

June 18, 2012

The Hon. James Moore
Minister of Canadian Heritage & Official Languages
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Moore:

Re: The Elimination of the National Archival Development Program

The members of the City of Peterborough's Museum and Archives Advisory Committee have unanimously motioned to write to you to express our deep concern regarding the elimination of the National Archival Development Program (NADP) by Library and Archives Canada on April 30, 2012. Recognizing that the Canadian Council of Archives distributes 1.7 million dollars annually through NADP funding to 13 provincial and territorial archives associations, and that the loss of these funds will have a devastating impact on our collective ability to preserve our national and provincial history and cultural heritage now and for future generations to come, we appeal to you to reconsider this decision.

The Peterborough Museum & Archives serves a population of 134,000 constituents throughout the city and county of Peterborough by collecting, documenting and preserving our cultural and historical heritage for the benefit of many which includes among others, present and future: students, teachers, researchers, genealogists, playwrights, filmmakers, historians and authors. A mid size community museum and archives such as ours is best able to carry out its mandate and adequately serve these groups and individuals through collaborations and partnerships with other institutions and with the support of associations that share our goals including the Archives Association of Ontario (AAO). We are compelled to identify **three** initiatives carried out by the AAO with funding received through NADP which have benefited our archives here in Peterborough: **Archives Advisors Program, Preservation Consultant Program and Archeion.**

We wish to emphasize that each of these initiatives are further enriched by the extreme dedication of archivists across the province. To highlight an example of how specifically these funding losses will impact the morale and work of archivists, please consider their countless contribution of volunteer hours, above and beyond their duty, to regularly update, maintain and administer the online database **Archeion**. This database is a rich resource providing online access for Ontario's archives which overcomes geographical challenges of librarians and archivists across our vast province. The loss of funding to this program including

the **Archeion Coordinator's** position may effectively isolate the incredible web of dedicated **Archeion** contributors, resulting in an inestimable cost to the Ministry to maintain and sustain this database in the future. This is but one example of the devastating impact that the loss of NADP funding will have across the province of Ontario.

The members of the Peterborough Museum and Archives Advisory Committee collectively add our voice to the many calls for consideration you will receive from across Canada as each province and territory measures the loss to their archival programs and institutions. We join all Canadians who care deeply about our ability as a nation to preserve our cultural and historical heritage and to maintain and improve accessibility of these collections in the regions in which they are collected.

Please reconsider the elimination of the National Archival Development Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Jackson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Nancy Jackson, Chair
Museum and Archives Advisory Committee, City of Peterborough

CC Dean Del Mastro, Member of Parliament for Peterborough
John Summers, Chair, Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee,
City of Peterborough