

From: [Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage](#)
To: c.charlton@cha-shc.ca
Cc: [Deputy Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage](#)
Subject: Response to the Canadian Historical Association
Date: May 7, 2026 2:05:42 PM
Attachments: [Letter to Premier Houston_CHA_23 March 2026.pdf](#)

Dear Colin:

As Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, I am responding on behalf of the Premier to your letter regarding reductions in funding to the closure of provincial museums and other heritage-related decisions in the provincial budget.

The Province of Nova Scotia was required to make difficult decisions to manage spending while focusing on key priorities such as healthcare, housing, and economic growth. As part of this work, grants were reduced across government, including funding for community museums and locally managed Nova Scotia Museum sites. In spite of this reduction, total provincial investment in arts, culture, and heritage remains over \$66 million—\$14.7 million higher than in 2021.

Even so, we recognize that any reduction in funding can be challenging. For some organizations, provincial grants represent one part of a broader funding mix, and many of these museums will be able to navigate these changes while continuing to deliver programs and services. At the same time, we acknowledge that the impact may be greater for some, and we are committed to listening carefully and working with museums to understand their concerns.

To ensure the sustainability of the provincial museum for future generations, steps have been taken to begin modernizing the Nova Scotia Museum system, including the closure of 12 sites. Several factors were considered in the review of the system including attendance levels, changing visitor expectations and long-term sustainability. The resulting changes will help us to prioritize museums and programs that reach more people and support a more sustainable system overall.

Please know that these decisions were not taken lightly. They are a necessary response to the challenges we are facing, and protecting Nova Scotia's heritage remains a priority. We will continue working with our museum partners to ensure these museums remain strong resources for future generations.

We will also continue to invest more than \$100 million this year in arts, culture, tourism, sport, and heritage, and we remain focused on supporting communities across Nova Scotia in a balanced and sustainable way.

Sincerely,

Hon. Dave Ritcey
Minister

Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

----- Original Message -----

From: Catherine Charlton <c.charlton@cha-shc.ca>;
Received: Mon Mar 23 2026 12:23:07 GMT-0300 (Atlantic Daylight Time)
To: Premier's Office <premier@novascotia.ca>; ECO/OP - Premier

<premier@novascotia.ca>;

Cc: Susan Leblanc <susanleblanc@nsmla.ca>; ccoates@gl.yorku.ca; info@rnshs.ca;

Subject: Letter from the Canadian Historical Association

You don't often get email from c.charlton@cha-shc.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Premier Houston,

Please find attached a letter from Dr. Colin Coates, president of the Canadian Historical Association.

All the best,
Catherine Charlton

Catherine Charlton (elle|she)

Coordonnatrice exécutive | Executive Coordinator
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The CHA recognizes that its office is located on the ancestral territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation.