



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC LIBRARIANS
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES BIBLIOTHÉCAIRES ACADÉMIQUES PROFESSIONNELS

The Honourable Mélanie Joly,
Minister of Canadian Heritage,

November 27, 2015.

Dear Minister Joly,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians we would like to extend our congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Canadian Heritage. We look forward to working with you on matters of mutual concern.

We note, and are disappointed, that no mention of restoration of funding to Library and Archives Canada is made in the Minister of Canadian Heritage Mandate Letter.

As you may be aware many of us who work in higher education have grave concerns about the funding cuts and administrative changes that have in our view negatively impacted the ability of Library and Archives Canada to fulfill its mandate and mission. According to the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), by 2014-15, adjusted for inflation, LAC's budget will be just 58% of what it was in 1990-91. By far the most precipitous decline in funding has taken place over the last three years. These cuts have impacted every aspect of LAC operations, including acquisitions, programs, services and staff. They have resulted in the loss of expertise, a moratorium on acquisitions, and the elimination of national archival development and interlibrary loan programs. We believe that restoring funding and reaffirming the commitment on the part of your government to cultural institutions such as Library and Archives Canada are critical to ensuring that Canada's artistic, historical and cultural heritage is preserved.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these important issues and congratulate you again on your appointment,

Sincerely,

Board of Directors, Canadian Association of Professional Academic Librarians

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