



July 3, 2012

The Honourable James Moore
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Moore:

From Confederation, the federal government has been supporting efforts to preserve our history and heritage as well as ensuring access to this valuable material, whether it be historical artefacts, archival documents or records, for all Canadians to enjoy and learn from by way of visits and public programs. The federal government has built important programs to support museums, archives and historic sites across Canada in fulfilling this role and its continued support is critical.

A vast amount of our heritage is held and preserved in non-profit, national, provincial, regional, large and small museums, galleries, libraries and archival centres. This is where our history is safeguarded. These centres provide a vital public service to be nurtured and require new tools for survival in these uncertain times. The Canadian Museums Association (CMA) was very pleased with the recent federal budget, which clearly demonstrates the government's support and confidence in our country's museums and galleries. But these institutions are not the sole guardians of our nation's heritage; libraries and archival centres also play a fundamental role in preserving and caring for millions of artefacts, publications, photographs and rare documents.

The CMA understands the importance of planned savings to reduce the federal deficit but we are concerned over the proposed reductions to Library and Archives Canada, in particular the elimination of the National Archival Development Program. The impact of this cut would be most felt in local and regional centers, directly affecting their ability to preserve and make their collections available.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

John G. McAvity
Executive Director