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Canada

Bibliothèque et Archives
Canada

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

ANNUAL REPORT

2020–2021

Guardian of the Past, Present and Future

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Introduction



Leslie Weir,
Librarian and
Archivist of Canada.
Source: Library and
Archives Canada

To describe the year 2020–2021 as turbulent is almost certainly an understatement. I doubt there is anyone who has not been changed somehow by the COVID-19 pandemic, a worldwide crisis that has extended well beyond what we anticipated at the start. Because of the pandemic, we have all learned to work differently, doing business in ways that no one could have imagined.

In fact, the pandemic has reshaped how we deal with the world. It came with a whole new vocabulary, one that has allowed us to express a new reality. Words like quarantine and lockdown became part of everyday speech, and Library and Archives Canada (LAC) staff worked remotely or in “quaranteams,” following the advice of public health authorities.

In response to the rapidly evolving situation, we reinvented the workplace, opening service points whenever we could, offering many services virtually, and making use of digitization to continue doing business. We adapted thanks to the determination, knowledge, flexibility and innovative spirit of LAC’s staff.

Our first priority during the pandemic has always been the health and safety of our employees and our clients. But this priority has been nearly matched by our commitment to serving the public. We have had to make some adjustments, but always strive to provide the best service possible.

This commitment required some agile thinking and the resilience of our staff across the country. The results reflected throughout this report demonstrate that we have continued to serve our users. There may have been delays, but we continued to provide services, although sometimes at a limited capacity. As things changed, either due to public health directives or shifting circumstances, we made sure to provide the most up-to-date information both in person and online through our website. For this, and for everything they do, I am extremely proud of everyone who works at LAC.

Despite the pandemic, in 2020–2021 we answered over 10,000 questions through reference services, digitized over two million images, and gained thousands of new followers through our social media channels. Our website was visited over four million times, and we launched 30 Flickr sets, which had over two million views.

Construction of LAC’s innovative new Preservation Storage Facility progressed at record speed, and the planning for Ādisōke, which LAC will share with Ottawa Public Library (OPL), also advanced well. The LAC-OPL joint facility, expected to welcome 1.7 million visitors a year, opens its doors in 2026.

Vision 2030 was launched, starting with consultations and surveys with LAC staff, stakeholders, users and Canadians, to create a collaborative vision to guide LAC’s future. Work continued on web renewal and on finding ways to improve the online experience for our users. New content integrated into an enhanced Collection Search tool, with the promise of seamless access and the elimination of outdated databases.

All of this was in addition to the ongoing work of engaging and connecting with Canadians through special events, exhibitions and ongoing partnerships. The Library and Archives Canada Foundation continued to raise funds and support LAC initiatives. The Foundation helped LAC to make two major acquisitions, and it co-presented the LAC Scholar Awards to five remarkable Canadians.

We also continued to work on reconciliation between the Government of Canada and First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation communities, not only through the Indigenous Heritage Action Plan, but also by providing and promoting information to support increased awareness of Indigenous histories. There was progress in creating a more representative workforce at LAC, one where Indigenous people would account for a proportional number of employees and executives.

It is important to highlight that even as LAC was experiencing the pandemic, we were documenting it, creating an accurate record that will help to inform decisions and promote understanding in the future.

I invite you to read the 2020–2021 annual report to find out more, and to reflect on how much can be accomplished despite one of the most difficult years in history. It reminds us of something we should never forget: that the power of the imagination and the resiliency of the human spirit are never in lockdown.



Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada

Looking Forward

Embracing sustainability and enhancing user experience

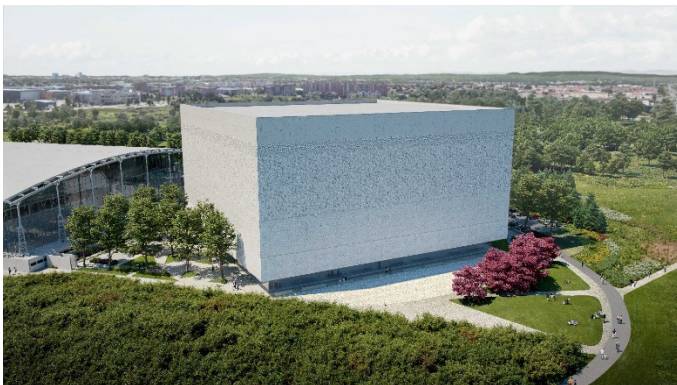
Canada's New Preservation Storage Facility Takes Shape

The project to build Library and Archives Canada's (LAC) new Preservation Storage Facility in Gatineau, Quebec, has progressed at a rapid pace in 2020–2021. The forthcoming building, which is adjacent to LAC's existing Preservation Centre, has taken shape and is on track for completion in the coming year. Workers are finalizing the installation of the precast concrete exterior panels, beginning the exterior landscaping and completing the interior fit-up of the building, which will house over 21,000 cubic metres of archival records. The second preservation facility to be built by LAC, this will be the first net-zero carbon building dedicated to documentary preservation in the Americas, and the first federal building constructed to meet the requirements of Canada's Greening Government Strategy. The net-zero designation means that there will be minimal carbon emissions from energy consumption, with energy needs met through carbon-free fuel sources.

This innovative project supports LAC's long-term vision for preserving Canada's documentary heritage, as well as LAC's commitment to invest in green infrastructure and harness its current and future benefits. Once completed, this flagship building will be one of the world's largest preservation facilities equipped with an automated storage and retrieval system for archival documents. The new building will manifest and exemplify the Government of Canada's priorities of investing in both sustainable federal infrastructure and Canadian culture.



LAC's future Preservation Storage Facility under construction in 2020. Photo: Plenary Properties Gatineau



Rendering of LAC's future Preservation Storage Facility. Source: Plenary Properties Gatineau



LAC's existing Preservation Centre (curved) is adjacent to the future Preservation Storage Facility (rectangular). Source: Plenary Properties Gatineau

LAC-OPL Joint Facility: Landmark Infrastructure

Planning for the [joint facility](#) that will be home to LAC and Ottawa Public Library (OPL) continued during the pandemic. The design development phase, during which the location and layout of spaces were finalized, was completed in the summer of 2020, with final architectural plans and design drawings ready in the spring of 2021.

In February 2021, Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, and Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, with Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and Councillor Matthew Luloff, Chair of the Ottawa Public Library Board, in attendance, announced a significant contribution of an additional \$34.5 million in federal funding to achieve a net-zero carbon building. Net-zero carbon structures reduce energy consumption to a minimum through building design strategies and efficiency measures to the point where the use of non-carbon-based energy sources becomes practical.

This support will provide for upgrades to the structure's exterior and insulation, triple-glazed windows, solar panels on the roof and facade, more sustainable building materials, and construction of an interior green wall. This funding is in line with the Government of Canada's efforts to ensure that major infrastructure projects like this one contribute to a clean, safe and sustainable environment for present and future generations.

Preparatory work began in the fall of 2020 at the LAC-OPL joint facility site, which is located on the western edge of downtown Ottawa, on traditional territory of the Algonquin people. A blessing ceremony was led by Elders from Anishinābe Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation and Kitigan Zibi First Nation on the site of the new facility in October 2020. Extensive Indigenous engagement activities were held with the urban Indigenous community of Ottawa-Gatineau as well as national Indigenous organizations, to help design a space that is welcoming, reflective and inclusive of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation visitors.

Scheduled to open in 2026, the facility—named *Ādisōke* (an Anishinābemowin word that refers to the telling of stories) in August 2021—promises to be a cultural showplace for the country's heritage, a meeting place for local residents and visitors alike, and a prime example of the federal government's commitment to building sustainable infrastructure.

“There is great value in modern and greener cultural spaces such as the one we are building in the heart of our capital. Not only will this building showcase our collective history and heritage, it will also point the way to a more sustainable future where clean growth is the rule.”
– **The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, February 8, 2021**

“Ottawa's amazing new super library—a partnership between LAC and OPL—will be one of the most sustainable buildings in Canada! Today we announced that the federal government is investing to make this iconic building net-zero emissions. This is good for the climate, for economic growth and jobs, and for building a cleaner, more inclusive community.”
– **The Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, February 8, 2021**



Design drawing of the LAC-OPL joint facility's green roof with solar panels. © 2021 City of Ottawa/Ottawa Public Library/Library and Archives Canada. All rights reserved.



Design drawing of the central gathering space of the LAC-OPL joint facility. © 2021 City of Ottawa/Ottawa Public Library/Library and Archives Canada. All rights reserved.



Design drawing of the LAC-OPL joint facility. © 2021 City of Ottawa/Ottawa Public Library/Library and Archives Canada. All rights reserved.

A Vision to Guide Our Future

The digital revolution has increased LAC’s popularity more than ever, with Canadians demanding better access to our collections, both online and in person. Moreover, while our mandate remains the same, the way our clients use information is constantly changing, compelling us to continue improving and innovating our services.

With this in mind, LAC launched Vision 2030 in the spring of 2020—an initiative intended to foster reflection, analysis and planning to chart LAC’s course over the next 10 years, and beyond. The initiative is intended to support LAC’s continuing mandate to acquire, process, preserve and disseminate Canada’s documentary heritage while focusing on service transformation and digital optimization.

Vision 2030 aims to provide the right resources to our experts and users to make the collection known and accessible to more people and more diverse audiences, and to meet the rising expectations of Canadians. Through the initiative, we plan to optimize our operations by improving our tools and processes, and to create a digital environment to help us engage with our colleagues, partners, stakeholders and, especially, Canadians everywhere. This optimization covers all aspects of our digital activities, from acquisitions to preservation, and from discovery to online access.

In order to develop a vision statement and road map, to be unveiled in the spring of 2022, LAC has relied on the participation and commitment of several parties. We engaged with our staff, and we have also consulted a wide range of stakeholders, users and Canadians. Consultations with external audiences will continue well into 2021.

Why a Vision, and Why Now?

- LAC’s collection is rich and vast; however, only a small percentage of it is available online.
- Because of increasing demands for online content, our web tools need to be improved.
- The joint facility we will share with Ottawa Public Library is impressive; it will welcome an annual estimated attendance of almost 1.7 million visitors, starting in 2026.
- By 2030, the amount of digital data will have grown by more than 1,000 percent.

Web Renewal: Improving Online User Experience

Visitors to LAC's website may have encountered pop-up windows inviting them to respond to surveys that ask them to find specific information or services on our site. These surveys and other consultative activities are under way as part of LAC's Web Renewal Initiative. Its goal is to improve your online user experience by adopting the [Canada.ca design model](#) on our redesigned institutional website and applications.

The Canada.ca design model emphasizes a client-centric approach by grouping all information into themes, topics and tasks aligned with specific online needs. Web content is organized so that users can get the most important information up front. Following an extensive analysis of environmental scans, surveys, user feedback and web metrics, our new website will be grouping our online information and applications into three overriding themes: corporate, services and collection.

Additional surveys will be launched on our public website to help us validate design options developed by the project team. This will help us to ensure that our online visitors can easily navigate and identify the topics and tasks that are most relevant for their needs, now and in the future.

Enhancing Collection Search

Collection Search is an online tool that enables users to search various items more efficiently from a single search location. LAC launched Collection Search on its website in 2017, and in 2019, the tool became the main entry point to the collection. In 2020–2021, LAC continued to improve the functionality of Collection Search and added content to enhance users' research experience. A new viewer in Collection Search enables on-screen access to PDFs and audiovisual material in addition to JPEGs. For the first time, material in these formats can be displayed and read alongside the LAC record. Users now also have the ability to contribute crowdsourced metadata directly within Collection Search.

In the future, Collection Search will allow for single, unified access to existing search results from more than 100 stand-alone databases currently on LAC's website. The integration of new datasets into Collection Search not only allows for seamless access, but also addresses technical issues with outdated databases that are no longer supported. LAC continues to work hard behind the scenes to maintain this product and ensure users' access to the collection.

New content integrated into Collection Search this year includes:

- Indian Reserves—Western Canada
- Treaties, Surrenders and Agreements
- Ship Registrations



The legendary Canadian fishing schooner *Bluenose* marked its 100th anniversary in 2021. Users may consult the ship's registration details included in the dataset Ship Registrations, now available in Collection Search. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e010862147

Engagement

Connecting with Canadians

Events

Given COVID-19 restrictions across Canada, LAC explored innovative approaches to share its events with Canadians.

Signatures Interviews with Arlette Cousture and Adrienne Clarkson

The Signatures Interviews, conducted by Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, offer unique encounters with Canadian personalities who have donated their archives to LAC. These public interviews are an excellent way to discover hidden treasures in the collection.

In October 2020, Leslie Weir welcomed acclaimed author Arlette Cousture to discuss the writer's archives. It documents her entire career and includes manuscripts, typescripts and correspondence relating to her books and published texts, as well as a few unpublished works. The interview was a unique opportunity to see documents and objects from Ms. Cousture's archives and to examine the creative process that led to such landmark work as her *Filles de Caleb* trilogy.

In December 2020, Leslie Weir hosted Adrienne Clarkson, Canada's 26th Governor General, who arrived in Canada from Hong Kong in 1942 and made an astonishing journey from child refugee to accomplished broadcaster, journalist and distinguished public servant in a multi-faceted lifetime. Madame Clarkson's archives held at LAC consists of documents relating to her personal and professional life. It includes documents about her family, her education, her career as a broadcast journalist and writer, her years at Rideau Hall as Governor General, and her career and activities afterward.

The interviews were broadcast live and are available on LAC's [YouTube channel](#).



Documents about the structure of *Le Cri de l'oise blanche* (Libre Expression, 1986), the second volume in Arlette Cousture's *Les Filles de Caleb* trilogy. Source: Library and Archives Canada/Arlette Cousture archives (R16227)



Adrienne Clarkson (left), her mother and father on graduation day. Source: Library and Archives Canada/Adrienne Clarkson archives (R12308, vol. 181, file 15)

Wallot-Sylvestre Seminar: The Importance of Collaboration in Digital Humanities

The Wallot-Sylvestre seminars are lectures in the fields of information, library and archival science. They allow lecturers from the academic, public and private sectors, including scholars and practitioners, to present their thoughts on these areas. In September 2020, Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, moderated a panel discussion on [LAC's YouTube channel](#) with leaders working at the intersection of digital humanities and library and archival sciences. Each panellist has a background in digital scholarship and public outreach, and they discussed their experiences with collaboration and community engagement in the digital sphere. Guests included Dr. J. Matthew Huculak, Digital Scholarship Librarian at the University of Victoria Libraries; Sarah Simpkin, Head, Research Support (Arts and Special Collections) at the University of Ottawa Library; Constance Crompton, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Ottawa; Kim Martin, Assistant Professor in History at the University of Guelph; and Amy Tector, Acting Director, Access to Information, Privacy and Litigation Response, at LAC.

In the Trenches Webinars

In November 2020 and February 2021, LAC invited Canadians to learn about digitized resources available for conducting research about the First World War and the individuals who served. The introductory workshops, titled *In the Trenches*, explored various types of digitized military records from the First World War in the LAC collection, such as service files, war diaries, photographs, sailing lists and court-martial records. The workshops also showed participants how to interpret and access Canadian Expeditionary Force service files online. These virtual offerings were broadcast live on LAC's [Facebook page](#) and featured a question-and-answer period with LAC experts. Workshops and seminars are a great opportunity for LAC staff to work closely with user groups as they explore LAC's holdings.

Number 222216 Rank *STB*
 Surname FERGUSON
 Christian Name William Don
 Units 85th Bn CAN Theatre of War France
 Date of Service 10-2-17
 Remarks
 Latest Address L. P.O.
 Sydney Mines
 Roll No. 13461177 C.B. N.S.
 200m.-2-21.M.

