



AMIA

Association of Moving
Image Archivists

June 1, 2012

The Honourable James Moore
Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Moore,

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Moving Image Archivists in regards to plans by the Canadian government to eliminate jobs at the Library Archives of Canada and the proposed elimination of the National Archival Development Program (NADP).

As an organization with members possessing decades of experience dealing with archives throughout North America and around the world, we are concerned about the elimination of jobs for trained professionals who are essential to handling and safeguarding culturally historic materials. Without the expertise, knowledge and experience of a trained archivist, the historic records generated to document society will frequently not be meaningfully contextualized, properly identified and effectively coded. This, all too often, can lead to the documents becoming inaccessible to the public and lost to future generations. The technologies existent to catalogue and preserve these documents cannot be effectively implemented without qualified archivists to oversee their use. With the vast amount and complexity of documentation that is involved, archives are simply one place where technology can assist, but cannot replace, the human archivist.

We recognize that all governments are facing increased pressure to reduce costs, and this leads to hard choices as to which programs to reduce or eliminate. It would be truly unfortunate, however, to allow a nation's socio-cultural history to be jeopardized or lost to future generations through lack of essential government support.

We urge you and your colleagues in government to reconsider these decisions and re-instate the necessary funding to retain both the NADP and the Library of Canada archivists positions.

Sincerely,

Caroline Frick
President