



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

ESTABLISHED 1866

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Dear Candidate:

I am writing to urge the City of Winnipeg to prioritize their nationally and internationally significant archives. Since 2013, the City of Winnipeg Archives has been housed in a temporary location without the resources and infrastructure that researchers and archivists would reasonably expect from a major municipal archive.

To say that the current, temporary location of the City of Winnipeg Archives on Myrtle Street is insufficient is an understatement. It does not have sufficient size and capacity to hold all municipal records, forcing records to be held off site and, as a result, moved from place to place. The space for researchers is quite limited. While I have worked in that location on my own, its modest size means that I would be hard-pressed to bring a group of students there.

For all of these shortcomings in facilities, the archival resources held at the City of Winnipeg Archives are outstanding. In the last few years, I have been working with the records pertaining to the development of municipal water supply in Winnipeg, and the records themselves are rich and well organized. The archivists who work at the City of Winnipeg Archives are also remarkable. My own research has benefitted from the support of Sarah Ramsden, whose skill and acumen is made clear in publicly accessible finding aids, including <https://www.winnipeg.ca/clerks/pdfs/publications/COWAResearchGuide.Dec2016.pdf>.

The City of Winnipeg Archives and its professional staff deserve an adequate location to preserve their records and do their important work. The people of Winnipeg likewise would benefit from greater access to and engagement with the city's rich documentary records. An examination of these records can shed light on many of the questions that preoccupy our public life today, around the relationship between drugs, public policy, and crime, around urban planning, cars and pedestrians, and on Winnipeg's history as a location of both colonialism and Indigenous resurgence.

In many cities, the municipal archives are a tourist and cultural location as well as a resource to researchers and policy makers. In the current situation, the City of Winnipeg has an opportunity to provide an adequate space and infrastructure for its important records and the work of the professionals who manage them. Doing so will enrich all of us who have lived here and continue to live here and shape the important and ongoing conversations about this place and its histories.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adele Perry', written on a light-colored background.

Adele Perry