



September 19, 2017

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
15 Eddy Street  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0M5

Sent via email: [Hon.Melanie.Joly@canada.ca](mailto:Hon.Melanie.Joly@canada.ca)

**Canada's National Heritage Digitization Strategy (NHDS)**

Dear Minister,

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations-Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) was very pleased to hear your official announcement of the National Heritage Digitization Strategy (NHDS) in June 2016.

The NHDS clearly outlines a national infrastructure to both make accessible, as well as to preserve, Canada's documentary heritage. While the directions put forward in the NHDS Strategy are encouraging, sufficient and sustained federal investment is now needed to effectively support this initiative.

Your department has already recognized that a coordinated approach to the digitization of Canadian memory institutions' collections is important and by financially supporting a national digitization program, the Government of Canada would:

- Promote cultural literacy by providing increased access to Canadian cultural material;
- Remove barriers to knowledge by providing equal access to heritage content for all Canadians;
- Contribute to a feeling of shared Canadian identity, based on diversity and inclusion;
- Create greater educational opportunities to promote research and understanding of Canadian culture;
- Encourage innovation and creativity by inviting artists and entrepreneurs to engage with Canada's cultural content and to use and reuse it to create new works with value to Canadians and the economy;
- Provide global perspective on Canada's culture by connecting national collections with international ones; and,
- Support sound democracy by providing easy access to credible information.

In support of the Canadian Association of Research Libraries' 2018 Pre-Budget Consultation Brief, CFLA-FCAB also requested in our 2018 Pre-Budget Consultation Brief the need for funding, putting forward a request that the Government of Canada to invest \$30M over the next five years (2018-2022) to support a coordinated national initiative to digitize content and to build the digital infrastructure required making Canada's rich documentary heritage available to all Canadians.

We hope that your department will agree, and support the request for funding in this area as planning for the 2018 Federal Budget proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Bailey  
President

cc. Katherine McColgan, Executive Director  
Dr. Guy Berthiaume, Librarian and Archivist of Canada