

The CHA and Advocacy – Current Principles and Recent Activities

Over the last three years the Canadian Historical Association has been extensively engaged in advocacy on a variety of fronts. We have reported on these activities regularly through articles in the *CHA Bulletin*, the placement of correspondence and updates on the association's web site, and numerous postings on our Tumblr page Voxhistorica. We cannot assume that all members delve into these statements so we want to provide you with periodic summaries so that everyone is made aware of the major initiatives on their behalf and are better positioned to offer feedback.

Within the constraints of available resources of time and money, your Council and Executive have sought to address all major history-related advocacy issues as they emerge. Owing to the many challenges posed by federal government actions over the past few years, these have necessarily focussed on federal heritage and history-related programs at Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Museum of History, and most recently the House of Commons Review of history programs across the country.

In engaging these issues our primary concern is always: what course of action is in the long-term interest of our members and the larger community of historians across Canada? Wherever possible we try to gauge the views of our members on any given issue although the current stepped-up pace of advocacy increasingly demands rapid responses. The Council does not take a one-size-fits-all approach to advocacy. Every issue and situation is different. Our approaches range from quiet diplomacy to taking strong public positions when warranted. (We refrain from speculation regarding the motives of officials who have taken actions that we judge unwise or counter to our members' interests.) Rather, we stick to the specific issues and put forward constructive suggestions to enhance the interests and status of the historical community.

Beyond public positions, our advocacy has also entailed numerous meetings and negotiations to persuade decision makers to support the concerns of the CHA. Over the last three years we have been engaged in many bilateral meetings between senior officers of the CHA and LAC, as well as numerous stakeholder forums and meetings of working groups of LAC and the archival community. We have formed common positions with the Canadian Council of Archives, the Association of Canadian Archivists and many other groups. We have continually sought to protect direct services to researchers at 395 Wellington Street, on the Last Copy Initiative, acquisitions initiatives, the National Archival Development Program, the Inter-Library Loan Program, and other aspects. While this process was disrupted by LAC's actions during the former administration of Dr. Daniel Caron, especially following the budgetary reductions to LAC in the 2012 federal budget, the CHA has positioned itself to remain a vital part of these discussions. This is evident in the fact that the Acting Librarian

and Archivist of Canada, Mr. Hervé Déry, quickly sought a meeting with members of your Executive, which took place on 2 July 2013. At this meeting, along with Nicole Neatby, CHA Archives Chair, and Executive Director Michel Duquet, we raised a wide range of our concerns to be addressed. We will be following up quickly with other meetings devoted to specific issues such as the reinstatement of LAC's Inter-Library Loan program.

On other occasions, we have entered into collaborative relationships to try to enhance the role of professional history in national heritage programs. A case in point is the recently-launched Canadian Museum of History, announced last fall as an effort to rebrand and revamp the Canadian history exhibits at the former Canadian Museum of Civilization. Following the announcement of the new museum the CHA developed a detailed list of concerns which we sent to Museum president Mark O'Neill and followed up with a meeting with Mr. O'Neill and his senior executives on 17 December. While the Museum was slow to respond, in late May 2013 Mr. O'Neill made a significant offer to the CHA to participate in the planning and implementation of the new museum, including representation at two design charettes and on each of the four advisory committees set up to guide the new Canadian History Hall. At its meeting on 2 June your Council decided to accept the Museum's invitation and in the months ahead we will be encouraging an expansive approach to the museum's exhibits in keeping with the diversity of Canadian history and identity, and current historical practice. We will be reporting regularly on progress on this project as it unfolds.

Regarding the Commons Heritage Committee's prospective review of Canadian history, we have put out public statements in the media, given media interviews, and participated in panels at the recent Congress in Victoria to assert the need for professional and wide-ranging inputs into this review.

We invite all members to provide input on an ongoing basis so that we can continue to remain in close touch with our members, understand their concerns, and draw upon their knowledge and advice as we move forward.



