



Dear friends of the archival community:

As a result of the cuts made to the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) in the 2012 federal budget, on Monday 30 April 2012 it was announced that **National Archival Development Program (NADP) funding was cancelled**, the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) office closed and a majority of the staff released. These decisions will have a tremendous impact upon the archival community both nationally and provincially. **We would like to inform you of how this will impact the archival community in Saskatchewan and to ask you for your support in advocating for the reversal of these cuts.**

The CCA, established in 1986, has been the foundation for a network of archival institutions across the country. **The cooperative system created by Canadian archivists has enabled a national approach and the allocation of funding has minimized any disparities between jurisdictions while enabling various regions of the country to learn from successes elsewhere.** Through the CCA, Canadian archives developed national descriptive standards, which in turn enabled the development of a national database of archival records, *ARCHIVESCANADA.ca* and the provincial/territorial databases which form it (such as the Saskatchewan Archival Information Network, SAIN). CCA committees established preservation standards for archives, authority control, indexing, and digitization guides, suggested a national acquisition strategy, regularly surveyed archives for needs assessments and 'state-of-the-community' reports. More recently the CCA secretariat added management of the Canadian archival listserv (ARCAN-L), the Young Canada Works program, and coordination of the National Archival Appraisal Board (NAAB), which provides accreditation and provision of appraisers to undertake monetary appraisals of archival records so that income tax receipts can be offered to donors. While it is suggested that these latter services will be continued, it is unclear how this will occur.

Most significant, though, is the cancellation of the NADP contribution program (a grant program requiring matching funds from applicants). NADP provided annual allocations to each province and territory, through a peer-reviewed, competitive application process. Funding enabled institutions and provincial archival associations to arrange, describe, preserve, and promote archival collections, to deliver post-appointment educational opportunities and to fund professional development. No less an organization than Audit and Evaluation Canada identified the CCA / NADP as a model program for its accountability. The funding envelope has not altered over the past 5 years: in Saskatchewan, our anticipated NADP allocation 2012-13 was \$83,475.00. These funds supported a number of projects throughout the province, including:

- development of an inter-institutional website of materials relating to First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples (*Our Legacy*);
- conservation assessments and advice for numerous small archives;
- description and digitization of thousands of photographs from the Saskatoon Local History Room; preservation and description of news footage from the local Swift Current television station; arrangement and description of the holdings in the North Battleford Archives;
- access to the records of internationally recognized Saskatchewan artist and educator Jack Sures, at the University of Regina Archives;

- the launch of an upgraded, more dynamic *Saskatchewan Archival Information Network*;
- and numerous SCAA promotional activities including award-winning short films, recent “The Truth is In There” YouTube films, and an outreach project with a Grade 4/5 class, “Telling Our Stories.”

This list, obviously, could go on: but the work would not have occurred without the financial assistance received from NADP. **Through individual or joint projects, every archives in the province has benefited from this program.**

The SCAA is in a favourable position: we have core funding for advisory and member services through SaskCulture and Saskatchewan Lotteries. Other jurisdictions are not so fortunate: CCA has indicated 11 of 13 provincial/territorial archival associations will either disband or significantly reduce their operations.

However, NADP funding represents 80% of the grant funding the SCAA had to direct to its member institutions. With the immediate loss of NADP funding this year, arrangement, description and digitization projects from five archives, conservation assessments for three archives, some aspects of the SCAA’s continuing education program and its promotion/fundraising book project, *Then & Now*, are in doubt. **Without NADP funding, fewer records will be made available for research clients and fragile collections will be placed at risk. Fortunate as we are, the SCAA’s funding stream cannot begin to meet the demonstrated need.** Additional pressure will be placed on the other funding sources in Saskatchewan to fill the gap.

In response, the SCAA is working with provincial and national archival organizations to coordinate an awareness and advocacy campaign regarding the impact of these decisions. **You can help. Share stories of how NADP grants or CCA programs have benefited you, your institution and your community.** Please contact others who support archives and ask for their assistance. Please see <http://scaa.sk.ca/nadp> for details about writing to the federal government, key messages, and additional background about the NADP.

Thank you in advance for your interest and support for the archival community at this time of transition. If you have questions about these cuts, the impacts on the SCAA or the work of the SCAA in general, please contact the SCAA office at 780-9414 or scaa@sasktel.net.

Sincerely,



Mark Vajcner
SCAA President