



COUNCIL OF NOVA SCOTIA ARCHIVES

February 27, 2026

Joanne Munro  
Deputy Minister, Service Nova Scotia  
PO Box 10, Stn. Central  
Halifax, NS B3J 2L7

Dear Deputy Minister Munro,

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 2026, regarding the elimination of the Provincial Archival Development Program (PADP). I appreciate you taking the time to notify us directly.

I am writing on behalf of the Council of Nova Scotia Archives (CNSA) and the more than 100 archival institutions across the province to express our deep concern about this decision.

PADP is not a discretionary enhancement—it is essential support for Nova Scotia’s archival sector. The program sustains the work of institutions that preserve and provide access to records documenting the province’s history, culture, and governance. These archives serve researchers, students, community organizations, all levels of government, and the general public. Many do so with very limited staff and resources, as there are no provincial or federal operating grants for archives.

The elimination of PADP will have immediate and serious consequences. It will:

- Reduce archival capacity and jeopardize preservation work;
- Slow or halt access initiatives, including those focused on records of underrepresented communities and local histories;
- Disproportionately impact smaller community-based organizations that rely on project funding to advance essential work; and
- Leave many archives without access to any source of project funding, as they are ineligible for most other provincial and federal heritage grants.

These impacts are particularly severe given the recent discontinuation of the federal Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP). The combined loss of provincial and federal funding for archival projects places many organizations in a precarious position. It also creates serious risks for Nova Scotia’s documentary heritage.

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The archival sector is already facing significant challenges as a result of the deep cuts to culture and heritage programs. The removal of PADP funding adds further uncertainty and could destabilize organizations striving to maintain continuity of service.

We are disappointed that we were not consulted prior to this decision. The CNSA would welcome the opportunity to provide concrete information on PADP's impact on communities, public access, and preservation capacity across the province.

We recognize the difficult fiscal context outlined in your letter. At the same time, archival preservation and access are essential public goods. Ensuring the long-term accessibility of records is a fundamental responsibility of public institutions and integral to maintaining public trust. As such, PADP represents a modest but highly effective investment in Nova Scotia's documentary heritage.

We would welcome confirmation of whether the government is open to further discussion on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Fancy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Catherine Fancy  
President, Council of Nova Scotia Archives