Lyle Dick
Past President



Yves Frenette
Chair, Advocacy



Dominique Marshall
President



Nicole Neatby
Chair, LAC file
Committee

Les interventions publiques et la SHC - Fondements actuels et activités récentes

Au cours des trois dernières années, la Société historique du Canada a multiplié ses interventions publiques dans plusieurs dossiers. Nous avons fréquemment fait rapport de ces activités dans les pages du Bulletin de la SHC et en affichant notre correspondance sur le site Internet de la société et sur notre page Tumblr Voxhistorica. Nous ne pouvons pas présumer que tous les membres aient lu ces énoncés. Ainsi, nous aimerions soumettre de brefs rapports sur une base régulière afin que nos membres soient au courant des principales initiatives que nous avons entreprises en leur nom et pour que vous soyez en mesure de nous offrir votre rétroaction.

Tout en respectant les limites des ressources temporelles et financières dont la SHC dispose, le conseil d'administration et l'exécutif sont intervenus dans tous les principaux dossiers rattachés à l'histoire dès qu'ils font surface. Suite aux nombreux défis posés par les actions du gouvernement fédéral au cours des dernières années, ceux-ci ont nécessairement porté sur le patrimoine et les programmes fédéraux liés à l'histoire, Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, le Musée canadien de l'histoire et plus récemment l'examen des programmes d'histoire de tout le pays par la Chambre des communes.

Lorsque nous abordons ces questions, notre principale préoccupation est toujours de savoir : quel plan d'action est dans le meilleur intérêt de nos membres et la communauté d'historiens à travers le Canada? Si possible, nous essayons de jauger les points de vue de nos membres sur une question donnée même si le rythme actuel accéléré de nos interventions exige des réponses de plus en plus rapides. Le Conseil ne prend pas toujours la même approche dans ses interventions. Chaque question et situation sont différentes ; de la diplomatie discrète à des prises de positions publiques vigoureuses lorsqu'elles sont justifiées. Nous nous abstenons de spéculer sur les motivations des fonctionnaires qui ont pris des mesures que nous jugeons peu judicieuses ou à l'encontre des intérêts de nos membres. Au contraire, nous nous en tenons aux faits concernés et proposons des suggestions constructives pour promouvoir les intérêts et le statut de la communauté historienne.

Au-delà de nos prises de positions publiques, nos interventions comportent également de nombreuses réunions et négociations pour convaincre les décisionnaires de répondre aux préoccupations de la SHC. Au cours des trois dernières années, nous avons participé à de nombreuses réunions bilatérales entre les dirigeants de la SHC et les cadres supérieurs de BAC, ainsi qu'à de nombreux forums de parties prenantes et à des réunions de groupes de travail de BAC et la communauté archivistique. Nous avons pris des positions communes avec le Conseil canadien des archives, l'Association canadienne des archivistes et de nombreux autres groupes. Nous avons toujours cherché à protéger les services aux chercheurs au 395, rue Wellington, parmi ceux-ci : l'initiative des derniers exemplaires et celle d'acquisitions, le programme national de développement des archives, le service du prêt entre bibliothèques et autres. Bien que ce processus ait été perturbé par les actions de BAC au cours de l'administration de Daniel Caron, en particulier après les réductions budgétaires à BAC dans le budget fédéral de 2012, la SHC s'est positionnée pour demeurer un élément essentiel de ces discussions. Preuve à l'appui, le bibliothécaire et archiviste du

Canada par intérim, M. Hervé Déry, a rapidement sollicité une rencontre avec les membres de votre exécutif, qui a eu lieu le 2 Juillet 2013. Lors de cette réunion, nous avons soulevé, en compagnie de Nicole Neatby, la responsable du portfolio de BAC au conseil d'administration et du directeur général de la SHC Michel Duquet, une vaste gamme de nos préoccupations auprès des représentants de BAC. D'autres réunions sont prévues qui seront consacrées à des questions spécifiques dont celle du rétablissement du service du prêt entre bibliothèques de BAC.

