

To the candidates of the City of Winnipeg municipal election,

The Archives Association of Ontario (AAO), representing over 350 archival institutions and archivists in Ontario, wishes to express its concern for the City of Winnipeg Archives. As you may know, the Archives continues to be stored in a temporary location, approximately five years after the original building was damaged in 2013.

The AAO is concerned that the City of Winnipeg has not taken action to find appropriate housing for its municipal records. The current building on Myrtle Street, which has been described as a “metal shed” by the *Winnipeg Free Press*, does not have the space or resources to accommodate staff. As managers of this important historic information, archivists require space to carry out their work and ensure records are properly safeguarded. Furthermore, the small size and remote location of the building prevents the public from accessing the collections and conducting research.

Currently, the value of the archives is not sufficiently protected by the city government. The current building also does not fulfil the stipulations regarding the treatment and accessibility of public records as per the *City of Winnipeg Charter*, the *Records Management By-law No. 166/2003*, or the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Inadequate storage conditions may result in the loss or damage of archival materials, leading to costly restoration and possible litigation.

The AAO supports its archival colleagues in Manitoba and encourages candidates in Winnipeg's upcoming civic election to commit to finding a suitable permanent home for the City's archival records to ensure the long term preservation and accessibility of its documentary heritage.

Sincerely,

Juanita Rossiter  
President, Archives Association of Ontario (2018-2019)