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News & Events

Canadian Council of Archives UPDATE

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Distributed to Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) members, councils, provincial and territorial associations and the Canadian archival community. For more information and late-breaking news please visit the CCA website at www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/.

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1. Message from the CCA Board of Directors

Members of the CCA Board recently met in at the Provincial Archives of Alberta in Edmonton for their winter meeting. The agenda for the four-day meeting was comprehensive and included an assessment of the work accomplished during the present fiscal year, a review of the committees current and proposed work plans, and planning activities and initiatives for 2009-2010. All but one of the committee and working group chairs were able to join the Board for two of the meeting days. Colleagues from Library and Archives Canada (LAC) also joined the CCA Directors for a full day and a half of discussions on joint projects and collaboration.

Those participating in the CCA Board meetings also had the pleasure of meeting colleagues from the Edmonton area archival community at an evening reception held on February 9th at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. This reception was hosted by the Archives Society of Alberta (ASA). The CCA Board wishes to thank the ASA and its members, as well as the Provincial Archives of Alberta, for their warm hospitality during those four days of meetings.

2. National Archival Development Program

The CCA Secretariat received a total of 92 NADP applications at the end of January and is now preparing for the upcoming review and adjudication process. The NADP National Review and Adjudication Jury will first hold a teleconference on March 5th to discuss and adjudicate advisory services applications. They will then review the remaining applications from councils and institutions during a face-to-face meeting that will take place in Ottawa on March 30th-April 1st.

Members of the Jury are: David Mawhinney (Nova Scotia Archives & Records Management, NS), Pam Miller (Osler Library of the History of Medicine, McGill University,

QC), Rick Stapleton (Archives and Research Collections, McMaster University Library, ON), Carey Isaac (Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists, SK), Raymond Frogner (University of Alberta Archives, AB), and Jennifer Roberts (contractor, British Columbia, BC). CCA Past Chair and Board member Fred Farrell (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, NB), is the Chair of the Jury.

3. InterPARES 3

InterPARES 3 is a five-year research project based at The University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (UBC SLAIS) that is being funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The goal of InterPARES 3 is to design and implement strategies, procedures, and tools that enable small and medium-size archives with 1 to 3 staff to preserve authentic records in electronic systems. CCA is a resource partner. Its role is to provide regular input and feedback, help disseminate products, and promote training.

CCA attended the second and third workshops of all research and resource partners in May and November 2008. Each of the eleven case studies provided an analysis of the context in which the digital records under study are currently managed, within a diverse group of organizations. They include various college and university departments, a museum, art gallery, police department, municipality, and student society. The electronic records issues include the need for: 1) policies to manage, acquire, and preserve various types of e-records (like email and digital art), 2) concrete strategies to preserve access to digitized and born digital records (like forensic evidence, website content, and email messages), and 3) better recordkeeping systems (such as scheduling legacy systems, and implementing electronic document and records management software). Answers were compiled to specific research questions about the existing policy framework, record-keeping system and digital records of each case study. The information was reviewed last May to help define the scope of the digital records management problem.

This resulted in the first iteration of a proposed solution for each test-bed, which were presented and discussed at the November workshop. Participants provided feedback and the solutions are being revised as needed and will be considered a second time at the next workshop in May 2009. It is expected that some of the practical solutions will be disseminated later this year. More information, including case study abstracts, general studies and project documentation is available from the InterPARES 3 website (http://www.interpares.org/ip3/ip3_index.cfm).

4. Archives & You! Conference

Dates for the 5th edition of the Archives & You! national conference have been confirmed. The event will be held on November 27-28 in Gatineau. The conference theme is "Everything you wanted to know about archives... but were afraid to ask".

Chaired by Ms. Diane Baillargeon, member of the CCA Board of Directors, the conference will include the always popular roundtable discussions hosted by experienced archivists from across Canada, interesting and dynamic workshops and plenary sessions by well-known speakers who will share their experiences using archives.

The program is being developed for the sessions on November 27. The second day, November 28, will involve site visits to archival institution throughout the Outaouais region.

Please spread the word! Genealogists, historians, students, teachers or other archival enthusiasts would enjoy this event.

5. Preservation Committee

Members of the Committee held a teleconference on February 27th to review National Archival Development Program (NADP) applications submitted by provincial and territorial councils where the main activity is the delivery of preservation advisory services. The Committee will hold a second teleconference in mid-March to review the applications submitted under Objective 5 by archival institutions.

6. Young Canada Works 2009

We wish to remind members of the archival community that the application deadline has now passed for the YCW program. We are now preparing reports for the volunteer judges who will be reviewing the applications for both summer positions and internships. We take the opportunity to thank our colleagues who will be serving as volunteer judges; their assistance is much appreciated.

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