À d'autres occasions, nous avons conclu des ententes de coopération pour tenter de renforcer le rôle de l'histoire dans les programmes du patrimoine national. Le lancement du Musée canadien d'histoire, annoncé l'automne dernier dans le but de lui donner une nouvelle image et de réaménager les expositions d'histoire du Canada à l'ancien Musée canadien des civilisations, est en un exemple. Suite à l'annonce du nouveau musée, la SHC a dressé une liste détaillée des préoccupations qui nous avons par la suite envoyé au président du Musée Mark O'Neill. Nous avons subséquemment rencontré M. O'Neill et ses cadres le 17 Décembre. Bien que le musée ait été lent à réagir, M. O'Neill a fait une offre importante à la SHC à la fin de mai 2013 de participer à la planification et à la mise en œuvre du nouveau musée, dont une participation à deux charrettes de conception et à chacun des quatre comités consultatifs mis en place pour guider la nouvelle salle de l'histoire du Canada. Lors de sa réunion du 2 juin, votre conseil d'administration a décidé d'accepter l'invitation du Musée et dans les mois à venir, nous encouragerons le musée à adopter une approche globale dans sa conception des expositions du musée en harmonie avec la diversité de l'histoire et de l'identité canadienne et la pratique historique actuelle. Nous rendrons compte fréquemment des progrès réalisés tout au long de ce projet.

Au sujet de l'examen éventuel de l'histoire canadienne du Comité du patrimoine de la Chambre des communes, nous avons émis notre prise de position dans les réseaux sociaux, donné des entrevues aux médias et participé à des panels lors du récent congrès à Victoria pour faire valoir que la participation importante de professionnels dans cet examen était essentielle.

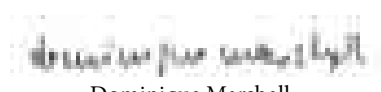
Nous invitons tous les membres à nous faire part de leur opinion en tout temps afin que nous puissions maintenir une étroite communication avec nos membres, saisir leurs préoccupations et tirer parti de leurs connaissances et leurs conseils dans nos interventions.



Lyle Dick
Président sortant



Yves Frenette
Responsable des
interventions publiques



Dominique Marshall
Présidente



Nicole Neatby
Responsable du
dossier de BAC

The following texts are summaries of the papers presented by Lyle Dick, Ellen Judd and Bill Ross at the Congress of the National Council on Public History in April at the panel organised by the CHA to bring attention to the cuts made by the Canadian Government in the humanities.

Les textes qui suivent sont des résumés des communications présentées par Lyle Dick, Ellen Judd et Bill Ross lors du Congrès du National Council on Public History en avril au panel organisé par la SHC afin d'attirer l'attention sur les coupures effectuées par le gouvernement canadien dans les sciences humaines.

Where are Canada's historical and heritage programs following the federal cuts of 2012, and how should the historical community respond?¹

By Lyle Dick, Past-President, Canadian Historical Association

Since the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences (also known as the Massey Commission) issued its reports more than 60 years ago, the federal government has been a key patron of Canadian culture. Canadians have widely recognized the need for governmental support at all levels so that its cultural institutions might thrive. Without significant support, there would be very little Canadian publishing, broadcasting, popular music, scientific research, visual art, museums, and historic sites development. Our attachment to the nation state rests less on strident patriotism than on a continuing relationship to our national institutions including cultural programs integral to Canadian identity.

