



Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR) Request for Library and Archives Canada

1. MANDATE AND AREA(S) OF EXPERTISE

Clearly outline the mandate of your department or agency and detail your area(s) of responsibility or expertise that may be related to the regional assessment.

Library and Archives Canada's (LAC's) mandate is to:

- acquire and preserve documentary heritage
- make that heritage known to Canadians and to anyone with an interest in Canada and facilitate access to it
- be the permanent repository of publications of the Government of Canada and of government and ministerial records that are of historical or archival value
- facilitate the management of information by government institutions
- coordinate the library services of government institutions, and
- support the development of the library and archival communities.

LAC's collection encompasses Government of Canada and private archives, including documents, letters, reports, manuscripts, and government files related to Canadian history, governance, and society. It also contains millions of books, periodicals, newspapers, microfilms, literary texts, and government publications. In addition, LAC holds millions of photographs, architectural drawings, plans, films and audio-visual materials, works of art, musical items, and the Canadian Postal Archives. LAC collections also include a wide variety of cartographic material including Land Survey Records.

2. REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

List and summarize the nature of the regulatory authorities of your department or agency in relation to physical works or activities in the Ring of Fire area.

LAC does not have a regulatory role with respect to major development projects subject to the Impact Assessment Act.

3. EXPERT INFORMATION OR KNOWLEDGE

List and summarize the specialists or expert information or knowledge that your department or agency has that may be relevant to the regional assessment. Include all research, reports and data sets in this response inventory.

LAC does not have expertise on, nor does it create information relevant to, the regional assessment.

However, as the continuing memory of the government, LAC may have in its collections information relevant to the regional assessment.

LAC appraises governmental records and acquires those deemed to have archival and historical value, once they no longer have operational value for their creating institutions. If a department consulted in the context of the regional assessment needs to draw on past expertise, reports or data sets that were transferred to LAC, they would be responsible for conducting archival research in LAC's holdings.

In addition to historical government records and publications, LAC also holds in its collections published material and private entity archival material that may also contain information relevant to the regional assessment. LAC does not produce reports or research outside of temporary funded programming activities or initiatives. However, it does facilitate access to its collections through several research tools and services available online or in person.

LAC provides research support services, through appointments with reference archivists and librarians, either in person, by telephone, or by videoconferencing. During an appointment, the reference archivist or librarian can assist a client with formulating a research strategy, using research tools, and navigating LAC's website to locate information. Material found in LAC's collections may be subject to access and use conditions and restrictions under federal laws and binding legal agreements. For instance, accessing restricted Government of Canada records requires submitting an *Access to information Act* (ATIA) request (or applying for Departmental Researcher status if they are government employees requiring access to records). Reference staff can provide assistance in navigating these channels.

Research in archival collections may be a complex and time-consuming endeavour. Individuals and organizations wishing to conduct extensive research to locate and access information may be recommended to seek the services of professional researchers or research firms.

4. POLICIES, PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES

List and summarize the past, current and planned policies, programs or initiatives of your department or agency that may be relevant to the regional assessment. Include an outline of related funding initiatives in this response and provide information on geographic locations, next steps and timing for the program/initiative.

LAC does not have past or current policies, programs, or initiatives that are specifically relevant to the regional assessment. However, LAC has advanced broader initiatives that speak to Indigenous rights and heritage. In April 2019, guided by the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, LAC launched its [Indigenous Heritage Action Plan](#) (IHAP), which set out 28 actions to recognize Indigenous rights and increase access to its collections. The plan's commitments cover institutional change; engagement and collaboration; managing records in the LAC collections related to First Nations, Inuit, and the Métis Nation; and the promotion and support of Indigenous heritage

collections. LAC is now reviewing the IHAP to integrate new Government of Canada commitments, particularly to include direction related to Indigenous Data Sovereignty and the UNDA. The IHAP applies equally to all Indigenous communities across Canada, including the 15 Ring of Fire First Nations partners.

5. Outline any additional responsibilities, information or knowledge and any partners or collaborations that have not been specified, above.

LAC does not have additional responsibilities, information, or knowledge, nor specific partners or collaborations, directly related to the regional assessment.

However, LAC's [Price McIntosh Bursary](#) encourages students to register for studies leading to careers in libraries or archives by offering financial aid to support the inclusion and the advancement of visible minorities, Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation) and persons with disabilities. It is for the documentary heritage professions only.