At the heart of archival work are the people impacted by the work. There are archival workers who process, and make records accessible; donors who provide the archives with its holdings; the people documented in records held at archives, and users who access those records. The purpose of archival work is to provide information to people and sometimes that information can be difficult and emotional. An aspect of our work that is little discussed at the archival schools is psychology. Working with records can be a challenge with regards to the human aspect. We may come across donors who are difficult or grieving and donating a set of records could be part of their grieving process. Or, as archivists process records, the content could document traumatic human experiences such as death, torture, abuse, or hold other disturbing content. Or, we may help users in our reading rooms who may have unexpected emotional responses to the content in the records - like flashbacks of a traumatic event. For ASA’s Conference 2023, we will examine these difficult aspects of our work.

We are inviting proposals that address this emotional component to archival work. Proposals could address the following topics:

- Labour issues in the archival profession;
- Experiences working with donors who are experiencing grief, trauma or other mental health issues;
- Climate change anxiety in relation to working with records;
- Vicarious trauma experiences while doing archival work;
- Occupational health and safety at the archives;
- Reference service work and experiences of users who are triggered by traumatic information in the records;
- Working with communities to heal or restore loss;
- Change in perception by the public and their use of archives:
  - Impacts of increased advocacy and social media presence;
  - Increase in communities’ need for archives.

The deadline for submitting conference proposals is Friday, December 2, 2022.

Please send your abstracts, 250 words or less, to reneg@archivesalberta.org. Include your contact information, the format you would like to present in (ex. Individual presentation, roundtable discussion, or panel discussion) as well as a bio of 50 words or less.