

Archives Roundtable of Metropolitan New York Advocacy Committee opposes the elimination of the Canadian National Archives Development Program

The Archivists Roundtable of Metropolitan New York (ART) exists to provide professional support and education for its local membership of over 400 archivists, librarians and records managers in the Metropolitan New York area. In addition, ART's mission includes a mandate to educate the public about the legal, historical and cultural value of public and private archives and manuscript collections, as well as to advocate for the preservation and use of historical materials.

As such, the ART Advocacy Committee urges local membership to advocate for the preservation of the historic materials currently threatened by the elimination of the Canadian National Archival Development Program (NADP). This cut, announced on April 30th, 2012 by the Library and Archives Canada, will result in a loss of a CAD \$1.7 million contribution program administered by the not-for-profit Canadian Council of Archives, and distributed to Canada's 13 archives councils to support archival activities locally.

According to opponents of the cut, "the outright elimination of this funding will dramatically affect the archival community in Canada, in particular small and medium sized archives which rely on this funding to make information accessible to their local communities and beyond."¹

Although this is an international issue, falling outside of the typical scope of ART, the ART Advocacy Committee believes that all archival professionals should advocate for the rights of the historic record, regardless of their nation of origin, in order to ensure that our global documentary heritage is protected. The elimination of the Canadian NADP not only places Canada's documentary heritage at risk; but it also creates a precedent regarding the role of federal funding for Archives, a precedent which, if unopposed, may impact local, state, or federal funding upon which many ART members rely.

The ART Advocacy Committee opposes the cuts made to the National Archives Development Program, and calls upon all ART members to help save Canada's National Archival Development Program by signing the petition, and writing a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Honourable Minister James Moore, informing them of their opposition, and requesting that they reverse the decision.

¹ (Source: Home, Heather. "Make It Better, Write A Letter – Save the NADP." Accessed July 25, 2012 <http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/make-it-better-write-a-letter-help-save-canada-s-national-archival-development-program>)

Petition to help save Canada's National Archival Development Program:
<http://www.change.org/petitions/make-it-better-write-a-letter-help-save-canada-s-national-archival-development-program>

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Colannino, Advocacy Committee Chair
Archivists Roundtable of Metropolitan New York, Inc.