

International Council for Archaeozoology



c/o Pam Crabtree, Treasurer, 285 Pennington-Lawrenceville Rd. Pennington, NJ 08534 USA

June 10, 2012

The Honourable M. Stephen Harper, Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper;

As executive officers of the International Council for Archaeozoology (ICAZ) we express grave concern with the budget cuts to Parks Canada planned in Bill C-38. Archaeological staff at Parks Canada are responsible for the cultural heritage of all Canadians, ensuring that First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and more recently arrived groups have the opportunity to maintain cultural continuity rooted in their rich past. When implemented, the proposed cuts could potentially undermine the preservation and maintenance of Canada's renowned cultural and historic resources.

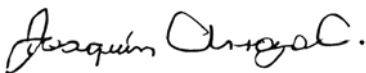
Founded in 1971, ICAZ has been involved in coordinating policies of curation and analysis of biological remains from archaeological collections on a global basis for over four decades. These collections have been critical in improving our understanding of issues ranging from the evolution of human diets in all areas of the world to assessing the impacts of past and predicted climate change on animal populations on an equally broad scale. Our membership comprises more than a thousand members representing 61 countries; colleagues from Canada form a valued contingent among our ranks.

We acknowledge the challenge posed by the global fiscal crisis to the Canadian government and understand that public spending needs to be scrutinised. However, the proposed reductions would amount to shutting down Parks Canada's archaeology programme. Doing this would cause potentially irreversible damage to critical non-renewable national resources: the rich history of Canadian cultures along with the rich history of Canada's biodiversity. By maintaining an effective archaeology programme at Parks Canada, your government will help to preserve and pass on Canadian heritage to future generations.

With due respect, we request that your government reconsider the contents of Bill C-38.

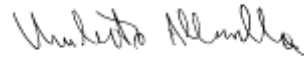
Sincerely yours,

László Bartosiewicz
President, ICAZ
Professor, Institute of Archaeological Sciences
Loránd Eötvös University Hungary


Dr. Joaquin Arroyo-Cabrales
Vice President, ICAZ
Laboratorio de Arqueozoología INAH, México



Treasurer, ICAZ
Associate Professor of Anthropology
New York University, USA

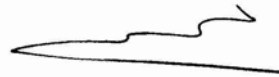


Umberto Albarella
Secretary, ICAZ
Department of Archaeology
University of Sheffield, UK

Representatives of the ICAZ International Council



Richard H. Meadow
Senior Lecturer, Harvard University
Director, Zooarchaeology Laboratory,
Peabody Museum, USA



Guy Bar Oz
Professor, Department of Archeology
Zinman Institute of Archaeology
University of Haifa, Israel



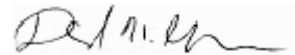
Zbigniew M. Bocheniski, Ph.D.
Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals,
Polish Academy of Sciences
Poland



Canan Cakirlar, M.A., Dr. Rer. Nat.
Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen
Afdeling Antropologie en Prehistorie, Belgium



Simon Davis
Laboratório de Arqueociências do IGESPAR,
Portugal



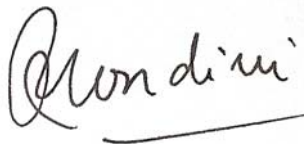
Donald K. Grayson
Member, National Academy of Sciences
Professor, Department of Anthropology
University of Washington, USA



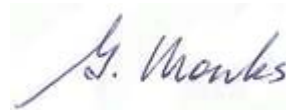
Hitomi Hongo
Graduate University for Advanced Studies Hayama,
Japan



Hans Christian Küchelmann
KNOCHENARBEIT Bremen,
Germany



Mariana Mondini
Laboratorio de Zooarqueología y Tafonomía de
Zonas Áridas (LaZTA) CONICET
Museo de Antropología UNC, Argentina



Gregory G. Monks, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Anthropology
University of Manitoba, Canada



Dra. Marta Moreno-García
G.I. Arqueobiología. Instituto de Historia
Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Spain



Terry O'Connor
Professor of Archaeological Science
Department of Archaeology, University of York, UK



Jean-Denis VIGNE
Dr HDR, Directeur de Recherche CE au CNRS
Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, France