Canadian Expeditionary Force service file for William Daniel Ferguson, service no. 222216. Source: Library and Archives Canada



War Records Survey Poster, “Are YOU in this?,” ca. 1914–1918. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e010697373

Conversations Between the German National Library and LAC

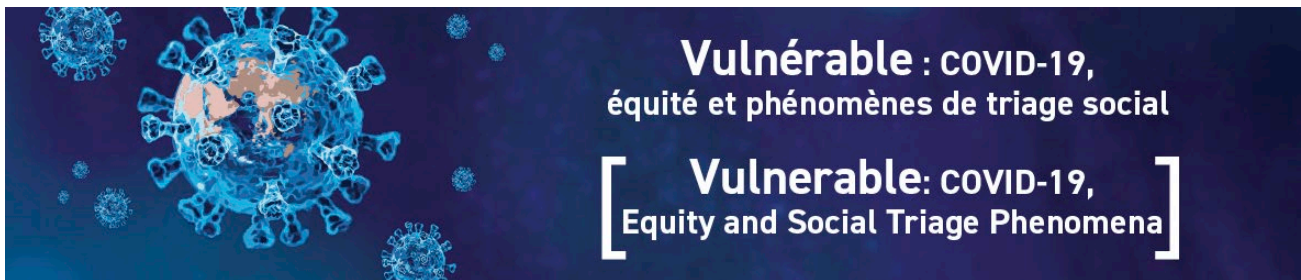
In October 2020, the German National Library and LAC were pleased to present part one of a four-part public series of conversations exploring the effects of digitization on national documentary-heritage institutions. Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, was joined by Frank Scholze, Director General of the German National Library, for the inaugural discussion on exploring digitization practices and priorities. A second conversation exploring user access to institution collections through recent digital tools and services took place in March 2021. The exchanges were broadcast live and are available on LAC’s [YouTube channel](#).

The Ottawa International Writers Festival’s 2020 Fall Season Goes Virtual

LAC, in partnership with the [Ottawa International Writers Festival](#) and [Ottawa Public Library](#), launched an exciting season of podcasts, conversations and author visits in the fall of 2020. Events included a conversation hosted by CBC News Ottawa reporter and anchor Adrian Harewood with authors Kaie Kellough and Ian Williams, which focused on community and belonging; a powerful discussion hosted by journalist and professor Matthew Pearson with author Justin Ling on the tragic story of the disappearance of eight men—the victims of serial killer Bruce McArthur—from Toronto’s queer community; an exchange hosted by journalist and host Shelagh Rogers with authors David A. Robertson and Jesse Thistle on family and healing; and a creative writing workshop for teens with author Lindsay Wong.

Vulnerable: COVID-19, Equity and Social Triage Phenomena

As recently stated by the Hon. Louis LeBel, former Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, the COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on various forms of insidious “social triage” resulting from persisting inequality in our societies. In January 2021, LAC and the [University of Ottawa Press](#) invited the public to a virtual conference entitled *Vulnérable : COVID-19, équité et phénomènes de triage social* [Vulnerable: COVID-19, Equity and Social Triage Phenomena], to examine how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the most vulnerable groups. Hosted by Philippe Marcoux from Radio-Canada, the conference, which was broadcast on LAC’s [YouTube channel](#), featured three of the authors of *Vulnerable: The Law, Policy and Ethics of COVID-19*. Published in 2020 by the University of Ottawa Press, this book focuses on law, policy and ethics, while exploring the multiple inequities exacerbated by the pandemic and by measures taken to stop it from spreading.



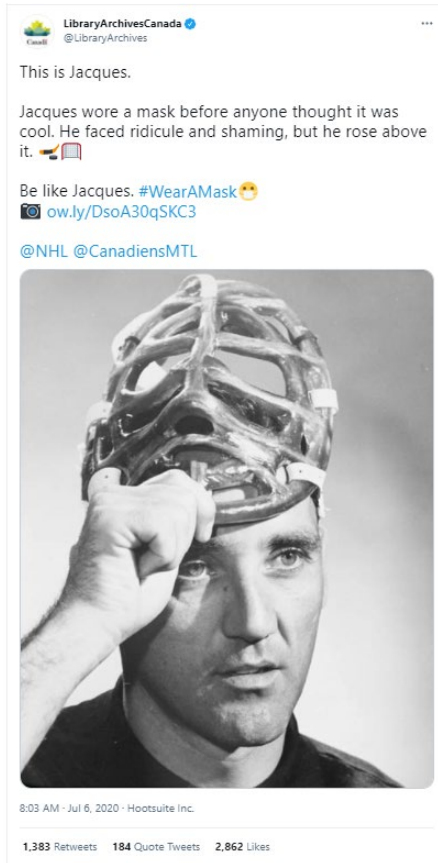
Source: Library and Archives Canada

Social Media and Online Content

Supporting the Government of Canada’s COVID-19 Messaging

Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Canada called upon LAC to help disseminate its messaging about public health measures. While pandemic-related communications differ from LAC’s regular social media content, LAC found numerous connections between the Government of Canada’s key messages for the pandemic and meaningful moments in Canadian history that could be linked to LAC’s collection. The result was numerous successful posts about physical distancing, vaccines and wearing masks. LAC’s creativity in supporting the broader Government of Canada key messaging and our ability to tailor general posts to our audience were highlighted numerous times in interdepartmental meetings and presentations.

While significant social media resources were shifted toward supporting COVID-19 messaging in 2020–2021, LAC celebrated other accomplishments, such as a Facebook webinar in partnership with [Ancestry.ca](#), hosting live events on [YouTube](#), as well as launching LAC’s [LinkedIn account](#) in September 2020—an endeavour that will help us to reach even greater audiences.



← In support of the Government of Canada’s COVID-19 messaging, LAC inspires Canadians to wear a mask by recalling sports pioneer Jacques Plante, the first National Hockey League goalie to wear a protective mask. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e010933903



↑ LAC promotes vaccine awareness by reminding the public of the successes of previous national vaccination campaigns. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e010982291

Co-Lab Challenges

Co-Lab, a crowdsourcing tool for transcribing, translating, tagging and describing LAC’s digital records, has the aim of increasing the digital content of LAC’s collections, giving Canadians the opportunity to engage with the vast collection while making it more easily accessible and discoverable for others. In 2020–2021, LAC created four Co-Lab challenges that generated over 1,500 contributions from the public. One challenge was War Diaries of the First World War: No. 2 Construction Battalion, the first and only all-Black battalion in Canadian military history. Another was Molly Lamb Bobak’s Second World War diary—a challenge featuring drawings and insightful accounts of the everyday events of army life by Molly Lamb Bobak, the first female official war artist overseas.

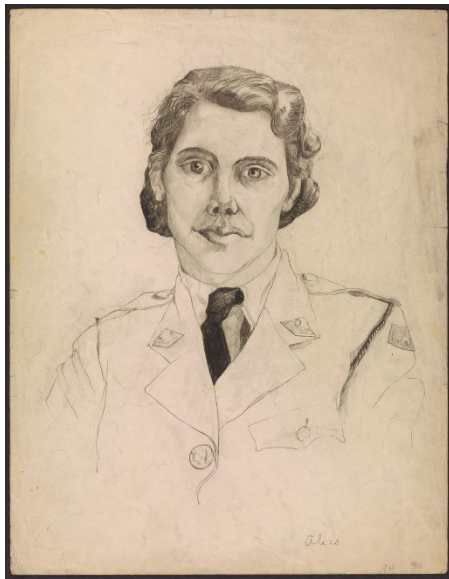


Image 100 from the Co-Lab challenge on Molly Lamb Bobak's Second World War diary: "Alice," by Molly Lamb Bobak, ca. 1943. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e011161047

Blogs, Flickr Albums and Podcasts

LAC published 102 blogs, 30 Flickr albums and 12 podcasts in 2020–2021. These unique products generated an incredible 216,233 blog views, 2,319,950 Flickr views, and 108,688 podcast downloads. It is clear that COVID-19 influenced our products in 2020–2021; the blog "[Working while parenting isn't new, most of us are just out of practice](#)" provides a thoughtful look at the balance between parenting and working in Canada, past and present, while the Flickr album "[2020 hindsight: relatable historical images during COVID-19](#)" features Canadian historical images that represent solidarity as we navigate these uncertain times.

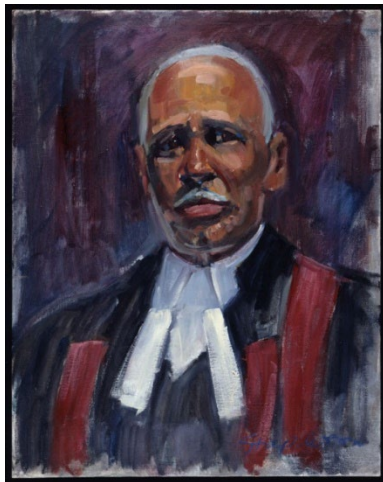
Another notable blog to be posted was "[Pushing Back: The Ongoing History of Black Activism in Canada.](#)" As well, the podcast "Call to Duty: Canadian Nursing Sisters" and its accompanying Flickr album, "[Nursing Sisters,](#)" looked at Canadian nurses working as fully enlisted officers in the First World War. There was also a [blog post](#), an [album](#) and a two-part podcast on the Avro Arrow (including Part 2 on the aircraft's cancellation), a topic that has captured the imagination of many Canadians for over 60 years.



From the blog "[Working while parenting isn't new, most of us are just out of practice](#)": Two women work at a weaving frame while a nearby child amuses the baby, Cap à l'Aigle, Quebec, ca. 1910. Source: Library and Archives Canada/a040744



From the Flickr album “2020 hindsight: relatable historical images during COVID-19”: Receiving parcels at post office. Source: Library and Archives Canada/a059937



From the blog “Pushing Back: The Ongoing History of Black Activism in Canada”: Portrait of Citizenship Judge Stanley Grizzle, by William Stapleton. Source: Library and Archives Canada/c151473k



From the blog “Canadian achievement in the air: the Avro Canada CF-105 Arrow”: The rollout of the first Avro Canada CF-105 Arrow in Malton, Ontario, October 4, 1957. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e999912501

Exhibitions

A key component of LAC's exhibition programming is partnering to use the "walls of others" to display originals. Since many institutions across Canada were closed to the public due to COVID-19, the majority of loans of LAC material have either been extended, shortened or delayed.

Metamorphosis: Contemporary Canadian Portraits

Commemoration, mortality, renewal... these are some of the themes explored in *Metamorphosis: Contemporary Canadian Portraits*, an exhibition scheduled to run for most of 2020 at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. The exhibition, created in collaboration between Glenbow and LAC, includes works by 14 important artists, in a variety of media, drawn from the LAC and Glenbow collections. In every case, artists have been inspired by the idea of transformation or change. As part of a multi-year collaboration with LAC, Glenbow is hosting a series of five portrait-themed exhibitions drawn from LAC's collection.



From *Metamorphosis: Contemporary Canadian Portraits*: James #2, Deuil I series, by Spring Hurlbut, 2005.
Source: Library and Archives Canada/e008300450

Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation in the Archival Records of LAC

Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation was developed by LAC in collaboration with the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Métis National Council, with the support of the Government of Canada. This travelling exhibition encourages individuals to discover the great variety of archival documents in LAC's collection about the Métis Nation, explore the portrayal of Métis Citizens—some of whom are "hiding in plain sight"—in art and photographs, and obtain a better understanding of the history and culture of the Métis Nation. This exhibition has been travelling across Canada since originally appearing in 2016 at LAC's building located at 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa. In 2020–2021, it was scheduled to be presented by Métis Nation of Alberta and the Jasper-Yellowhead Museum and Archives in Jasper, Alberta; by the Western Development Museum and the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Western Region 3 in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan; and by Métis Crossing and Métis Nation of Alberta in Smoky Lake, Alberta.



From *Hiding in Plain Sight: Discovering the Métis Nation*: Louis Riel, by William James Topley, ferrotype, circa 1875. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e011156891

Partnerships and Community

Preserving our country's continuing memory through collaboration

The Library and Archives Canada Foundation

Created in 2018, the [Library and Archives Canada Foundation](#) is an independent non-governmental registered Canadian charity whose mission is to raise funds and support LAC initiatives. These funds help the institution to grow, preserve and more extensively promote LAC's collection, as well as to obtain public support for its projects.

Led by Jacques J.M. Shore, a partner at Gowling WLG, the Foundation's Board of Directors is made up of influential people passionate about Canada's history and heritage. They are all committed to increasing LAC's visibility and making it a creative force in our cultural ecosystem.

This year, the Foundation had to migrate to a virtual environment in order to maintain its activities. In addition to setting up working committees, it recruited two new directors: Canadian lawyer and politician Marlene Jennings, and journalist Deborah Yedlin, the Chancellor of the University of Calgary.

Additionally, thanks to the Foundation's support, LAC was able to make two major acquisitions to expand its collection of cultural and historical treasures. The first consists of copies of [legislation passed by the British Parliament](#), which are among the cornerstones of Canada's legislative and constitutional history. The second consists of around 70 titles that have been added to the institution's prestigious collection of Hebraica and Judaica. Also this year, LAC and the Foundation held the second Library and Archives Canada Scholar Awards ceremony.

The Library and Archives Canada Foundation is an outstanding partner for our institution and a powerful philanthropic tool. It continues to make an invaluable contribution to LAC, one that is both tangible and enduring.

The Library and Archives Canada Scholar Awards

The Library and Archives Canada Scholar Awards, co-presented by the Library and Archives Canada Foundation and LAC, with the generous support of the awards' Founding Sponsor Air Canada, recognize remarkable Canadians who have made an outstanding contribution to the creation and promotion of our country's culture, literary and historical heritage. The 2020 recipients, who were honoured in the spring of 2021 during an online ceremony broadcast on LAC's [YouTube channel](#), are poet, novelist, literary critic and essayist Margaret Atwood; novelist and author Roch Carrier; historian, author and biographer Charlotte Gray; former senator, art collector and philanthropist Serge Joyal; and radio and television producer and personality Terry O'Reilly.

As the custodian of our distant past and our recent history, LAC is an essential resource for all Canadians who wish to know themselves better, individually and collectively. As such, it is essential for LAC and the Library and Archives Canada Foundation to recognize the exemplary work of those who support its fundamental mission, here and around the world. This recognition also seeks to highlight the fact that the creation and dissemination of our heritage are increasingly democratic undertakings, no longer reserved to environments where knowledge has traditionally been developed.

"I would like to congratulate these incredible Canadians who have demonstrated the power of arts and heritage activities in our society. They have created works that defined a generation of Canadians and contributed significantly to arts, cultural and social service organizations."

– The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, March 2020

“We applaud our 2020 LAC Scholar Awards recipients, and we are proud to engage in this exciting initiative with LAC. LAC is the home of Canada’s historical and cultural treasures, and this vast national collection is a magnificent tribute to our past, and a foundation of knowledge on which to build our future. In addition to supporting LAC’s mission, the Foundation’s goal is to enhance the visibility of LAC and to position it as a creative force in our cultural environment.”

– Jacques J.M. Shore, Chair of the LAC Foundation, March 2020



2020 LAC Scholar Awards recipients: Margaret Atwood, Roch Carrier, Charlotte Gray, Serge Joyal and Terry O’Reilly. Source: Library and Archives Canada



Source: Library and Archives Canada

Documentary Heritage Communities Program

The Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP) was created by LAC in 2015 to preserve Canada’s history and the country’s continuing memory, bring the past to life, and make heritage organizations relevant and accessible to local populations.

