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News Release

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Statement from B.C. Privacy Commissioner welcoming agreement addressing province's archival backlog

VICTORIA—B.C. Information and Privacy Commissioner Elizabeth Denham issued the following statement welcoming an agreement reached between the Government of B.C. and the Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) aimed at addressing the province's archival backlog.

"I applaud government's actions to begin addressing the preservation and access to Government archives through a stable funding arrangement between the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen's Services and the Royal British Columbia Museum," said Commissioner Denham.

Commissioner Denham recently published a [special report](#) about the state of British Columbia's archives. In it she expressed concern about the tens of thousands of boxes of government records - a ten year backlog - awaiting transfer and preservation in the BC Archives.

The Commissioner concluded that an "archiving stalemate" had developed because government was not allocating sufficient resources to archive new records.

Commissioner Denham stated that allocation of up to \$400,000 annually with a commitment to review that amount after five years will certainly assist in the reduction of the archive backlog.

The Commissioner also commended the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen's Services and the RBCM for agreeing to collaborate in the creation of a single, integrated archival experience that incorporates traditional and digital records to the benefit of public researchers.

"I look forward to discussing with the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen's Services and the Royal British Columbia Museum what plans they have for realizing this important objective."

"Public archives serve as the corporate memory of societies, nations, provinces and institutions, but they are also important for government accountability and transparency. This agreement will ensure citizens are able to access previous and future archived records, promoting the public's right to know."

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