



June 14, 2012

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

Dear Minister:

At its June 12, 2012 meeting, Elgin County Council passed a resolution to request that the Department of Canadian Heritage reconsider the decision made by Library and Archives Canada to eliminate the National Archival Development Program (NADP) effective April 30, 2012.

The NADP has long been of extraordinary value to Canadian archival institutions, providing funding to allow archives to arrange, describe, digitize and provide public access to valuable collections that would otherwise not be processed; to employ youth through the Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions program; to share descriptive records of their holdings with other archival institutions and the public through the Canadian Archival Information Network of online databases; and to access indispensable professional advisory services provided by NADP-funded provincial archives associations.

Minister, our Council recognizes that difficult choices have to be made with regards to the federal budget. However, we feel that the decision by Library and Archives Canada to eliminate this highly effective program is short-sighted and will assuredly have a drastic impact on small and rural archives like our own. We therefore ask that you re-visit this matter with a view to restoring this valuable program for the benefit of our collective national heritage.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Bill Walters", is written over a white background.

Bill Walters,
Warden

cc Joe Preston, M.P., Elgin-Middlesex-London
Lara Wilson, Chairperson, Canadian Council of Archives
Danielle Hughes, President, Archives Association of Ontario

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