify funding opportunities and coordinate the effort to secure future funding with partners
- Support the development of education programs, training and workshops to strengthen the understanding of preservation methods
- Develop, review and update national preservation strategies and plans in partnership with stakeholders
- Coordinate and support preservation research activities
- Promote and support the development and diffusion of guidelines and standards in preservation management
- Communicate research findings and results of committee activities to the archival community
- Liaise with provincial and territorial councils to promote preservation management
- Be an advocate for the preservation of Canadian archives
- Develop relationships with international preservation bodies

The committee, comprised of members from private, public and academic institutions across the country, monitors new research and information bulletins to maintain a solid understanding of preservation management. It shares its assessment with the Board of Directors to ensure the findings are integrated with the council's overall principles, strategies and activities.

Archival conservators in Canada have increasingly expressed the need for a concerted effort to facilitate communication, both as an effective means of exchanging current information and learning of new developments, and as a means of fostering a sense of community and common purpose. ●

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