Federal departments and agencies devoted to culture and heritage were hit hard by the 2012 budgetary reductions. Two prominent examples were the budgets of Parks Canada, reduced by \$29 million, and Library and Archives Canada, cut by \$19 million, compounding years of reductions at LAC. An analysis by *Globe and Mail* reporters this month of 92 recently released federal spending reports reveals that this may be only the beginning of further cuts. According to the *Globe*, the Conservative government is planning to reduce federal spending by 15 per cent between 2013-14 and 2015-16. Spending at Parks Canada will be reduced by a further 13.57 per cent, and Canadian Heritage by an additional 17.47 per cent.² For culture and heritage, this means that federal fiscal policies are likely to pose

¹ I wish to thank James Opp for proposing this panel and facilitating its inclusion in the National Council on Public History conference program, the NCPH program committee for staging it, and my fellow panelists for participating. The comments of James, CHA Advocacy Chair Yves Frenette, and Vice-President Dominique Marshall were also much appreciated.

² <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/which-federal-departments-are-facing-the-biggest-cuts/article10788957>. Accessed 6 April 2013.

greater challenges to the practice of history than they already have to date.

As Canada's leading association of professional historians, the Canadian Historical Association has sought to document the cuts and changes of mandate to position our community to challenge and seek to mitigate their impacts. The federal agency with which we have been most engaged is Library and Archives Canada. Loryl MacDonald will address the LAC issues in detail. Regarding LAC, I will simply state that the CHA has met with LAC executives on numerous occasions over the last several years, at which we have expressed concerns of the historical community regarding archival service delivery, acquisitions, and conservation of Canada's archival heritage. Lisa Dillon, the CHA's Archives Chair, has reported extensively on these meetings with LAC in recent issues of the *Bulletin* and I will not revisit them here. These discussions are ongoing.

I want to briefly touch on the recently announced change in mandate and revisions of exhibits at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, albeit that Ellen Judd is discussing CMC in greater detail in her paper. The CHA did not join the early criticism based on the inference that the new Museum would be crafted as a political instrument for the current government. Instead, we tried to assemble the facts and express our concerns directly to Museum executives. Members of the CHA executive and I had a positive exchange with President Mark O'Neill and other senior museum officials on 17 December although the museum was slow to respond to our letter of 3 December outlining the CHA's concerns. Following the NCPH session on 19 April, communications were re-established and led to an invitation by Mr. O'Neill for significant participation by the CHA in the design charettes and advisory committees for the new History Hall of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. At its meeting on 1 June 2013, the CHA Council decided to accept Mr. O'Neill's invitation and will be participating actively in these various planning activities. The Executive and Council will be reporting to members periodically on this process as it unfolds. Our view is that the museum's invitation has generated an opportunity for the CHA to encourage an expansive approach to the content of Canadian history in the new exhibition, and we will be guided by notions of diversity and inclusiveness in contributing to this important historical project on behalf of our members.

I will focus most of my remarks today on Parks Canada, the federal agency I know best, and other panelists are giving emphasis to the other programs. Parks Canada was one of the agencies most affected by the 2012 cuts, with its annual operating budget reduced by 29 million dollars. By way of background, Parks Canada is the federal agency responsible for Canada's national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas programs. It has a very important mandate, to

protect and present outstanding places of our natural and cultural environment for the benefit of Canadians and future generations. Since 1919 more than 1000 national historic sites have been designated under the national commemoration program, and Parks Canada directly administers about 168 of these. As a result of the 2012 federal budget, 31 sites, or nearly 20 per cent of the sites managed by the Agency, have been largely destaffed, with a single caretaker replacing interpretive and administrative staff that formerly offered a range of presentation programs to the public.

Fulfilling the Agency's mandate for all its programs requires research, consultation and assessment by professional historians and archaeologists. The 2012 Parks Canada cuts resulted in major reductions in programs, services, and professional staff in history, archaeology, curatorial and other functions across the country. The destaffing of the 31 national historic sites represents a major downgrading of the NHS program and affects national historic sites in every region of the country. The impacts, however, have not been distributed equally. For example, in Saskatchewan, the Motherwell Homestead NHS, one of four operational national historic sites in that province, has been destaffed, representing a 25 per cent loss and the effective end of Parks Canada's tangible presence in southeastern Saskatchewan. Parks Canada advised that this decision was driven by low visitation levels. If so, that poses a major problem for national historic sites located in less well populated parts of Canada that cannot draw upon the much larger pool of potential visitors in central Canada, potentially creating imbalances in the NHS program, with attendant diminution of public history practice in less populated regions.

