



July 3rd, 2012

The Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Kent:

From Confederation, the federal government has been supporting efforts to preserve our history and heritage as well as ensuring access to this valuable material, whether it be historical artefacts, archival documents, or historic sites and parks, for all Canadians to enjoy and learn from by way of visits and public programs. The federal government has built important programs to support these Canadian institutions in fulfilling their role, and its continued support is critical.

A vast amount of our heritage is held and preserved in non-profit, national, provincial, regional, large and small museums, historical sites and parks. This is where our history is safeguarded. These sites provide a useful public service to be nurtured and require new tools for survival in these uncertain times. The Canadian Museums Association (CMA) was very pleased with the recent federal budget, which clearly demonstrates the government's support and confidence in our country's museums and galleries. But these institutions are not the sole guardians of our nation's heritage; historical sites and national parks also play a fundamental role in preserving and caring for millions of artefacts and spaces that are witnesses to our past.

The CMA understands the importance of planned savings to reduce the federal deficit but we are concerned over the proposed reductions to Parks Canada, especially our National Historic Sites, directly impacting the agency's ability to sustain and communicate Canada's natural and culture heritage.

It is an important issue that affects many Canadians and we would welcome the opportunity to meet to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

John G. McAvity
Executive Director