



June 14, 2012

Mr. Joe Preston, M.P., Elgin-Middlesex-London
La Promenade Building
Room 1080, 151 Sparks Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5B9

Dear Mr. Preston:

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. A letter of concern, a copy of which is included here, has been sent to the Minister of Canadian Heritage, with a formal request that full funding for this program be restored.

Since its establishment in 2002, the Elgin County Archives has used NADP funding to arrange, describe, and provide public access to the records of such iconic local institutions as Alma College, the Scott Photographic Studio and the Anderson Department Store. NADP funding has allowed the Archives to digitize and publish online a unique and invaluable collection of local community histories known as Tweedsmuir History Books, and to digitize and provide access to the entirety of its holdings documenting Elgin County's contributions to Canada's First World War effort. Since 2005, the Archives has provided career-specific employment to seven local students through the Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions program, administered by the NADP-funded Canadian Council of Archives. Without access to NADP funding, the Archives could not have undertaken and completed these projects or provided these invaluable youth employment opportunities.

Our Council recognizes that difficult choices must 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 use your influence and lobby the Minister of Canadian Heritage to re-visit this matter and restore this valuable program for the benefit of our collective national heritage.

Yours truly,

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

Bill Walters,
Warden

cc Lara Wilson, Chairperson, Canadian Council of Archives
Danielle Hughes, President, Archives Association of Ontario

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