



5 March 2026

The Honourable Tanya Fir
Minister of Arts, Culture and the Status of Women
Alberta Legislature

cc. Shadow Minister Joe Ceci (Arts & Culture)

Dear Minister Fir,

I am writing as President of the Canadian Historical Association | Société historique du Canada. Founded in 1922, our association represents professional historians, history degree holders and anyone with an interest history. We are a non-profit organization with over 800 members across the country, including many in Alberta.

We are distressed to learn of the cuts to heritage associations, such as the Historical Society of Alberta, an institution older than the CHA.

We firmly believe that a comprehensive understanding of our country's past is necessary as a way of charting our way into the future. This is the case for each province as well as the country as a whole, particularly given the overwhelming uncertainties of the current moment. By cutting investment in the study of and public access to historical knowledge, we risk creating short-term difficulties for our citizens to learn about their country's past and eliminating the resources necessary for future generations to understand their broader historical context.

Many historical societies, archives, and museums operate on tight budgets, and government funding is more than matched by the volunteer labour that contributes to the sector. Furthermore, recent federal cuts to program funding will also have negative impacts. As a result, many heritage institutions and associations will find their future in jeopardy.

We acknowledge and welcome the Alberta government's investments in education from the primary through to the post-secondary levels. We urge you to consider carefully the impacts of the budget cuts on heritage associations like the Historical Society of Alberta.

Sincerely,

Colin M. Coates
President, Canadian Historical Association