With the effective end of staffed operations at the 31 national historic sites, the demand for research on the cultural resources or stories of those sites will be greatly reduced. Since the establishment of the Agency in 2000, most of the financial resources available for research were concentrated within the field units deemed to be the principal clients in these areas. In 2012, the field units also sustained major cuts to their budgets, so their capacity to fund research in turn was reduced. The reductions of history and archaeology positions impair the capacity of staff to document and support the protection and presentation of nationally significant heritage at national historic sites across Canada. Cultural resources within Canada's national parks and marine conservation areas are also affected. A likely outcome is that part of the cultural heritage for which Parks Canada is responsible may not be adequately protected.

The current context is challenging for history and will remain so for some time. We are in a new era in which at least one of the major federal political parties – the one in power – has expressed skepticism towards many government services, especially in the area of culture and heritage. It is also skeptical of the role of professionals in the natural and social sciences, and the humanities. Universities have fared somewhat better than federal departments and agencies in recent funding decisions. For many historians in research units directly under the control of the government it continues to be an uphill battle to convince

decision makers of the importance of continued investment in research capacity and professional development.

National associations in the humanities and social sciences will need to press for maintenance of funding levels for history-related programs, while reminding decision makers of the cuts that have already been sustained. We also need to do what we can to generate awareness of the critical role played by these programs in Canadian society. In the current climate of retrenchment we need to make particular efforts to be broadly visible. We will need to keep building constituencies and alliances to keep our associations and voices united and strong.

While strongly advocating for the continuance or strengthening of programs supporting the scholarly practice of history and other disciplines, we need to be prepared for any and all eventualities, including the possibility of further reductions of support to the programs on which we depend. In the interest of long-term survival it may be necessary for many organizations to move towards a state of self-sufficiency not dependent upon federal funding. That might oblige refocusing our service offers or alternatively further raising membership fees, but our organizations need to make sure we are afloat whatever funding regime is in place.

The National Council on Public History panel represents a very good beginning in cooperation between our respective societies. Our challenge will be to keep this conversation going and to develop new strategies to work together to better engage both the public and the politicians. Part of that challenge will probably be learning to better connect with and manage media. A further challenge will be navigating advocacy efforts through the government's close monitoring of charitable organizations. Seizing any opportunities to deliver core messages to like-minded organizations, decision makers and the general public will be key to our future health and success.

The continued involvement of public historians in national historical and related organizations will be essential to our future success. The recent revival of the Public History Group as a vital affiliated committee of the CHA speaks well of the potential for public history concerns to be core to our association's activities. The National Council on Public History continues to be a vital forum but we also believe that a greater number of public historians within the CHA would surely enhance our efforts and reach. At the Canadian Historical Association we want to encourage all public historians in Canada to consider joining or rejoining our association. By working together we can best ensure that our voices are being heard on these matters of critical importance to public historians and Canada's historical community, and indeed the country.

This question is, of course, occasioned by the changes looming for the Canadian Museum of Civilization. We have all had the privilege of appreciating this national monument to the cultural heritage and living present of all who have peopled these lands – most notably the First Nations, Inuit and Métis – as curated, researched and shared publicly by expert and dedicated scholars for more than a century.

This history can be traced to the founding of the Anthropological Division of the Geological Survey of Canada in 1910, one of the earliest and the uniquely national and public incubator of professional anthropology in Canada. It has been distinguished by its expertise in multiple facets of anthropological research with the Aboriginal peoples of Canada and by its early practices of public anthropology. In these early years and later as the National Museum of Canada and then National Museum of Man the curatorial and research work extended to include some attention to Canadian settler cultures, notably in rural Québec, and beyond it to our connections with the larger human experience.

