



Association
of Canadian
Archivists

May 31, 2012

Mr. Fabio Onesi
Director General
Library and Archives Canada
Stakeholder Relations
550 de la Cité Blvd.
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0N4

Re: the Pan Canadian Documentary Heritage Network

Dear Mr. Onesi,

I am writing to inform you that the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) intends to withdraw its participation from Library and Archives Canada's Pan Canadian Documentary Heritage Network (PCDHN) forums.

The Library and Archives of Canada Act obliges Library and Archives Canada to “7(f) to support the development of the library and archival communities”. The Act also compels the Librarian and Archivist of Canada to “8 (i) provide professional, technical and financial support to those involved in the preservation and promotion of the documentary heritage and in providing access to it.” For the past 26 years, the LAC has fulfilled this mandate economically and successfully through the National Archival Development Program (NADP), a program that LAC eliminated with no consultation with or notice to the archival community.

In the absence of any written communications from the LAC, it is the ACA's understanding that the LAC believes that it can satisfy its mandate through the Pan-Canadian Documentary Heritage Network (PCDHN). The ACA, having participated in the PCDHN forums from their very beginnings, does not believe that the PCDHN in its current state can possibly address the diverse needs and interests of archives across Canada. PCDHN forums meet sporadically and have controlled agendas. The NADP is the most efficient, transparent, and representative means of supporting the development of the Canadian archival community.

Until we can have a meaningful dialogue with you about the LAC's intentions and plans to support the Canadian archival community, the ACA will withdraw from the PCDHN forums.

Best Regards,

Original signed by Loryl MacDonald

Loryl MacDonald
ACA President