



Minister Dave Ritchey, Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
MIN_CCTH@novascotia.ca

Dear Minister Ritchey,

I am writing to you in my capacity as president of the Canadian Historical Association | Société historique du Canada. Our association serves professional historians, history degree holders, and people with an interest in history. We represent close to 1,000 members across the country and beyond, with members in Nova Scotia at the following institutions: Acadia University, Cape Breton University, Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, St. Francis Xavier University, Saint Mary's University, and the University of King's College.

Along with other Canadians, [our members have read](#), with dismay, the news about the wide-ranging cuts to heritage institutions in Nova Scotia. Such provincial decisions amplify the impact of federal government cuts in the same sector.

I understand that twelve of Nova Scotia's provincial museums will close as a result of the budgetary decisions. In addition, the provincial government is cutting other funding to heritage programs, First Nations institutions, and to universities. These choices will hurt local institutions, which rely so much on community support and volunteer labour.

Once heritage institutions are lost, they cannot be reclaimed. At a time when our country is facing so many external challenges, maintaining Canadians' access to their historical institutions seems even more urgent than ever. Canadians must be able to engage with their history, and these institutions play a key role in allowing them to do so.

We encourage you to re-consider the long-lasting impact of such short-term budgetary decisions.

Sincerely,

Colin M. Coates
President, Canadian Historical Association

cc: Susan Leblanc, MLA, NDP Critic for Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
cc: Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society