



June 17, 2013

The Honourable James Moore
Minister of Canadian Heritage
and Official Languages
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Delivered by Email: james.moore@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Moore,

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council encourages you and your government to support the collaboration between Canadiana.org and Library and Archives Canada (LAC) to complete mass digitization of 60,000,000 images currently only available in LAC storage facilities. The end result of making this content available to Canadians through their libraries, through Canadiana.org directly or any of the other means it can be made available, will be improved access to Canada's important cultural and historical records for researchers, genealogists, students, historians and interested Canadians..

Canadiana.org, Library and Archives Canada, and the academic library community are to be congratulated for creating this partnership in order to improve access to these critical pieces of Canadian heritage. Once the mass digitization begins, public libraries across the country will provide an important access point to these collections which are now only available in the National Capital Region, ensuring broad and effective access for all Canadians.. The cost-effective business model that is being proposed provides a creative means to move the project forward as expeditiously as possible. Some of our member libraries are Canadiana members; and others are subscribers to the offerings currently provided. Many more libraries are neither members nor subscribers, however within the proposed model they too will have access. .

As we did with the highly successful *Lest we Forget* program, CULC/CBUC is interested in working with LAC and other stakeholders to make the stories and the holdings of LAC come alive in the minds and hearts of people in communities across this country. This partnership between LAC, Canadiana.org and CARL is just one example of how through effective collaboration we can improve access to information for all citizens.

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council (CULC/CBUC) strives to strengthen our vibrant urban communities through building the capacity of Canada's urban libraries. Our members



Canadian Urban Libraries Council
Conseil des Bibliothèques Urbaines du Canada

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collectively provide public library service to more than 55% of Canada's population from 640 physical locations and virtually. In 2012 member libraries were used by Canadians more than 325,000,000 times and expended in excess of \$100,000,000 on all types of materials. Our members employ over 12,000 Canadians.

Minister Moore, we thank you in advance for your support of this collaboration between LAC and Canadiana.org.

Sincerely,

Catherine Biss
Chair, Canadian Urban Libraries Council
CEO, Markham Public Library

CC: Leslie Weir, President, Canadiana.org
Hervé Déry, Acting Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Pilar Martinez, President, Canadian Library Association
Gerald Beasley, President, Canadian Association of Research Libraries