

May 28, 2013

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

Dear Minister Moore:

The Royal Society of Canada, the country's leading scholarly organization celebrating our 131st anniversary this year, has launched an Expert Panel to investigate and report on the status and future of Canada's libraries and archives. Our panel was formed in February 2013; its work includes the larger world of libraries and archives, along with a reinvigorated sense of access and engagement. Our panel, which is independent of government funding and commissioning, has a timely urgency. Although it is not solely motivated by the current situation at Libraries and Archives Canada, the panel's findings will be propitious for your government as you consider the appointment of the next Librarian and Archivist of Canada. The membership of our ten-person international panel is available on the RSC website.

I am writing to invite you to meet with the panel to discuss the government's vision and policy about libraries and archives. This is a truly significant moment in our understanding of ourselves as a nation: the complexity of our past, the networked reality of our present, and the promise of our future. I urge you to respond to our invitation to address the panel.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Demers

Patricia Demers, FRSC
Chair, Expert Panel on the Status and Future of Canada's Libraries and Archives

c.c. Hervé Déry, Interim Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Libraries and Archives Canada
c.c. Daniel Jean, Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage
c.c. Gerald Beasley, President, Canadian Association of Research Libraries
c.c. Guy Berthiaume, Président-Directeur général, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
c.c. Carol Couture, Président, Association des archivistes du Québec
c.c. Lyle Dick, President, Canadian Historical Association
c.c. Janet Friskney, President, Bibliographical Society of Canada
c.c. Jacqueline Labelle, Présidente, Association pour l'avancement des sciences et des techniques de la documentation
c.c. Loryl MacDonald, President, Association of Canadian Archivists
c.c. Pilar Martinez, President, Canadian Library Association
c.c. Josée Saint-Marseille, Présidente, Corporation des bibliothécaires professionnels du Québec