

2015 Federal Election Questions for Candidates:

Introductory Statement: The preservation and availability of documentary heritage often seems like the air we breathe or the water we drink – taken for granted until something happens to it!” — *UNESCO statement on documentary heritage*

The **records** of Canada’s past are indispensable to understanding ourselves and charting Canada’s future – both social and economic. Hundreds of small **local** archives across Canada perform the important service of providing access to these irreplaceable materials, yet archives across Canada do NOT have access to operational support that others in the heritage sector have (such as libraries and museums). Chronic insufficient financial resources limit users of archives – genealogists, historians, journalists, lawyers, students, teachers, and the general public – to only a fraction of the wealth of knowledge contained in Canada's archives and it is an impediment to innovative uses of digital and paper-based information.

1. What programs of direct support would your party put in place to support the preservation and access of our documentary heritage held locally in not-for-profit archives across Canada?

The **Endowment** Incentives component of the Canada Cultural Investment Fund gives grants to **match** donations made by the private sector to ARTS organizations across Canada. Millions of historical documents, photographs, maps and audio visual materials are held in archives across Canada and are necessary to support economic growth and innovation within our knowledge based economy. The Canadian Council of Archives has asked the federal government to introduce a matching donations program to encourage increased private sector investment in Canada’s documentary heritage and thereby stimulate innovation and economic benefit for Canadians.

2. If elected, what will your party do to ensure that the federal government encourages private investment and sustainability for archives across Canada to support economic growth and innovation?

The underlying purpose of a **public (government)** archives is to support democratic objectives of government accountability, justice, and societal memory. In recent years, Library and Archives Canada has struggled with insufficient resources, narrowing of its mandate and cutbacks.

3. If elected, what will your party do to support Library and Archives Canada and ensure that Canadians have access to primary source material (documentary heritage)?