

Steering Committee on Canada's Archives

MEETING NOTES

September 7, 2017
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (EDT)
Teleconference

Members:

Fred Farrell, Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists (Chair)
John Roberts, Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists
Carole Saulnier, Association des archivistes du Québec
Cédric Champagne, Association des archivistes du Québec
Luciana Duranti, Association of Canadian Archivists
Suher Zaher-Mazawi, Association of Canadian Archivists
Lara Wilson, Canadian Council of Archives
Christina Nichols, Canadian Council of Archives
Guy Berthiaume, Library and Archives Canada
Normand Charbonneau, Library and Archives Canada

Members at Large:

Kim Lawson, University of British-Columbia
Martine Cardin, Université Laval

Taskforce Leads:

Patricia Forget, Université du Québec en Outaouais (Archival Workforce)
Kathryn Harvey, University of Guelph Library (Archival Workforce)
Heather Gordon, City of Vancouver (Awareness Strategy)
Jacinthe Duval, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (Awareness Strategy)

Secretariat:

Emilie Chirip, Library and Archives Canada

Observers:

Francesco Manganiello, Library and Archives Canada
Craig Noonan, Association of Canadian Archivists

Regrets:

Erica Hernández-Read, University of Northern British Columbia (Response to the Report on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission)

1. Arrival & Welcome

The Chair of the Steering Committee on Canada's Archives (SCCA) called the meeting to order and participants introduced themselves. There were no changes to the agenda.

2. Administrative Follow-ups and Approvals from the Last Meeting

A. Approval of minutes from June 6, 2017 meeting

Members approved the minutes with one editorial change under section 6 "Round Table" regarding the Young Canada Works program administered by the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA).

ACTION: Secretariat to share the final June 6, 2017 meeting notes with SCCA members.

B. Action Items

The Chair noted that the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) would introduce the International Council of Archives' (ICA) document "Basic Principles on the role of Archivists and Records Managers in support of Human Rights" during the October 24, 2017 meeting.

The Chair also noted that the Awareness Strategy Taskforce would not be submitting a draft survey for review.

There were no questions on the outstanding action items.

3. Taskforce Updates

A. Archival Workforce Taskforce

The taskforce leads provided an update on the work to-date, reminding the SCCA that the taskforce had divided their work between English and French subgroups.

The English sub-group is currently compiling information about archives across Canada, undertaking a literature survey analysis and seeking two new members for their taskforce following the departure of two current members. They are also examining funding options, such as grants, to hire a specialist in survey creation. A member of the SCCA noted that the subgroup might wish to consider seeking the help of Ph.D. students, while another member suggested that SCCA members seek this expertise within their own organization for an in-kind contribution to the work. The *Association des archivistes du Québec* (AAQ) mentioned that they had released a similar type of survey that could be used as inspiration for the

subgroup. The taskforce lead acknowledged that the AAQ survey, along with similar international surveys, would be analyzed.

Next, the French subgroup lead provided an update on their recent meetings, noting that they will use the AAQ survey report as the base of their work and seek additional elements for factors they feel are missing.

A member of the SCCA noted that the *Université Laval* is seeking to hold a colloquium to host stakeholders this fall or early winter, in order to discuss the essential competencies of archivists. SCCA members will be invited to participate.

ACTION: The Secretariat will monitor the development of the colloquium at the Université Laval and share information with SCCA members as available.

i. Approval of Project Charter

Both leads presented their recent Project Charter, which was approved by the SCCA without modifications.

ACTION: The Secretariat will post the Archival Workforce Taskforce Project Charter online.

B. Awareness Strategy Taskforce

The taskforce leads informed the SCCA that the literature review subgroup had established good summaries. The taskforce decided against pursuing a traditional survey, given their belief that it may not be the best method to collect the type of information they are seeking. Instead, they decided to ask each taskforce member to reach out to five to ten people within their respective network, and pose questions about archives. The taskforce also identified politicians, teachers and media professionals as key people from whom they wish to collect information. Afterwards, the taskforce will draft two strategies based on the results of this work.

C. Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce

In light of the taskforce lead's absence, the ACA provided some information. SCCA members learned that the taskforce was not successful in their recent grant application. Nevertheless, the taskforce will apply for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) "Insight" grant this fall. The application deadline is October 15, 2017 and more information will follow.

Following the meeting, the Taskforce lead emailed a summary to SCCA members, which included the results of their survey. The email also indicated that the taskforce will begin its direct community outreach this fall and that a Literature Search Working Group was established. The working group is currently researching the topic of reconciliation to identify accomplishments, successes and failures. Following this, the working group will identify a decolonization strategy that might be successful within a Canadian archival context. Finally, the Taskforce will be seeking a new member following the departure of a current member.

4. Website Update*

The SCCA thanked Heather Husby-Wall (former Secretariat) and the Archives of Ontario for their work in launching the SCCA's website on June 19, 2017. An update on the website's activity was shared and members agreed that improvements are required for better communication with the Canadian archival community, such as posting notices on ARCAN-L when new content or meeting minutes are posted online.

