

# ARCHIVES: PILLARS OF INFORMATION AND HERITAGE

## Joint Statement

**Canadian Council of Archives  
Association des archivistes du Québec  
Association of Canadian Archivists  
(CCA-AAQ-ACA)**

### Key messages

- Any changes to national, provincial, municipal and/or other local archives will have negative repercussions for citizens to exercise their rights
- The revision of the museum and heritage policy, as well as issues related to copyright, the CUSMA agreement and artificial intelligence are of direct concern to the archival community.
- With the increase in digital information and documents, it is essential that archives across the country have the resources they need to play their vital role in the preservation and access to trustworthy data and effectively support citizens and organizations.

Under normal circumstances, archives are crucial partners in helping a multitude of sectors meet their information needs: the heritage sector, education, media, business and various levels of government, corporate, non-profit, and community-based organizations. Today, in a time of profound change and upheaval, archives play a vital role in enabling the public to understand, access, and make sense of our collective histories, which serve as the foundations of our country, our society, and identities. For archives to continue to fulfil their mission to preserve and make available documentation about these shared histories they must be recognized, protected and funded accordingly.

On the eve of a change in administration, the changes to government agencies and organizations raise major concerns for Canada's archival and heritage community. As a sector that is easily forgotten during this process, our community struggles to get the attention it needs in reform projects of this magnitude.

The Canadian archival network, which includes more than 800 institutions, represents an indispensable heritage infrastructure. Its value is measured not only by the number of its institutions, but also by the remarkable way in which these institutions have been able to meet the challenges of the last 30 years.

In a holistic approach, and on behalf of their respective members and communities, the Canadian Council of Archives, the *Association des archivistes du Québec*, and the Association of Canadian Archivists (CCA-AAQ-ACA), want to strongly reaffirm that this

important archival network is an essential link helping to preserve and provide access to Canada's heritage for all Canadian citizens. Just as a house must rest on a solid foundation, communicating our collective memory and enhancing access to our heritage requires unwavering support for archive services.

As archivists, information professionals, and records managers, we must vigorously express and reaffirm our common concerns to all policymakers. We must also highlight the critical needs of our community to pursue our collective mission to ensure that Canadian citizens and organizations have access to the information they need to assert their rights, fulfill their obligations, and reinforce our cultural identity.

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