As established in 1990 and still in effect today, the vision of the then renamed Canadian Museum of Civilization has been expressed in the mandate of the *Museums Act*:

The purpose of the Canadian Museum of Civilization is to increase, throughout Canada and internationally, interest in, knowledge and critical understanding of and appreciation and respect for human cultural achievements and human behaviour by establishing, maintaining and developing for research and posterity a collection of objects of historical or cultural interest, with special but not exclusive reference to Canada, and by demonstrating those achievements and behaviour, the knowledge derived from them and the understanding they represent.

In this process the museum was empowered to:

9 (f) undertake and sponsor any research, including fundamental or basic research and theoretical and applied research, related to its purpose and to museology, and communicate the results of that research.

The Canadian Museum of Civilization has on this basis been dedicated to publicly supported scholarship on core issues in the Canadian and the human experience for which it is internationally renowned. Upon a substantive research basis, public exhibitions have been rigorously created to be offered, critiqued and constantly renewed as a trust to the Canadian people. Exhibitions have not been simple presentations of artifacts but products of research, increasingly curated in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples.

This work has been largely but not exclusively anthropological and has depended on the sustained and sometimes lifelong work of specialist curators in ethnology, cultural studies, archaeology and history. Regarding the more contemporary anthropological research I have been asked to address, the Division of Ethnology (focusing on Canadian Aboriginal peoples) and Cultural Studies (also largely anthropological and addressing both Aboriginal and settler societies) has until recently had twelve curators, eight in ethnology and four in cultural studies. As of today, four ethnology curators with established expertise in the anthropology of Canadian Aboriginal peoples have recently resigned or retired without being replaced by equivalent professional staff in continuing positions. This is a process that has been unfolding for a number of years and has also included the loss without regular replacement of the anthropologist who served as Director of the Division of Ethnology and Cultural Studies until 2009, the same year the Museum lost its curator of Asian-Canadian peoples and terminated that position. The expertise among the remaining curators with research responsibility in the now smaller division is less anthropologically specialized, and includes only two ethnologists of Aboriginal Canada and two specialists in Aboriginal art.

The Future of Civilization

Is Canada giving up on civilization?

By Ellen R. Judd

In May 2012 the Canadian Museum of Civilization administrative structure was readjusted to no longer include a Vice-President for Research and Collections. Research and Collections is now placed under the former Vice-President (now Director General) of Exhibitions and Programs, and the two research divisions fall under a Director of Research recently transferred in from a comparable position in the War Museum. The current Executive of the Museum includes no member with research or collections expertise. It is unclear what the future of research will be at the Museum despite the substantive need for research both in itself and as the basis for exhibitions and programs of quality.

A reorganization of research within the Museum has been in progress for the past year and was due to be announced in March 2013, then this week, and is now deferred for at least a further month. Some of the consequences are already clear. The First Peoples Hall, a signature creation of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, is ten years old. It cannot maintain or renew itself and it requires continuing research and collaboration to ensure that it is current with contemporary Aboriginal life and engages with emerging issues in the past and present of Canada's First Peoples. There is a substantial and living heritage gifted to all of us by the First Nations, Inuit and Métis and a legacy of curating this gift that is a public trust. In his response to my earlier letter to the Prime Minister (http://www.cas-sca.ca/positions/22october2012CMC_letter_CASCA_EN.pdf), copied to the President of the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Dr. Mark O'Neill replied that the First Peoples Hall "will continue to highlight the remarkable story of Canada's First Peoples and the wealth of their modern-day contributions." Who will do this?

This history enshrines a much diminished vision compared with the collaborative one that recognizes our shared occupancy of these lands and the fundamental character of all Canadians as treaty people.

