



Canadian Association for  
Conservation of Cultural Property  
Association canadienne pour la  
conservation et la restauration  
des biens culturels

Hon. Blaine Higgs, Premier  
Chancery Place  
P. O. Box 6000  
Fredericton, NB  
E3B 5H1

February 12, 2019

Dear Premier Higgs,

As Board President, I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (CAC) to strongly urge the New Brunswick government to reconsider its cancellation of the \$50 Million in provincial funding for the new facility project for the New Brunswick Museum (NBM).

CAC recognizes the unique value of the NBM collections and the work of its staff. As Canada's oldest continuing museum, the New Brunswick Museum and its rich collections provide tangible access and insight into the communities, stories and natural environment of the region, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of New Brunswick provincially and globally. The decision to withdraw provincial funding from the new facility project risks the irrevocable loss of irreplaceable collections and threatens the ongoing work of the museum to collect, preserve, research and interpret New Brunswick's natural and cultural heritage.

The shortcomings of the NBM's existing facilities, including the Douglas Ave. building, which was built in 1932, have been well-documented in numerous studies. Serious deficiencies in fire protection, lab ventilation, environmental controls, and the failing structural integrity of the Douglas Ave. building threaten the safety of both staff and collections. We need only look at the recent destruction of Brazil's National Museum by fire as a tragic example of what is risked by government inaction. Even with expensive and extensive renovations and repairs, the current NBM structures are unlikely to meet the environmental standards required for the preservation of the collections. New facilities built to meet environmental standards would guarantee the preservation of NBM collections and, consequently, their continued enjoyment and study by our children and grandchildren, the future generations of Canadians and New Brunswickers.

With 65,000 visitors annually, the NBM is a significant contributor to the economy of Saint John and the Province. Investing in new facilities for the NB Museum will further build the capacity of the Museum for tourism, for research, for interpretation and public access to collections. Stakeholders, including the Federal Government, have indicated financial support for a new facilities project. Community partners in Saint John, and the

province at large, foresee significant economic spin-offs from the investment in the new museum facilities. Provincial funding for new facilities for the New Brunswick Museum makes smart long-term economic sense for New Brunswickers!

CAC looks to the New Brunswick Provincial Government for the leadership and financial commitment required to protect and develop the capacity of the New Brunswick Museum and its priceless collections. We urge you to renew your commitment of \$50 million in provincial funding for the NBM's new facility project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison Freake". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison Freake, President

Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property |

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