



LLOYDMINSTER AND DISTRICT CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE ASSOCIATION
(Owner/operator of the Lloydminster Regional Archives)

#27, 5012 49 St., Lloydminster, AB, T9V0K2

29 October 2012

Dr. Daniel J. Caron,
Deputy Head and Librarian and Archivist of Canada,
550 de la Cité Blvd.,
Gatineau, Quebec, K1A0N4

Dear Dr. Caron:

On September 27th, your Minister, the Honourable Mr. Moore, forwarded to you a copy of his correspondence with our Member of Parliament, Mr. Leon Benoit, regarding our concerns about the very negative effects that stemmed from the cancellation of the National Archival Development Programme (NADP). (If you did not receive copies of my letters of 10 May 2012 and 18 June 2012 regarding our concerns, I have enclosed copies for your reference.)

As the arguments in support of the reinstatement of the NADP are laid out in detail in the earlier letters, I shall not reiterate them here. Suffice it to say that the Programme was effective, efficient and accountable. Also, it represented a limited but essential resource for small archives in all parts of Canada. Without the NADP, I fear that many of the volunteers who support their local and regional archives will be discouraged by the lack of potential project funding and will reduce their engagement. This will have a devastating effect on the gathering and conservation of history in all of our regions.

In his letter of 27 September 2012, Mr. Moore restates the importance for all departments of government to reduce expenditures. Perhaps I am being too optimistic, but I also infer from his comments that he, as Minister, and the Government, in general, have no investment in the decision to eliminate the NADP. He implies that the decision to eliminate the NADP occurred at the senior administrative level under your direction.

We, in the field, (especially those of us who have had experience in developing budgets for governmental organisations) appreciate that in setting budget priorities for LAC in 2012, you probably had a very short timeframe within which to allocate

too few dollars among too many worthy programmes. In the “pressure cooker” context of preparing the 2012-2013 budget, it must have appeared that the NADP was a lower priority than certain other programmes and projects. I sympathize with the dilemma that you and your colleagues had to address.

The purpose of this letter is not to dispute the choices that were made in the past but, rather, to ask that you consider the very serious effects that the deletion of the NADP has had on the preservation of history across Canada. I respectfully ask you reflect on the priorities of LAC and, as you prepare your budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to reinstate the NADP.

Thank you for considering this plea on behalf of local and regional archives.

Yours truly,

Donald B. Duncan, Ph. D.,
President, Lloydminster and District Centennial Commemorative Association.

cc. Mr. Leon Benoit, M.P., Vegreville-Wainright
Hon. Mr. Gerry Ritz, P.C., M.P., Battlefords-Lloydminster
Hon. Mr. James Moore, P.C., M.P., Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages