

25 June 2016

A letter concerning the French American Reference Centre

Mr. Stéphan La Roche, Director General, Musées de la civilisation

Dear M. La Roche,

On behalf of the Board of the Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians / l'Association canadienne des bibliothécaires académiques professionnels (CAPAL/ACBAP) I am writing to express our deep concern regarding the recent decision to close the archival consultation room of Le Centre de référence de l'Amérique francophone for an indefinite amount of time on June 23, 2016. The lay-off of six staff members indicates that this is a permanent closure. Recognized by the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme in 2007, the Centre is an important repository for materials relating to New France and unique materials relating to Indigenous peoples. This move is especially troubling in light of the recent release of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. As a national membership association representing the interests of professional academic librarians this closure undermines the efforts towards indigenization and reconciliation underway at institutions across the country. Financial considerations should not be allowed to override access to this important and internationally recognized collection. We strongly urge Quebec's Museum of Civilization and the Quebec Government to rescind this decision.

Sincerely,

Mary Kandiuk

On behalf of the Board, Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians / l'Association canadienne des bibliothécaires académiques professionnels (CAPAL/ACBAP)

Colleen Burgess (Western University)
Douglas Fox (Victoria University in the University of Toronto)
Leona Jacobs (University of Lethbridge)
Mary Kandiuk (York University)
Eva Revitt (MacEwan University)
Lisa Richmond (Wheaton College)
Harriet Sonne-de-Torrens (University of Toronto Mississauga)
Ali Versluis (University of Guelph)
Anna Wilson (University of Alberta)

cc.

Régis Labeaume, Mayor of Québec
Hélène David, Minister of Communication and Culture, Québec
Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage

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