



17 April 2026

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin,  
Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature  
House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6  
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(CC: Richard Dennis, Chief Librarian, Parks Canada)  
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Dear Minister Dabrusin,

As you are aware, the federal government's latest budget announced the closure of the Parks Canada library and the decommissioning of its collection. This announcement has sparked considerable concern, both within the historical profession that we, at the Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française and the Canadian Historical Association, represent, and also far beyond. It has prompted many questions. In particular, we wonder what exactly this "decommissioning" means for the accessibility of the collection—both for Parks Canada employees and for the research community more broadly. Aside from the discontinuation of internal library services, it is the significant portion of the collection that has not been made available online that concerns us. While the online portion was made available (in part thanks to a U.S. benefactor), the rest now seems threatened to remain in limbo. Will it be dispersed? Made accessible electronically? Even destroyed?

It is important to remember that these documents do not accumulate dust; they continue to be of use. These collections, which include many unpublished research reports, constitute the long-term memory of Parks Canada and, by extension, of our national parks and historic sites. As journalist Jean-François Nadeau put it in *Le Devoir* (in his March 24th article), they provide "des informations uniques sur l'histoire environnementale des parcs et la gestion des lieux historiques." They contribute to informed decision-making within Parks Canada; they serve academic and citizen research, as well as that of First Nations; they enrich, among other histories, that of our increasingly threatened environment. In short, they represent an irreplaceable, indispensable heritage—a heritage that *sert* Canadian society.

In short, we fear that the decision to close this library is, at the very least, ill-considered. Was there even consultation? Given the minimal budgetary cost—0.02 percent of Parks Canada’s annual expenditures—and the real cost in terms of absolutely strategic knowledge, we ask that you reconsider this measure.

Sincerely,



Colin M. Coates  
President, Canadian Historical Association | Société historique du Canada



Thomas Wien  
Président, Institut d’histoire de l’Amérique française