The anticipated new exhibition on Canadian history will, according to Dr. O'Neill's letter, include "aspects of the Aboriginal experience," but shift toward other Canadian historical themes. Here a very considerable amount of research and enhancement of collections will be required, as the Museum's collections are currently 70% to 80% Aboriginal. Elements of material culture cannot be simply borrowed from other collections and placed on display. There are major issues of cost, access, time, research and vision. As indicated in the public announcement in October 2012, there will be a one-time provision of \$25,000,000 for the transformation of the Museum, but this will not be new money. Rather it will be reallocated funds that will come from other sources within Canadian Heritage. These funds are designated for a renovation of half of the Museum's 100,000 sq. ft. Given current costs to meet curatorial standards at this level of roughly \$1,000/sq. ft., this generates concerns about an underfunding of as much as \$25,000,000. Conceivably, this amount could be reduced by reuse of elements already within the Museum's holdings, but there is concern in the field that the undertaking is severely underfunded, with anticipated consequences both for funding elsewhere in the Museum and for the quality of the new exhibition.

This plan is due to culminate at the time of the 150th anniversary of Confederation and presents a view of Canadian history as settler history. In the words of Museum President Mark O'Neill, to be found on the Museum's website:

Canada's history – from the fur trade to the Northwest Rebellion to Confederation, through two world wars and the Quiet Revolution, to Canada in the world – will come to life. Authentic and artifact-rich, the Canadian Museum of History will bring individuals into direct contact with the touchstones of our history: Champlain's Astrolabe, the Last Spike, historical portraits, artifacts of our nation's founders, 'relics' of our national sports and athletic accomplishments.

This follows a paragraph that indicates the retention of the Grand Hall and the First Peoples Hall, but the frame has decisively shifted to that of the imported imaginary of the modern European nation-state and its transplantation to a new territory. This history enshrines a much diminished vision compared with the collaborative one that recognizes our shared occupancy of these lands and the fundamental character of all Canadians as treaty people.

Canada's history truly began long before there was any thought of Canada and we all benefit from the living legacy of Canada's First Peoples, fashioning vibrant societies and cultures and maintaining relationships with neighbours. Those who arrived later – both the French and the British, whose languages and cultures have contributed distinctively to the Canada we now know – and successive waves of newer arrivals from all corners of the world have brought with them an abundance of linkages with larger realities. The Canadian experience has never been limited in time and space and is intrinsically part of the larger human experience. We inhabit a world of connections among indigenous peoples worldwide, intrepid voyagers and settlers, and a citizenry deeply connected with a globe in which we are articulated through ties of kinship and through predominantly peaceful bonds of caring and shared experience. A national museum dedicated to the people of Canada must necessarily include Canadians of every heritage and recognize the unbounded mosaic of Canadian life.

I, too, look forward to 2017 and to the moments of gratitude and inspiration the year will offer, aware of great good fortune in being Canadian, and also aware that not all my fellow citizens have fully shared in what Canada can offer. As I reflect on our cherished milestones of Confederation itself, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the courage of national apology and of truth and reconciliation, I see a history of expanding inclusion and respect. Ultimately this comes from our shared values and principles, but making these effective has required knowledge of our social world built on honest and rigorous inquiry and its considered application. For this we have needed to nurture, support and protect people who serve our national purpose through the common pursuit of knowledge. Sharing knowledge widely is a necessary project of an informed citizenry enabled through public institutions. Let us make the future Canadian Museum of History one that honours and inspires our home and native land.

Ellen R. Judd is President of the Canadian Anthropology Society

Harper Government Rejects Responsibility and Major Support for Canada's Ancient Heritage and History

By William Ross

Please note that this is a much abbreviated version of a paper prepared for the Roundtable Session: After the Cuts: The Future of History in Canada, facilitated by the Canadian Historical Association at the Annual Meeting of the national Council on Public History. The paper was prepared by the Public Advocacy Committee of the CAA: Leigh Syms, Robert Ferguson, William Moss, Mima Kapches, Bjorn Simonsen and Jennifer Birch.

