

DATE

The Honourable James Moore, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages
15 Eddy Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M5

Dear Minister Moore:

The Archbishop and Metropolitan, together with the Executive Committee of the Anglican Provincial Synod of BC and Yukon would like to express its concern, as an interested organization, at the negative impact government budget cuts at Library and Archives Canada and its effect on the Canadian Council of Archives, and the National Archival Development Program (NADP). At our Executive Committee Meeting of June 23, 2012 we passed a resolution of support for the Canadian Archival Community – particularly the immediate and permanent re-instatement of the NADP.

On April 30, 2012, LAC eliminated the National Archival Development Program (NADP), a 1.7 million contribution program administered by the non-for-profit Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) for LAC and distributed to Canada's 13 archives councils to support archival activities locally. Through the councils, NADP funding is on the ground in our 10 provinces and 3 territories, ensuring that Canada's history is preserved in local communities. Canada's archival councils provide user-centred services, providing support to archives and archivists so that they may better serve all Canadians.

Within our Provincial Synod there are 5 Diocesan Archives and 1 Ecclesiastical Provincial Archives. At least 3 of these archives hold records that pre-date confederation and the arrival of "official government", and include records of "first contact" with local First Nations – in other words – these are records that are of inestimable value and cannot be found anywhere else in Canada. Each one of these 6 archives has benefitted from the NADP funding in one or many ways over the years. From backlog reduction projects to making finding aids available online for the first time, the funding has helped facilitate access to our unique holdings to Canadians and researchers from around the world. In addition, our archives have made use of the advisory services of the Archives Association of British Columbia, which was also cut immediately in April.

As a religious institution which does not accept funding from any grant which makes use of gaming profits, ***the NADP was the only way our not-for-profit archives could access grant money to further serve Canadians in understanding their history.*** We respectfully request that our government act to restore funding to Library and Archives Canada in order that it may fulfill its mandate and provide leadership to librarians and archivists across Canada as we move into the age of born-digital documentation and ensure that the National Archival Development Program funding is restored and continued, in partnership with the Canadian Council on Archives.

Sincerely,