



OCT 30 2017

Mr. Ronnie LeBlanc
Warden
Municipality of Clare
P.O. Box 458
Little Brook NS B0W 1Z0

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

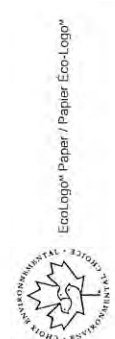
Thank you for your letter of August 10, 2017, concerning the relocation of the collection stored at Parks Canada's Dartmouth facility in Nova Scotia to a new facility in Gatineau, Quebec. I regret the delay in responding.

The decision to consolidate the national collection into one central location was made to ensure its sustainable care and management, as five of Parks Canada's six facilities across the country do not meet accepted environmental or security control standards. It is important to note, however, that the collections at Canada's national historic sites and national parks will continue to be displayed and exhibited so that all Canadians have access to our country's deep and diverse history.

Parks Canada contributes significantly to the protection and promotion of Canada's cultural heritage through its robust loans program to cultural institutions across Canada, as well as through archaeology and history programs. The Agency continues to develop public programming and encourages all visitors, including school groups, to visit sites and parks, where they can experience a tangible link to Canadian history.

The collection and its accompanying documentation is used by a variety of researchers to better understand the complexities of Canadian history. Accordingly, Parks Canada is committed to ensuring that the same access to the collection will be maintained through properly stored and inventoried objects that can be easily retrieved by a national team of dedicated collections specialists, as well as through the Agency's loans program.

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Parks Canada is also committed to upholding accepted museum standards and practices in the management and conservation of the national collection. As such, it was determined that consolidation would be the most sustainable and efficient solution to manage this rich body of historical and archaeological objects. The Dartmouth facility is currently the only Parks Canada facility that meets conservation and security standards, as it was purpose-built for collection storage. This is why Agency's officials have decided to maintain the lease of the Dartmouth building.

Please be assured that Parks Canada will continue to work with regional stakeholders and Indigenous groups to ensure that the national collection remains accessible to local researchers, teachers and visitors.

I appreciate having had this opportunity to respond to your concerns, and I share your interest for the preservation and presentation of the history of Atlantic Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.