The original paper was severely edited for the presentation at the conference and was additionally reduced for publication in this newsletter. It is hoped that the Canadian Archaeological Association will publish the original paper in the near future.

A brief comment on terminology is in order. Our definition of history includes the entire archaeological record. Canadian history and heritage, then, includes the entire record of human development beginning with the first evidence of First Nations some 13,000 years ago to the present. The vast majority of Canadian heritage, from a temporal perspective, lies in Pre-European sites recovered from the soils and waters of Canada that is recovered archaeologically and is non-renewable.

The cuts to Parks Canada will produce devastating impacts on this ancient record. We must briefly discuss the magnitude of the cuts. The handful of remaining people within the organization have little or no opportunity to fulfill their previous mandate to monitor, protect, and interpret the heritage within the Canada's federal parks, historic sites and other federal lands in general. The cuts have not been a mere reduction but the shear gutting and destruction of the ability to fulfill any of their responsibilities to the heritage record, now leaving 10 full-time archaeologists to be responsible for the entire 40,448,681 hectares of federal lands, of which 90% falls under the control of Parks Canada.

The capacity for research and professional practices has been severely compromised. The laying off of almost all Parks Canada research and interpretive staff and collections management staff, which Environment Minister Peter Kent is quoted as referring to as insignificant backroom staff, eliminates centuries, if not millennia, of accumulated knowledge, prevents the ability to monitor and rescue heritage materials from various destructive forces such as erosion and construction, leaving them to be

destroyed, and eliminates knowledgeable staff for interpretation and education.

The idiosyncratic attitude of the government to archaeology is evident in the fact that the underwater archaeology unit of Parks Canada has remained intact while every other aspect has been gutted. This suits the government's view of history as special events related to 'neat things' (eg. the Franklin vessels), and its obsession with photo ops in the Arctic.

The loss of archaeology in the federal government contributes further to the loss of Canadian comprehension of the complexity of First Nations cultures. It has an impact on how we view the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians, an increasingly important issue for this country's future.

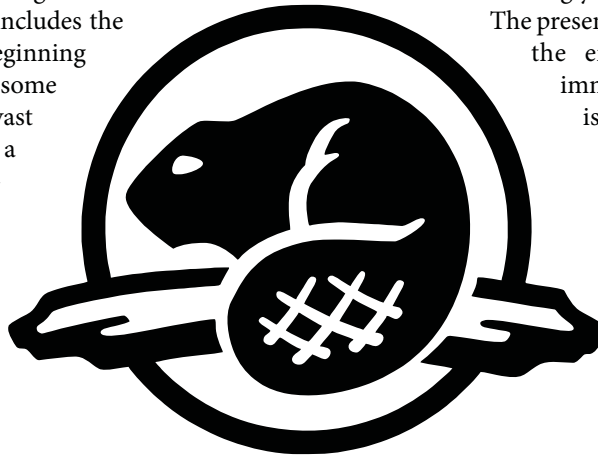
The present government's attitude is summed up by the entry in the "study guide" for new immigrants. Pre-contact Aboriginal history is dismissed in one paragraph.

Members of all of the heritage/history and related disciplines must become activists to be certain that all Canadians know about these federal actions and their impacts on the reduction, and in many cases the annihilation, of our heritage.

There needs to be a strategy whereby all media are used to develop awareness and express concerns. Committees need to organize in every province and territory to make certain that all Canadians understand the nature of these cuts and to encourage them to be vocal about their disagreement with them. These committees need to draw on members from all affected groups and associations to become involved. Every opportunity must be made to remind the public on every possible occasion of these negative impacts through the written media and online communication such as Facebook. For example, during the recent budget presentation, Flaherty's announcement stated that "We do not need to slash and burn."¹ This statement should have been responded to with numerous declarations from across the country that there are major ongoing cuts and their ongoing impacts, so they do continue to "slash and burn."

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¹ Mia Rabson WFP, March 22, 2013



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