In 2020–2021, the DHCP once again provided a total of \$1.5 million to documentary heritage organizations across Canada. This funding served to support 40 projects led by local library and archival organizations. Once again, the annual funding provided by the DHCP made it possible to support projects that showcase the diverse heritage of communities throughout the provinces and territories.

Many of the projects funded by the DHCP relate to the heritage of Indigenous, multicultural and minority communities. These include projects by Indigenous organizations, such as the Kitikmeot Heritage Society and the Syilx Language House Association, and other organizations, including Rise Up! – Feminist Digital Archive and History of Disability Rights Newfoundland and Labrador Inc.

As well, the DHCP continues to promote the importance of official languages in minority communities. For example, it renewed the funding for the Société historique de Saint-Boniface, which allowed the organization to carry out the second phase of its project to digitize sound recordings from its archives.

“By supporting this project, LAC has enabled us to make a rich variety of recordings available, including interviews, life histories, songs, stories, dialogues, memoirs and public discussions from diverse Francophone (in minority communities in Manitoba) and Métis [Nation] organizations and individuals. These recordings (now available to all) will no doubt provide inspiration for future academic studies, cultural projects and works of art.”

– Janet La France, Executive Director, Société historique de Saint-Boniface



Sarah Story, Digital Archivist for the Société historique de Saint-Boniface, during the process of digitizing sound recordings from the organization’s archives. Photo: Lorne Coulson, Société historique de Saint-Boniface

TD Summer Reading Club

The [TD Summer Reading Club](#) (TDSRC) is Canada’s biggest, bilingual summer reading program for kids of all ages, interests and abilities. Co-created and delivered by over 2,000 public libraries across Canada, this free national program is developed by Toronto Public Library in partnership with LAC, with sponsorship provided by TD Bank Group. In preparation for the 2020 TDSRC, over three million pieces of program materials had been ordered, and libraries across the country were excited to celebrate the *Game on!* theme alongside the 2020 Olympics. However, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the uncertainty of when libraries could reopen forced the TDSRC team to store the print materials and to reimagine the 2020 program to make it exclusively online.

To our already robust online program, we added numerous free e-books, as well as workshops and storytimes led by Canadian authors and illustrators. We also added passive program activities that readers could download and print at home. To help libraries adjust to all the changes, we held webinars to introduce all of the new online resources that would be available on the kids’ site that summer. To generate

excitement about the 2020 TDSRC's exclusively online program, we initiated a social media chalk challenge and created a Facebook group where libraries could discuss challenges and solutions to running a reading program during a pandemic. Because of these efforts, the number of participating libraries increased by 10 percent in 2020.



© TD Summer Reading Club 2020 logo

Friends of Library and Archives Canada

The [Friends of Library and Archives Canada](#) (FLAC) continued to support LAC during the COVID-19 pandemic by conducting activities virtually and increasing the time spent on the Bibliographic Project, which saw significant growth. Launched in 2016, the project aims to improve access to, and the search function of, LAC's Canadian Expeditionary Force database. Over the 2020–2021 fiscal year, a group of 10 dedicated FLAC volunteers added key information to 159,806 of the 622,290 digitized files contained in the database, giving Canadians greater access to information.

Sadly, the pandemic caused the temporary closure of the Friends' used bookstore, "The Cubby." Nevertheless, the Friends pivoted to online book sales. FLAC also supported two acquisitions for LAC over the past fiscal, including *The Moosonee Hymnal* (1890) by John Horden and John Sanders, which is published in Ojibwa syllabary (only one other Canadian library holds a copy), and a 2003 poster commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Library of Canada. The poster is colourful and visually appealing. It documents a significant event in the history of the National Library shortly before it merged with the National Archives of Canada one year later to form LAC.



This 2003 poster commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Library of Canada features a reproduction of a 1968 mural, *Les Alphabets / The Alphabets*, by Quebec artist Alfred Pellan. Signatures on the poster include those of Roch Carrier and Marianne Scott, former national librarians of Canada; André Ouellet, former CEO and President of Canada Post Corporation; and Cimon Morin, former Manager of the Canadian Postal Archives.

University Partnerships

In 2020–2021, LAC signed a new collaborative agreement with the Université du Québec à Montréal and renewed its agreements with Dalhousie University and the University of Ottawa (uOttawa). We also renewed our sub-agreement with uOttawa for the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Project, which aims to create a centre of expertise to document the history of women who have contributed to STEM in Canada. LAC also met with its university partners in the fall of 2020 to discuss past and future collaboration and to consider a joint action plan to promote collaboration among partners and LAC.

GLAM Think Tank

Recognizing the need for further reflection on how the pandemic is affecting the galleries, libraries, archives and museums (GLAM) sector, LAC organized a virtual Think Tank in February and March 2021, which brought together about 60 organizations and individuals from the GLAM community and from LAC's university partners to discuss the situation of GLAMs during and post-COVID-19. Consisting of five sessions, the Think Tank saw participants come together to uncover new roles and opportunities for GLAMs that stem from the sector's changing social realities, as well as to share ideas on how to enhance the digital presence of GLAMs, demonstrate their relevance in a crisis context and redefine their social value. The Think Tank discussions will form the basis of a set of guiding principles to help the GLAM community move forward during these transitional times.

The Collection

Acquisition, preservation, digitization

Documenting the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic

More than ever before, web archiving in 2020 emerged internationally as a rapid response means of documenting a crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that web archiving is one of the few immediate actions that information professionals and digital librarians and archivists can take to preserve a historical timeline and primary resources in an extended crisis. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, LAC was fully engaged in documenting the evolution of the situation and its effects on Canadian society. LAC curated a diverse collection that includes websites from government and non-government sources, as well as social media relating to the impact of the pandemic on life in Canada.

This important work not only collected digital information that will serve as historical primary sources on COVID-19 for future research, but it will also help tomorrow's Canadians understand what it was like for those living through this crisis; as well, it will provide future leaders with important background, data and experiences to help guide their decisions.

COVID-19 Collection Scope, Priorities and Highlights:

- French and English news media (e.g. daily newspaper crawls and targeted COVID-19 content)
- Impact on business and the economy (e.g. corporate sites for affected industries)
- Health, science and medicine (e.g. information about research efforts)
- Sites focused on social and cultural aspects, including religion and artistic and cultural expression and impacts on families, children and education
- Curated social media related to COVID-19 (e.g. Twitter communications from public health officials and ongoing capture of tweets with hashtags related to COVID-19 in Canada)

Preparing for the Move to Our New Preservation Storage Facility

This past year, LAC has been busy pursuing its second year of physical collection preparation. These preparations aim to ensure the integrity and reliability of the metadata associated with the physical aspects of the LAC collection, as well as to ensure its safety during its upcoming move to the new Preservation Storage Facility in Gatineau, Quebec, scheduled to open in 2022. To make the most efficient use of the future facility, LAC established a five-year preservation and collection management project, which aims to relocate 700,000 archival containers of collection material to the new building. This will be done in a secure fashion, ensuring that items are tracked throughout the move and retrievable at all times. LAC is only a year away from the substantial completion of the new facility, and the start of the two-year collection move into this new state-of-the-art building, a move which is planned to be completed in 2024. Even though the Collection Preparation and Move Project has been impacted by the pandemic over the past year, the dedication and professionalism of our team members, the implementation of timely, safe and innovative solutions, and the extensive collaboration with our stakeholders have enabled LAC to continue to progress on this important project.



Laurie Young, Collections Management Clerk, surveys the collection in Vault 36 at LAC's existing Preservation Centre in Gatineau, Quebec, in preparation for the move to our new Preservation Storage Facility. Photo: Library and Archives Canada



At LAC's Preservation Centre, employees prepare for the move to our new Preservation Storage Facility. Photo: Library and Archives Canada

Microfilm Project

After completing Phase 1 of the Microfilm Survey with the Preventative Care and Maintenance Section, which aimed to improve our knowledge of how the microfilm collection is stored, preserved and made accessible, we moved to Phase 2 of the survey in 2020–2021. At this time, we successfully identified microfilms in LAC buildings in the National Capital Region that were previously inaccessible, including close to 18,000 microfilms at LAC's storage facility in Renfrew, Ontario. The priority for the coming year will be to ensure that microfilm master reels that will be moving from LAC's Preservation Centre to our new Preservation Storage Facility are properly prepared for the move. The collection also continues to grow, with LAC set to acquire a newspaper collection of 30,000 rolls of microfilm.

Experimenting with Microclimates

Over the years at LAC, a variety of different materials and methods have been used to make microclimates within the individual conservation labs for all of the specialized collection materials that we loan to other institutions. With ongoing changes to materials and technologies, and an increase in loans and exhibitions, it was important that LAC develop an updated methodology.

In 2020–2021, the Microclimate Project used 14 data loggers, which were distributed to LAC’s four conservation labs. Each of the labs created microclimates using materials within the labs from either study collection items or sample papers. The microclimates were then framed (see photos below) and installed at 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa. This in-house experimentation will remain in place for one year. The resulting data, which will be collected in the coming year, will help to support future decision making at LAC for loan and exhibition requests, and it will assist in the analysis of the environmental data and facility reports from borrowing institutions.



Framed microclimates at 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa. Photos: Tania Passafiume, LAC

Launch of the Third Edition of *Lingua Franca*

Lingua Franca: A Common Language for Conservators of Photographic Materials, LAC’s first English-French visual glossary of photo conservation terms in enhanced e-book format, was first launched by LAC in 2017, in collaboration with the Atelier de Restauration et de Conservation des Photographies de la Ville de Paris. A second edition was launched in 2018. Inspired by the term “lingua franca,” which refers to a common language used by speakers of different languages, this visual glossary of photo conservation terminology provides commonly used terms defined and illustrated with photographs, videos and interactive features such as links to LAC’s collection items, podcasts and blogs.

The long-term goal of this publication is always to adapt it into as many languages as possible to maximize its relevancy to international conservation communities. In 2020–2021, LAC, in association with Fundación Comillas (CIESE-Comillas), added Spanish translations of the content to the e-book through the use of pop-up text and launched the third edition of *Lingua Franca* in February 2021. As with the two previous releases, the book immediately went to the top of the Free Photo Books section on Apple Books.



From *Lingua Franca*, Chapter 1: Processes. Example of a lantern slide, a transparency of a positive photograph on glass; Myrtle Cook of Canada (left) winning a preliminary heat in the women's 100-metre race at the VIIIth Summer Olympic Games, Amsterdam, 1928. Source: Library and Archives Canada/a150994



From *Lingua Franca*, Chapter 1: Processes. Example of a colour transparency on plastic film; a house being moved by floating it from Silver Fox Island, Bonavista Bay, to Dover, Newfoundland, 1961. Photo: Bob Brooks. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e010975945-v8

In Case of an Emergency!

In 2020–2021, LAC completed a thorough salvage procedure document to be included in the appendix of the Collection Response and Recovery Action Team (CRRAT) program, which describes each media in detail within our vast collection and their recovery procedure. This document includes in-depth descriptions on how to salvage each type of media during incidents involving a fire or flood. This procedural document also includes information on biological agents, earthquakes and power outages. It will serve as a decision-making tool for both LAC conservators and the members of CRRAT to ensure the preservation of LAC's collection during and following an incident.

Digitization Highlights

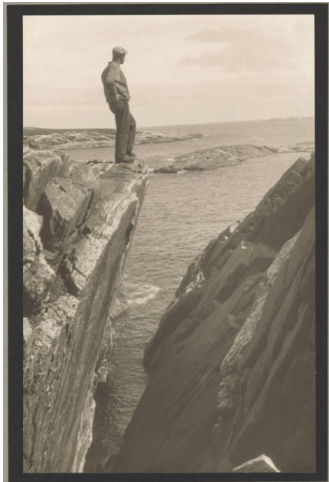
In 2020–2021, LAC notably provided digitization support for the following:

- The Federal Indian Day School Class Action
- LAC's We Are Here: Sharing Stories initiative to digitize hundreds of thousands of Indigenous-related collection items
- Indexes, finding aids and microfilm collections in preparation for the move to the new LAC-OPL joint facility in 2026, and to provide better access to LAC reference collections in digital format

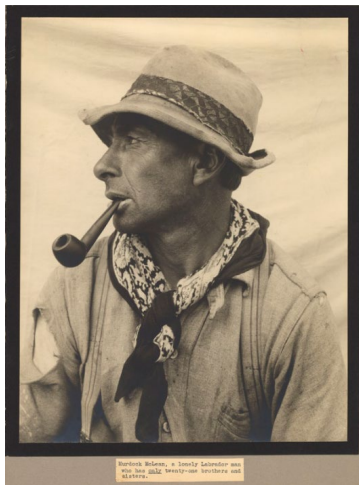


Han Shen, Digital Imaging Technician, working on digitizing personnel records.

Photo: Library and Archives Canada



Digitized for We Are Here: Sharing Stories: Man standing on cliff overlooking ocean, Newfoundland or Labrador, 1930. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e011439676



Digitized for We Are Here: Sharing Stories: Murdock McLean, trapper, North West River, Labrador, 1930.
Source: Library and Archives Canada/e011312944

Acquisitions of Note

Preserving the Documentary Evidence of the Holocaust

In January 2021, LAC announced the acquisition of the 1943 report *The Mass Extermination of Jews in German Occupied Poland*, one of the earliest sources to sound the global alarm about the Holocaust in progress during the Second World War. Donated by the son of a Holocaust survivor, this 16-page English-language document holds an important place in history; it answers questions about what and when the Allies knew about the Nazi extermination program. As Canada was one of the leading Allied nations during this period, these questions are important to our own understanding of the Holocaust and our country's role during the war.

“More than 75 years after it came to an end, humanity is still haunted by the Holocaust. Institutions like Library and Archives Canada have a duty to build the most complete record of events—no matter how horrifying—that have shaped the history of the world and of our country. It is our hope that through education and awareness, we will someday move towards a future where such tragedies only belong to the past.”

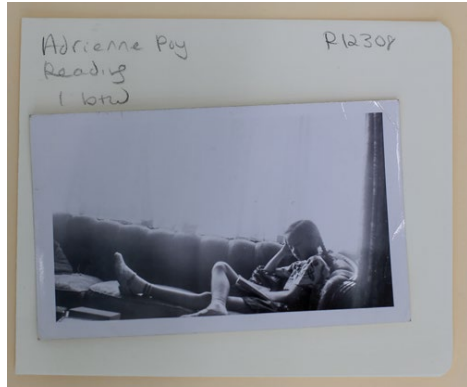
– Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, January 2021

Desmarais et Robitaille Archives

Desmarais et Robitaille, founded in Montréal in 1909, is a company specializing in liturgical arts and the sale of religious articles. LAC acquired the [company's archives](#), which document its activities spanning more than a century and bear witness to the important changes in religious practice during this period. The archives contains 11,000 technical and architectural drawings, of which nearly 2,000 relate to significant church renovation and decoration projects in Canada and the northeastern United States; over 9,000 come from the workshop of renowned silversmith Gilles Beaugrand.

Adrienne L. Clarkson Archives

In December 2020, LAC made an accrual to the archives of the Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, Canada's 26th Governor General. This accrual consists of 43 boxes pertaining to Clarkson's career since leaving Rideau Hall. The records include correspondence, agendas, diaries, invitations and engagements, speaking notes, trip material, charities and causes, her writing and research, and recognitions and honorary degrees. Also included are records from the Institute for Canadian Citizenship that she and her husband founded in 2006, the women's hockey project, and many other endeavours.



From the Adrienne L. Clarkson archives: Adrienne Clarkson reading. Source: Library and Archives Canada/R12308, vol. 189, file 1

Christopher McKillop Collection

LAC, working with the Canadian Museum of History, acquired 79 items from Ottawa-based collector Chris McKillop. The [Christopher McKillop collection](#) consists of political campaign material dating as far back as 1874. The collection includes several postcards of the fictional Jack Canuck as the embodiment of the Canadian nation, candidate posters and material documenting lesser-known parties in the late 20th century.



From the Christopher McKillop collection: postcard for the 1908 federal election featuring Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier and the Hon. William Stevens Fielding, Liberal MP for Shelburne and Queen's, Nova Scotia. Source: Library and Archives Canada/R16439, vol. 1, item no. 10

Indigenous Initiatives

Committed to supporting, preserving and providing access to Indigenous heritage



Source: Library and Archives Canada

LAC is committed to playing a role in reconciliation between the Government of Canada and First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation. With a focus on truth and recognition, LAC acquires, preserves and provides access to published and archival heritage material that represents First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation experiences and contributions to Canada. LAC does so by delivering and supporting programs and projects such as the Indigenous Documentary Heritage Initiatives.

Additionally, LAC has a role, through the provision and promotion of information, to support the increased awareness of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation histories. LAC will ensure that Indigenous documentary heritage is accessible, where appropriate, through multiple channels, and in various locations. LAC will do this through in-house initiatives, such as the development and curation of online content, and through direct support to Indigenous memory institutions.

The Indigenous Heritage Action Plan

In April 2019, guided by the [Calls to Action](#) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, LAC launched the Indigenous Heritage Action Plan, which comprises 28 actions that LAC will take to recognize Indigenous rights and increase access to its collection. Developed in consultation with the members of the Indigenous Advisory Circle, the actions fall under four categories of commitment: institutional change; engagement and collaboration; managing records in the LAC collection related to First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation; and promotion and support.

Over the 2020–2021 fiscal year, actions undertaken by LAC to support institutional change included consulting with Indigenous communities to help design LAC's [new service facility](#). The development of the new joint facility with Ottawa Public Library involved engagements with Indigenous clients. Architects worked directly with the Algonquin communities of Kitigan Zibi and Pikwakanagan, as the site is located on their traditional territory. Their input was instrumental in shaping the design of several of the facility's components, including the Indigenous Knowledge Centre, the art that will adorn the facility, and the colours and natural materials used in its construction and landscaping.

As part of the Indigenous Heritage Action Plan, LAC worked toward building a representative workforce where Indigenous people account for a proportional number of employees and executives. As a result, a working group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous employees was created to draft the Indigenous and Recruitment Retention Strategy that will outline actions and recommendations to recruit and retain First Nation, Inuit and Métis Nation employees. This strategy aims to ensure that resources are in place to support workplace well-being for Indigenous staff, and enhance cultural sensitivity and awareness among all LAC staff.

On engagement and collaboration, a dedicated working group of LAC employees was tasked with the creation of the Indigenous Cultural Guidelines. This document entails a set of protocols to guide the respectful engagement of First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation, and processing of Indigenous-specific and related documentary heritage. A draft of recommendations was developed and discussed with the Indigenous Advisory Circle.

In addition to continuing to devote human resources to engagement and outreach efforts with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation, LAC continues to work with Indigenous-led governments and institutions to enable greater access to the documentary heritage material of interest to them. Also, as part of LAC's Web Renewal Initiative, we continued to work on rendering our online content easier to navigate and ensure that users can easily find services and information of specific interest to them. Over the coming year, the revised structure and content related to Indigenous documentary heritage and related initiatives will be validated through ongoing consultations involving LAC Indigenous employees.

Actions carried out for the managing of records in the LAC collection related to First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation include enhancing access to digitized collections related to Indigenous histories and languages. Moreover, in 2020–2021, we made available to the public a version of LAC's Procedures for Writing Culturally Sensitive Titles for Descriptions of Indigenous Materials, titled Writing titles for descriptions of Indigenous-related archival materials, as well as a historical language advisory to address the terminology in its records and search tools.

There was substantial promotion of Indigenous heritage collections and support for Indigenous-led organizations for potential archival and library projects related to Indigenous heritage and histories over the past fiscal year. In October 2020, LAC launched a funding call to provide up to \$60,000 to Indigenous groups as part of the Listen, Hear Our Voices initiative. In June 2020, newly digitized and described Indigenous-related content was promoted in a [news release](#) and social media posts featuring the We Are Here: Sharing Stories initiative. Through our social media platforms, we featured several Indigenous commemorative dates such as National Indigenous Peoples Day and Louis Riel Day, in addition to the 150th anniversary of the Métis Nation's entry into Confederation. Additionally, LAC is formalizing its commitment to telling First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation histories in developing its Exhibition Road Map, where reconciliation is identified as one of the four pillars of the exhibition program.

Listen, Hear Our Voices

2020–2021 saw the launch of the second call for applications in the Listen, Hear Our Voices funding program, which provides support to First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation organizations to digitize their existing language and culture recordings, and to build the skills, knowledge and resources required to carry out this work in their communities. The recipients of this funding call will be announced in the summer of 2021.

Organizations that received funding in the first call worked to complete their projects over the past fiscal year while dealing with delays and complications brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, over 3,000 hours of recordings in 13 Indigenous languages have been digitized by these organizations.

Building upon the successful pilot project with the Labrador Institute, LAC worked with five Indigenous individuals and organizations to digitize their language and culture recordings at LAC's Preservation Centre in Gatineau, Quebec. Through this service, LAC digitized over 750 recordings. The digital files and original recordings were all returned to their owners.

The Listen, Hear Our Voices team also completed a consultation draft of a resource guide of Indigenous language and culture audiovisual recordings held at LAC and in provincial and territorial archives. This resource guide can be used to help identify and locate Indigenous language and culture recordings that exist in Canadian archives. The guide, which LAC will publish on its website in the coming months, contains over 300 entries representing approximately 50 Indigenous languages and cultures.

“Language is at the very heart of one’s identity and culture and plays an important role in defining our sense of belonging in larger communities. It is a human and civil right. As we are building a renewed relationship with the First Nations, Inuit and Métis [Nation], initiatives such as Listen, Hear Our Voices help preserve and celebrate the diversity and richness of Indigenous cultures and languages, which are important parts of our shared history and national heritage.”

– **The Hon. Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage**

We Are Here: Sharing Stories

We Are Here: Sharing Stories is an initiative to digitize and describe hundreds of thousands of Indigenous-related collection items in LAC’s holdings, including textual material, photographs, artwork, maps and publications related to First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation. The descriptions of these items are researched and written using relevant, culturally meaningful and respectful language. The initiative's goal is to make the content accessible through LAC's website, social media and other online tools.

Since August 2020, LAC has digitized 17,267 images, bringing the project total to 591,131. Currently, 576,268 of these images are available through LAC’s Collection Search or Aurora databases, including archival and published heritage materials. In February 2021, LAC also launched a searchable list of all of these digitized and published materials, and introduced an interactive Google map feature allowing users to browse archival materials by geographic region.



Image digitized through We Are Here: Sharing Stories: Charlie Fortescue, son of Joseph Fortescue and Sarah Jane Mason. He was one of the first graduates of the electrical engineering program at Queen's University in 1898. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e011313020



Image digitized through We Are Here: Sharing Stories: Gertrude Fortescue, daughter of Joseph Fortescue and Sarah Jane Mason. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e011313021



Image digitized through We Are Here: Sharing Stories: Unidentified Inuk artist at an arts event, working on a ceramic vase with an abstract design. Photo: George Mully. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e011218140



Image digitized through We Are Here: Sharing Stories: Inuit children with toy komatiks, ca. 1978–1988. Photo: George Mully. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e011218258

Project Naming

Project Naming enables Indigenous peoples to engage in the identification of photographs depicting Indigenous content. Since 2002, over 10,000 photographs have been digitized, and several thousand Inuit, First Nations and Métis Nation individuals, activities and places have been identified. In 2020–2021, this initiative saw 102 photographs featured online, for which we received name identifications for 36 different

photographs. As a result of this crowdsourcing and the additional photographs shared with us by our followers in 2020–2021, LAC was able to add several names to the photographs in question; we were also able to identify individuals in numerous additional photographs that had previously been posted in our Project Naming database.

