



## Canadian Archaeological Association *canadienne d'archéologie*

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The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
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Ottawa, ON  
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Dear Prime Minister Harper:

The Canadian Archaeological Association would like to state its grave concerns with the draconian cuts to Parks Canada proposed in Bill C-38. Parks Canada has an enviable world-renowned reputation as a leading agency in heritage management in the world. This reputation was forged through decades of extraordinary research, conservation, site development, collections management and visitor experiences carried out by highly qualified archaeological teams. This is on the verge of changing in a dramatic and irreversible manner.

The Canadian Archaeological Association, founded in 1968, has over 600 members. We are mandated to promote activities advantageous to archaeology and to discourage activities detrimental to the archaeology and heritage sites in Canada.

We appreciate the urgency of reducing the deficit but the massive reduction to Parks Canada staff and infrastructures does not even make business sense. In November 2011, Environment Minister Peter Kent estimated that the national parks contributed \$3.3 billion to the Canadian economy in 2008-2009 at a cost of \$587 million. This fact alone does not support the skewed impact of the 80% reduction to archaeologists and conservators. There will now be only 12 archaeologists and 8 conservators to support 218 national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas, many of these being UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We also understand that the Educational Outreach Program has been

abandoned. The removal of artifact collections from Calgary, Winnipeg, Cornwall, Quebec City and Halifax to Ottawa will significantly hinder the ability of Canadians to access and research artifacts of their heritage and will certainly be of grave concern for First Nations who view these materials as part of their cultural patrimony.

These sweeping reductions severely undermine Parks Canada's ability to contribute to the economy and to fulfill its mandate to protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment to ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations.

We expect your government to protect our national heritage, and we urge you to reconsider the extremely detrimental provisions of Bill C-38.

Yours truly,

William Ross  
President

cc. Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment  
James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages  
Alan Latourelle, Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada