

Dear Mr. Prime Minister Harper,

I am writing to you about the coming cuts to the Parks Canada archaeology program -- a program that is not only internationally recognized but that has long served as a model for work elsewhere, including in the United States, where I live and work.

As a matter of background, I served as a past president of the Society for Historical Archaeology (2003). I am also a past member of the U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, a Federal position to which I was appointed by President George Bush in 2003 and served until 2011.

The experience I gained from that service revealed to me how critically important our respective nations' histories are for shaping who we are, as individual countries and as neighbors in North America. Historical documents tell only part of the story; archaeological evidence, believe it or not, often tells a richer story, and nowhere has that story been more compelling than in Canada.

Please reconsider the cuts proposed for Parks Canada archaeology -- it is woefully true that the economy is bad all over, but of all things, it is Canada's archaeological record that proves the staying power of your great nation.

Many thanks for your consideration,

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