



Gary Carr
Chair, Regional Municipality of Halton
Halton Regional Centre
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario
L6M 3L1

August 19, 2025

Dear Gary Carr,

I am writing to you as president of the Canadian Historical Association | Société historique du Canada. Founded in 1922, the CHA is a national, bilingual scholarly association devoted to the research, writing, teaching, and dissemination of history in Canada.

We were concerned to learn of the July 9, 2025 decision of the Halton Regional Council to close the Halton Region Heritage Services department and to deaccession the approximately 30,000 artifacts in its holdings.

While the CHA recognizes that elected officials often have to make difficult decisions, we are troubled that Halton Regional Council has decided to cancel earlier plans to develop a new museum facility and instead deaccession its collection. At a time when Canadians are concerned about threats to the integrity of our country, we believe it is essential to invest in the future by protecting and promoting our heritage. Collections amassed over many decades will be impossible to rebuild. We are particularly concerned that the artifacts in your collection, despite laudable intentions to transfer them to other museums, will not all find homes, and therefore they will be lost to the public.

We urge you to revisit this decision, and we hope that you, like other Canadians, will continue to promote a broad understanding of the past of the country we call home.

Sincerely,

Colin Coates
President, CHA | SHC