archives
SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

February 5, 2026

Hon. Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Re: Cancellation of the DHCP Program

Dear Minister Mr. Miller:

I am writing today as President and representative of the Archives Society of Alberta to express our disappointment in the cancellation of the Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP). As a Society we ask that this program's status be reconsidered, or a new granting program be introduced to address gaps created by its loss.

As the one archives-specific federal grant program that remained, its loss is devastating to our members and non-member communities (geographic and cultural) who create and nurture foundations for sharing their piece of Canadian identity through records and stories. In Alberta the grant has often been used to lay the groundwork for creating archives programs.

Since its introduction in 2016, DHCP has had significant impact on Alberta's archival community. From 2020 to present, 7 of 11 funded projects in Alberta have been received by Indigenous groups, or for First Nations-focused projects. This is a fantastic success towards achieving key goals of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action (sections 69 through 77). Community-based archives collect local knowledge and have capacity to develop trust in the sharing of this knowledge. Indigenous data sovereignty enhances understanding and trust when addressing historical and contemporary challenges including the survival, and non-survival of the Residential School System.

From inception of the DHCP the Archives Society of Alberta has directed a number of organizations to the program as there is a desire across the province, and the country to build community knowledge and identity.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Pype, M.Sc.
President, Archives Society of Alberta