**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The Canadian Research Knowledge Network Launches Public Index of Digitized Collections from Institutions Across Canada**
*The Canadian National Digital Heritage Index will increase awareness of Canada's digital documentary heritage*

**Ottawa, ON (31 March 2016)** – The Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) is proud to launch the Canadian National Digital Heritage Index (CNDHI), an index of digitized collections from across Canada with the goal of creating a single, current list of all Canadian digitization projects. This national index, the first of its kind in Canada, aims to increase the awareness of the digitized collections in institutions and libraries across the country, which will in turn increase the use and impact of those collections that are relevant and important to all Canadians.

"Librarians and archivists across the country are doing their part to protect our documentary heritage through preservation and digitization," says CRKN Executive Director, Clare Appavoo. "CNDHI creates a single point of contact for any Canadian who wishes to access the collective digitized heritage of our nation," continues Ms. Appavoo. "It is through collaborations and partnerships with archives, libraries and other memory institutions that CNDHI takes an active role in promoting the digitization work done by the various institutions and increases use and accessibility of those collections."

CNDHI complements the activities of libraries, archives, universities and other memory institutions by collecting all the projects in one place and also by including the relevant metadata and information needed to access various collections. Features of the tool include:

- Simple and advanced searching and sorting by institution, location, language, and media type;
- Downloadable list of search results;
- Frequently updated with new records.

"CNDHI's tools and features will continue to expand and adapt in response to the feedback from the community," says Kimberly Silk, Special Projects Officer CRKN and Project Manager for CNDHI. "The index is an agile and adaptable tool that will continue to be supported and managed for the long-term in order to expand and increase impact."

Funded in part by Library and Archives Canada through the Documentary Heritage Communities Program, CNDHI will do its part to ensure that documentary heritage remains accessible. CNDHI will be a living record of Canadian documentary heritage digitization projects that will be regularly updated and available in English and French.

The CRKN invites institutions to submit their digitization projects to the tool and to share and use the tool widely to access collections across the country. For more information, please visit http://cndhi-ipnpc.ca.

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**About the Canadian Research Knowledge Network**

The Canadian Research Knowledge Network is a national consortium of 75 Canadian universities, represented by their libraries, which licenses electronic content with traditional commercial and alternative publishers to support research and teaching. For more information, please visit www.crkn.ca.

**About the Documentary Heritage Community Program**

Library and Archives Canada's Documentary Heritage Community Program (DHCP) ensures that Canada's continuing memory is documented and accessible to current and future generations by adopting a more collaborative approach with local documentary heritage communities. The program will be delivered in the form of contributions that will support the development of Canada's local archival and library communities by increasing their capacity to preserve, provide access to and promote local documentary heritage. Additionally, the Program will provide opportunities for local documentary heritage communities to evolve and remain sustainable and strategic.  For more information, please visit www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/contributions.