

**Steering Committee on Canada's Archives
MEETING NOTES**

June 7, 2018

5:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. (MDT)

Edmonton, Alberta

Members:

Luciana Duranti, Association of Canadian Archivists (Co-chair)
Cédric Champagne, Association des archivistes du Québec (Co-chair)
Fred Farrell, Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists
John Roberts, Council of Provincial and Territorial 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
Stéphane Bourbonnière, ARMA Canada (by telephone)

Members at Large:

Kim Lawson, University of British Columbia
Martine Cardin, Université Laval (by telephone)

Taskforce Leads:

Kathryn Harvey, University of Guelph Library (Archival Workforce)
Erica Hernández-Read, University of Northern British Columbia (Response to the Report on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission)

Observers:

Joanna Aiton Kerr, Canadian Council of Archives
Jo-Anne McCutcheon, Association of Canadian Archivists

Regrets:

Uta Fox, ARMA Canada
Heather Gordon, City of Vancouver (Awareness Strategy)
Jeanne Darche, Institut national de recherche scientifique (Archival Workforce)
Jacinthe Duval, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (Awareness Strategy)

Secretariat:

Emilie Chirip, Library and Archives Canada

1. Arrival and welcome

The Co-chairs of the Steering Committee on Canada's Archives (SCCA) called the meeting to order and welcomed participants.

a. Agenda approval

Participants approved the agenda without changes.

b. Presentation of meeting objectives

A Co-chair presented the meeting objectives, which included approving the meeting notes from April 11, 2018, and deciding on the way forward for the SCCA.

2. Administrative follow-ups

a. Approval of minutes from April 11 meeting

Members approved the meeting notes from April 11, 2018.

ACTION: Secretariat to post April 11 meeting notes online (SCCA website), and the Co-chairs will share a message via ARCAN-L.

b. Review action items

Members discussed the outstanding action items from April 11, which included sending a letter to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation from the Co-chairs, to clarify the use of the term "Canadian Association of Archivists" in the [TRC Final Report](#), Call to Action 70.

ACTION: Secretariat to draft letter for Co-chairs.

It was also noted that the Canadian Council of Archives (CCA) had shared a draft report of the ARCAN-L survey results, which will be distributed to SCCA members. This report is still in draft format, as it has not been approved by the CCA's Board, and should not be widely distributed.

ACTION: Secretariat to send the draft ARCAN-L survey results to SCCA members.

3. Discuss strategy on the way forward

The Secretariat provided an overview of the three possible models that arose from the various discussions since October 2017:

i. Option 1: A round table exchange

In this model, the ultimate objective would be to share information; members would use the meetings to brief the others on their associations' priorities and initiatives through open dialogue or a round table format. This would be an opportunity to exchange ideas and possibly cultivate

some partnerships. There would be no decision-making authority, as each member represents his or her association.

ii. *Option 2: Setting strategic direction for associations*

The second model builds on this, but rather than simply share information, the SCCA would set the strategic direction for each association and undertake joint activities. In this model, members would use the meetings to brief the others on their associations' priorities and initiatives through open dialogue or a round table format. Members would then apply their knowledge of the archival community's needs, and those of their own associations' members, and look for cross-linkages between SCCA members, to set the direction for areas in order to achieve results that would benefit the community at large. The ultimate objective would be to streamline, in an efficient and strategic way, the activities of SCCA members.

iii. *Option 3: Setting strategic direction for the community*

This model would include active consultation and communication with the Canadian archival community. SCCA members would consult and communicate with the community on a recurring basis (e.g., every two years) to identify their needs. After these consultations, SCCA members would evaluate the community's needs and weigh them against the needs and direction of their own associations, based on their business plans and priorities, to see whether there is a possibility for SCCA members to work together in a collaborative, streamlined and strategic manner.

Following the explanation of the models, members discussed the notion of the "archival community" and questioned who those members are, and whether the associations represent them.

ACTION: Secretariat to locate schema developed by the CCA, which outlined the Canadian Archival System and its affiliates.

Co-chair, C. Champagne, questioned what the difference was between the third model and the current role of the SCCA. The answer is that this model would require more frequent consultations than were initially planned for the SCCA, which was created to undertake work over the next 10 years, specifically on initiatives from the strategy document "Canada's Archives: A New Blueprint."

Members agreed that the work on the current strategy "Canada's Archives: A New Blueprint" still has many initiatives that have not been completed (e.g., standards or digital preservation).

Another member asked whether, going forward, one member association should take on the project instead of the SCCA establishing taskforces. Members

expressed concerns over losing the ability to set the mandate for the taskforces. Others noted that no funding would remain, which has proven to be a barrier towards greater progress, and that the SCCA is, or would be, recreating the CCA's mandate. Members observed that there are costs to collaboration, and that the CCA and Library and Archives Canada (LAC) have been contributing to elements such as translation, editing and secretarial support. For this reason, members agreed that any future taskforces would continue to be linked to the SCCA.

It was noted that although funding is a challenge, the Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce did secure substantial funding through a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant. Although some questioned the need for the Taskforce to be overseen by the SCCA, the Taskforce lead did confirm that the SCCA provides legitimacy to their work.

Members agreed that it would be easiest to work with the community through the various associations; in turn, SCCA members could direct the priorities in their associations.

Next, the community's perspective on the SCCA was discussed, with Co-Chair, L. Duranti, noting that only 10% of Association of Canadian Archivists members attended the SCCA presentation.

G. Berthiaume stated that if the SCCA was interested in undertaking the first model (i.e., a round table exchange), then there would be other venues to undertake this activity, such as the LAC Stakeholder Forum (which takes place three times a year).

Members thereafter agreed not to retain the first model/round table exchange.

With the remaining two options, members posed the question: "Does the SCCA wish to answer to its members and their associations, or to the community at large?"

Members then discussed the possibility of creating a hybrid of the second and third model. In this hybrid model, the SCCA would continue to answer to the member associations and not directly to the community. Members would evaluate the community's needs and weigh them against the needs and direction of their own associations, based on their respective business plans and priorities, to see whether there is a possibility for SCCA members to work together in a collaborative, streamlined and strategic manner. In this model, the active consultation and communication with the Canadian archival community would occur through the member associations and not the SCCA.

Members agreed that the most effective way to bring communities together and consult is at the local level, which this new model would provide.

ACTION: Secretariat to develop plan for new model and present it to the SCCA for review. In addition, the Secretariat will update the SCCA's mandate.

4. Conclusion and next steps

Members were reminded that, as usual, the next SCCA meeting would be scheduled in conjunction with the next LAC Stakeholders' Forum. However, this year, the Stakeholders' Forum will likely be in the form of a teleconference in fall 2018, and not an in-person meeting. To this end, the SCCA's next teleconference date will be confirmed by the Secretariat once LAC communicates the pertinent information.