Project Naming is a collaborative effort between Nunavut Sivuniksavut, a post-secondary education program based in Ottawa, serving Inuit youth from Nunavut; Nunavut's Department of Culture, Languages, Elders and Youth (CLEY); and LAC.



Image from Project Naming: Portrait of two Métis men dressed in suits, île-à-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan. The man on the right was identified as Celestine McKay on Project Naming's Facebook page. Photo: Frank J. Crean. Source: Library and Archives Canada/a044553

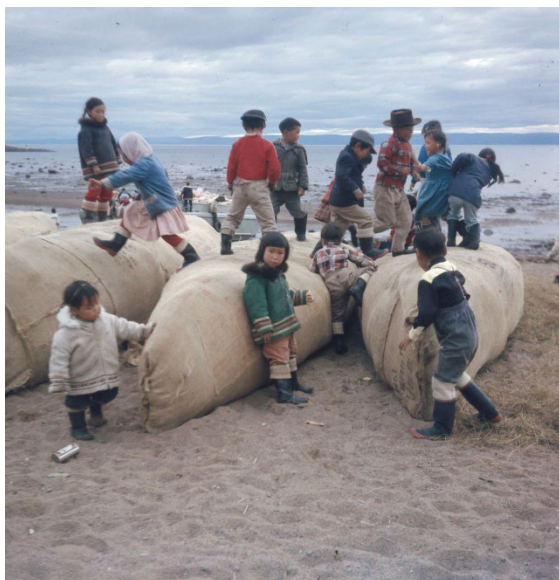


Image from Project Naming: Children playing on packed Hudson's Bay Company canoes, Iqaluit, Nunavut (formerly Frobisher Bay, Northwest Territories), 1960. Five of the children depicted here were identified on Project Naming's Facebook page. Photo: Rosemary Gilliat Eaton archives. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e010975429



Image from Project Naming: Mathilda Jack-Frazer and her daughter, Barb Frazer, in North Battleford, Saskatchewan, 1969. They were identified by Barb Frazer on Project Naming's Facebook page. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e010969131

Indigenous Heritage Collections

In support of LAC's commitment to the Indigenous Documentary Heritage Initiatives, we published numerous blog articles and Flickr albums on resources related to First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation heritage. Popular blog and Flickr pairings included the article ["The Art of Dene Handgames / Stick Gambling / ᐃᓄᓂ / oodzi"](#) and accompanying album ["The Dene,"](#) which highlighted traditions of the Dene (commonly referred to as Athabaskans or Athapaskans), one of the largest groups of Indigenous peoples of North America. Another notable pairing was the ["Métis Nation river lot plans" blog](#) and [Flickr album of Métis Nation river lot plans](#), which provided detailed descriptions regarding their significance and are invaluable in understanding the Métis Nation. Moreover, LAC's collection of Métis Nation river lot plans was recently included in UNESCO's Canadian Memory of the World Register.

Other prominent blogs in 2020–2021 included ["Archives as resources for revitalizing First Nations languages,"](#) ["Tunniit/Tattoos: The Complicated History of Photographing Inuit Tattoos,"](#) ["Centuries of kinship—Exploring Métis identity through genealogy"](#) and ["The Canadian Eskimo Arts Council—Defining Inuit art."](#)



From the Flickr album “The Dene”: Mary Ann Koketta and two men, Fort Simpson (ǂídlıı Kųę), Northwest Territories, South Slavey, Dene First Nation, 1931. Source: Library and Archives Canada/a102613



From the Flickr album “Métis Nation river lot plans”: Plan of the river lots in the Parish of Ste. Agathe, Province of Manitoba, section 3. Creator: H. Martin. Source: Library and Archives Canada/e011213913



From the blog “Tunniit/Tattoos: The Complicated History of Photographing Inuit Tattoos”: Kila, a tattooed Inuit woman, from the Dolphin and Union Strait area, Coronation Gulf, Northwest Territories (now Nunavut), 1916. Source: Library and Archives Canada/a165665



From the blog “Centuries of kinship—Exploring Métis identity through genealogy”: St. Boniface, Red River Settlement, by William Henry Edward Napier, 1858. Source: Library and Archives Canada/c001065k

The Year in Numbers 2020–2021

Website:

4,279,097 visits

Pages of government records opened through block review:

182,900

Questions answered by reference services:

9,514

Questions answered by reference services at regional service points:

932

Number of images digitized:

2,151,267

Publications collected under legal deposit:

86,836

Private acquisitions:

141

Items loaned to museums and galleries:

20

Instagram:

9,934 followers

Facebook:

74,166 followers

Twitter:

73,312 followers

YouTube:

11,211 followers

LinkedIn:

6,867 followers

LAC blog:

102 articles published;

216,233 views

Flickr:

30 sets launched;

2,319,950 views

Podcasts:

12 episodes released;

108,688 listens

Number of new and multi-year projects funded by the Documentary Heritage Communities Program:

40

Number of ISSN records produced:

853

Management of
the special-purpose
buildings
19%

Internal
services
17%

Access
21%

Expenditures
2020-2021

Acquisition
and processing
of published
heritage
9%

Communications
4%

Acquisition
and processing
of private
archives
7%

Acquisition and
processing of
government
records
6%

Information
and technology
management
9%

Preservation
8%

LAC Management Team

(Current as of March 31, 2021)

Leslie Weir	Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Sylvain Bélanger	Director General, Transition Team, Office of the Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Christina Benedict	General Counsel, Canadian Heritage
Normand Charbonneau	Deputy Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Cécile Lemaire	A/Director General, Communications Branch
Linda Savoie	Corporate Secretary
Jill Scott	Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Head
Nancy Taillon	A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

Extended Management Team

(Current as of March 31, 2021)

Chair	
Leslie Weir	Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Members	
Sylvain Bélanger	Director General, Transition Team, Office of the Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Dominique Bouvier	A/Director General and Chief Information Officer, Information Management and Information Technology Branch
Peter Bruce	Special Advisor, Innovation and Chief Information Officer
Alison Bullock	A/Director General, Published Heritage Branch
Julie Charbonneau	Director General, Financial Services, Procurement and Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Normand Charbonneau	Deputy Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Sophie Dazé	A/Director, Digitization Services
Monica Fuijkschot	Director General, Published Heritage
Scott Hamilton	Director General, Real Property
Caitlin Horrall	Director, Description Division
Roxane Lafrenière	A/Director General, Digital Operations and Preservation Branch
Kathryn Lagrandeur	Director, Social Life and Culture Private Archives
Cécile Lemaire	A/Director General, Communications Branch
Karen Linauskas	Director, Exhibitions and Online Content
Karin Macleod	A/Director, Published Acquisitions
Mireille Miniggio	Director, Private Archives Sciences and Governance
Robert McIntosh	Director General, Archives
Karine Paré	Director General, Financial Services and Procurement
Simon Pageot	Director, Information Management and Solutions
Dara Price	Director General, Archives Branch
Sandy Ramos	Director, Government Archives Division
Sylvain J. Richard	Transition Team Member
Pascale Robichaud	Director, Strategic Research and Policy
Roslynn Ross	Director, Digital Preservation and Migration
Jonathan Salois	A/Director General, Human Resources and Security Branch
Linda Savoie	Corporate Secretary
Jill Scott	Chief of Staff, Office of the Librarian and Archivist of Canada

Johanna Smith	Director General, Public Services
Boris Stipernitz	Director, Governance, Liaison and Partnerships
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LAC carries out its work with the advice and support of a network of communities and advisory groups from across the documentary heritage community. By offering their time, ideas and expertise, the members of these committees make an invaluable contribution to LAC.

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