ACTION: Secretariat to post minutes and draft an ARCAN-L message on behalf of the SCCA Chair.

5. Update from NPTAC Working Group on Collaborative Acquisition*

Members assessed the response from the Canadian Association of Research Libraries' (CARL) to a request by Mr. Guy Berthiaume to take steps towards collaborative acquisitions. Given the response from CARL, J. Roberts and M. Berthiaume informed the SCCA that going-forward, efforts on collaboration should focus at the provincial or regional levels, through archival associations instead of focusing on university libraries. Members agreed with this approach. G. Berthiaume noted that CARL had proposed other joint activities, which will be discussed at the next National, Provincial and Territorial Archivists Conference (NPTAC) in the fall.

6. Setting the Stage: Discussing the Direction of Future Priorities

SCCA members examined a one-page document, designed to support conversations towards the direction of future activities. The document outlined the key assumptions, considerations and timelines originally discussed in February 2016, when SCCA members identified the first set of priorities. Members decided to continue a more in-depth discussion during the in-person meeting on October 24, 2017, in Ottawa. Members also agreed that the SCCA is not bound to only selecting priorities from "Canada's Archives: A New

* Although the agenda was approved without changes, the SCCA discussed item 5 of the agenda ahead of item 4.

Blueprint” and that since the document was drafted broadly it is expected that any new priorities would be relevant to the spirit of the report.

ACTION: Secretariat to recirculate “Canada’s Archives: A New Blueprint” in preparation for the October meeting.

7. Round Table

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) provided an update on its work related to indigenous activities. Budget 2017 announced that LAC would receive \$14.9 million over the next three years to address Indigenous languages. The following two initiatives were presented to SCCA members:

- The digitization and improved access to LAC’s holdings containing First Nation, Métis and Inuit-related content, including all known material related to residential schools.
- The preservation of oral recordings in Indigenous languages and the development of a web portal for the dissemination, preservation, transcription and translation of these recordings.

LAC informed the SCCA that these projects would be developed and implemented in consultation with Indigenous communities and through the creation of an Advisory Circle of elders, leaders and knowledge keepers. LAC is currently in the process of creating its Advisory Circle.

LAC proceeded to invite SCCA members to the “LAC Forum with University Partners: Exploring Decolonization on the Road to Reconciliation”, on November 6, 2017. LAC mentioned its intention to invite Ms. Erica Hernández-Read to be a presenter and confirmed that an invitation will be forwarded following the conference call.

Finally, LAC noted its upcoming participation at the ICA’s annual Conference in Mexico City, this November. The theme for the conference is “Archives, Citizenship and Interculturalism”.

ACTION: Secretariat to share the details of LAC’s “Forum with University Partners” with SCCA members.

ACTION: LAC to contact Erica Hernández-Read to discuss a possible presentation during the “Forum with University Partners”.

Next, the CCA provided an update on their webinars, which garnered a high level of interest over the summer. The CCA also provided an update on their fall general assembly, discussed the survey regarding the draft national accession standard and talked about the supplementary funding for the Young Canada Works Program.

ACTION: CCA to share the link for the draft national accession standards survey.

The AAQ announced that their 50th anniversary colloquium will be held in Trois-Rivières, Quebec, on November 3, 2017. This event is organized in partnership with the *Réseau des services d'archives du Québec* (RAQ), under the theme of: «L'innovation au cœur du cycle de vie! » (Innovation at the heart of the lifecycle!). A special keynote speaker includes Mr. Gilles Brassard, one of the earliest pioneers of quantum information science. Finally, the AAQ informed the SCCA that they have recently welcomed their new Director General, Mr. Louis Germain.

Next, the SCCA discussed the possibility of having a greater presence at conferences in the coming months. Members agreed that a common Power Point presentation would help members' present consistent information about the SCCA. Members also agreed to identify the conferences where SCCA members could present.

ACTION: Secretariat to draft a common power point presentation for conferences.

ACTION: Secretariat to establish a conference plan for 2017-2018 season.

Finally, members learned that LAC would be welcoming Dr. Mercedes de Vega, President of the Association of Latin American Archivists and General Director of the National Archives of México. Dr. de Vega will present at LAC's upcoming Wallot-Sylvestre Seminar on October 24, 2017, following the SCCA meeting. LAC invited all SCCA members to attend both the seminar and the luncheon that will precede the event.

ACTION: Secretariat to send invitation to SCCA members for the Wallot-Sylvestre Seminar.

8. Next Meetings

The next in-person SCCA meeting will occur on October 24, 2017 in Ottawa, Ontario. It was confirmed that the subsequent SCCA meeting will be held at the end of January 2018 in Toronto, instead of holding a teleconference in December. Members may choose to attend by teleconference or in-person.

Members acknowledged that a new chair must be selected in January 2018.

ACTION: Secretariat will consult with SCCA members to set a date for the January 2018 meeting.