

We are at a critical juncture in Canadian culture and heritage, particularly for those aspects that continue to rely upon on federal funding. The government's budget of 2012 continues to reverberate as the impacts of reductions work their way through federal departments and agencies which have been stewards or funders of history and heritage program across the country.

Beyond these cuts, other reductions have since been announced or come to light, adding to the scope and seriousness of the situation. These included the elimination of the Attendance Grants to Scholarly Associations (AAGSA) program that enabled travel subsidies for attendees at the CHA Annual Meeting. In the past, the CHA has relied on the program in particular to help fund the travel of a significant number of graduate students, who would otherwise be unable to attend our annual Meeting. We wrote to SSHRC to express our deep concern about this action but it is unlikely to be reversed.

Thanks to the efforts of Treasurer James Opp, the CHA has set up a new fund to partly compensate for the end of the SSHRC funding for travel. In this regard, the CHA Vice President Dominique Marshall and Program Chair Penny Bryden also began the application process to stage a concurrent scholarly event in Victoria for a Connections grant in part to enable students to travel to Victoria. Unfortunately, and well into the process, SSHRC announced that the Connection Grants were cancelled on February 20.

We are continuing to give voice to the concerns of our members while building awareness and knowledge of the impacts of government actions upon the historical community. On 17 December I led a delegation of CHA executives, including Dominique Marshall, Martin Laberge, Michel Duquet, and Advocacy Chair Yves Frenette to meet with the leaders of the Canadian Museum of Civilization. In a wide-ranging discussion we expressed concerns regarding the prospective change of mandate for the museum, especially the removal of reference to research. While the Museum executives have assured us that it is not diminishing the role of research at that institution, we remain vigilant and will be closely monitoring developments. My December 3, 2012 letter to CMC President Mark O'Neill, expressing our positions regarding the proposed changes, has not yet been answered but is posted on our website. Please check it out.

At the initiative of our treasurer James Opp, we are organizing a panel of presidents of the scholarly disciplines most affected by federal government cuts and reconfigurations as part of the National Council on Public History conference program this April in Ottawa. The participants will include Ellen Judd, President of the Canadian Anthropological Society, Loryl

Nous sommes confrontés à un moment critique pour la culture et le patrimoine canadiens, en particulier pour ce qui concerne le financement fédéral. Les répercussions des compressions budgétaires gouvernementales de 2012 continuent de faire sentir leurs effets dans les ministères et organismes fédéraux, ou subventionnaires, responsables de l'histoire et du patrimoine à travers le pays.

Depuis, d'autres coupures ont été annoncées ou ont fait surface, ce qui s'ajoute à la portée et à la gravité de la situation. Il s'agit notamment de l'élimination du programme Aide et subventions de voyage aux sociétés savantes (ASVSS) du CRSH qui avait facilité le déplacement des participants à la réunion annuelle de la SHC. La SHC misait sur le programme pour aider notamment à financer le déplacement de nombreux d'étudiants des cycles supérieurs qui auraient, autrement, été incapables de participer à notre assemblée annuelle. Nous avons écrit au CRSH pour exprimer notre profond désaccord avec cette décision, mais il est peu probable qu'elle soit modifiée.

Grâce aux efforts de notre trésorier, James Opp, la SHC a mis sur pied un nouveau fonds pour remplacer, en partie tout au moins, le programme d'aide au déplacement du CRSH. À cet égard, la vice-présidente de la SHC Dominique Marshall et la responsable de la programmation de notre réunion annuelle Penny Bryden ont entrepris un processus de demande de subvention Connexion dans le but d'organiser un événement scientifique parallèle à Victoria pour aider les étudiants de se rendre à la réunion. Malheureusement, une fois le processus d'application amorcé, le CRSH a annoncé, le 20 février la suspension des subventions Connexion.

Nous continuons à donner suite aux préoccupations de nos membres tout en les sensibilisant et les informant sur l'impact des agissements du gouvernement sur la communauté d'historiennes et d'historiens. Une délégation des membres de l'Exécutif de la SHC ; Dominique Marshall, Martin Laberge, Michel Duquet et moi-même ainsi que le responsable des interventions publiques Yves Frenette, a rencontré les dirigeants du Musée canadien des civilisations le 17 décembre. Nous avons alors exprimé nos inquiétudes au sujet de l'éventuel changement de mandat pour le musée et, en particulier, la suppression de la composante recherche. Malgré les paroles rassurantes des dirigeants du Musée, affirmant que le rôle de la recherche ne diminuera point, nous restons vigilants et suivrons de près le déroulement de la situation. La lettre que j'ai adressée au président du CMC Mark O'Neill le 3 décembre 2012 exprime nos positions à propos des modifications proposées. Celle-ci demeure sans réponse et elle est affichée dans notre site Web. Veuillez la consulter.

As the winter term draws to a close, conferences and research trips will begin again. For the first time since 2003, the National Council on Public History will be meeting in Canada with Ottawa hosting it. There will be a roundtable organized and hosted by the CHA/SHC with the view to looking to the future in the face of past and yet to be announced budget cuts. More details about this conference and session can be located in Michelle Hamilton and Jean-Pierre Morin's *Bulletin* article.

Victoria 2013 will be our annual opportunity to engage, learn, network and touch base with colleagues we don't get the opportunity to see often enough. The preliminary program was just uploaded to the CHA-SHC website and it will be a full schedule and includes Natalie Zemon Davis' keynote lecture, "Leo Africanus' Discovers Comedy: Genre Intersections and its Aftermath". As Penny Bryden, this year's CHA program conference chair outlines in her article on the CHA-SHC program, there will be an opportunity for important discussions about teaching history with two Brown Bag Teaching Workshops on "Teaching, the Historians' Other Craft" and "Perspectives on Pedagogy: Teaching Indigenous Histories in Canada".

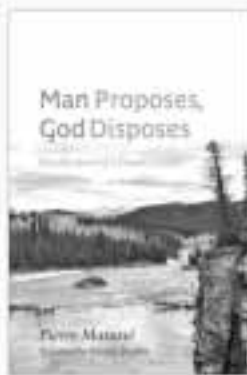
At the 2013 conference, there will be two graduate students blogging for the first time and there will be increased activity on Twitter and Facebook with several CHA-SHC committees using

social media to transmit and share knowledge. Hopefully more discussions will take place about history and MOOCs (massive open online courses), academia.edu, academicearth.org, iTunes.U and the expanding field of the digital humanities and research chairs. Where do these tools and resources fit into the careers and teaching material of junior, mid-career and senior scholars? How do we learn to use this technology effectively for the historical profession in addition to other demands of the profession?

This past teaching year has been instructive on where students are with regard to digital resources and their comfort with technology. In one class, students were required to evaluate two websites related to their major research paper. They were both unfamiliar with identifying credible websites and uncomfortable with this assignment. In another class students are using the Great Unsolved Mysteries in Canadian History and have shared that they have learned not to use or trust Internet resources. Whether or not this view is a misunderstanding of the critical evaluation process is unclear. I do hope we continue to use the *Bulletin* and conferences as a forum to discuss and debate new methods and research, teaching and technology.

J.M. McCutcheon

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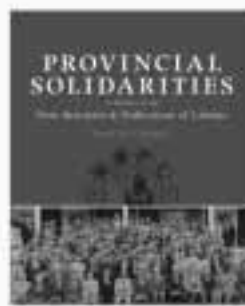
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