

# Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage:

*the National Heritage Digitization Strategy Reimagined*

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# Introduction

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**Jonathan Bengtson**  
University Librarian  
University of Victoria  
*Chair of the NHDS Executive Committee*



**Carole Urbain**  
Senior Director, Academic Affairs  
McGill University Library  
*Vice-Chair of the NHDS Executive Committee &  
Chair of the NHDS Advisory Committee*

# Towards a National Digitization Strategy

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In June 2016 NHDS formed to coordinate digitization of documentary heritage from Canadian memory institutions.

Inspired by other successful collaborative national digitization strategies and developed to complement strategies already in place at Canadian memory institutions.

Formed national Steering Committee with leaders from the Canadian GLAM community with LAC as Secretariat.

Raised \$1.1M in private donations to support 23 projects and coordinated successful Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) proposal.

Published resources: RightsStatements, file formats, best practices, survey results.



NHDS foundational assembly, Oct. 2016  
Credit: Library and Archives Canada

# Business Plan (2018-2019)

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## GOAL #1 – Grow the national digitized collection

- Identify potential digitization projects
- Provide funds to Canadian cultural heritage organizations

## GOAL #2 – Develop a national, collaborative, distributed technical infrastructure and expertise

- Facilitate content digitization, deposit and preservation in open networked repositories across the country
- Develop mechanisms to enhance discovery and utilization of Canadian digitized cultural heritage
- Build technical expertise across the country

## GOAL #3 – Engage the community

- Build awareness and understanding of the NHDS
- Establish and maintain relationships with the national and international cultural heritage community

## GOAL #4 – Build a solid foundation

- Support an active and effective Steering Committee that advances the NHDS goals
- Broaden the reach of the NHDS



# Governance Review 2020

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- September 23, 2020, the NHDS Secretariat moved from Library and Archives Canada to the Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN)
- November 27, 2020, the NHDS Steering Committee formally accepted a new governance structure:
  - The NHDS Steering Committee became the NHDS Advisory Committee
  - A new Executive Committee was formed
- A Call for Expressions of Interest for the NHDS Advisory Committee received and accepted 34 responses, bringing the Advisory Committee membership to 49 individuals from across the Canadian GLAM community



(Top row) Jonathan Bengtson, Paul Takala, Carole Urbain  
(Bottom row) Clare Appavoo, Leslie Weir  
(Not pictured) Ry Moran, David Alexander

# NHDS Executive Committee

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**David Alexander**, University Librarian, Vancouver Island University

**Clare Appavoo**, Executive Director  
Canadian Research Knowledge Network

**Jonathan Bengtson** (Chair), University Librarian  
University of Victoria

**Ry Moran**, Associate University Librarian – Reconciliation  
University of Victoria

**Paul Takala**, Chief Librarian/CEO, Hamilton Public Library

**Carole Urbain** (Vice-Chair), Senior Director, Academic Affairs  
McGill University & Archives

**Leslie Weir**, Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Library and Archives  
Canada



# Strategic Planning Process 2021-2022

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## **Step 1: Community Engagement**

- Survey
  - Stakeholder 1-on-1 calls
  - Community calls
- Output: Engagement Report

## **Step 3: Development of the Plan**

- EC draft strategic plan using the goals, objectives and engagement report

## **Step 5: Final Plan**

- Share the final version of the plan

## **Step 2: Goals and Objectives Visioning**

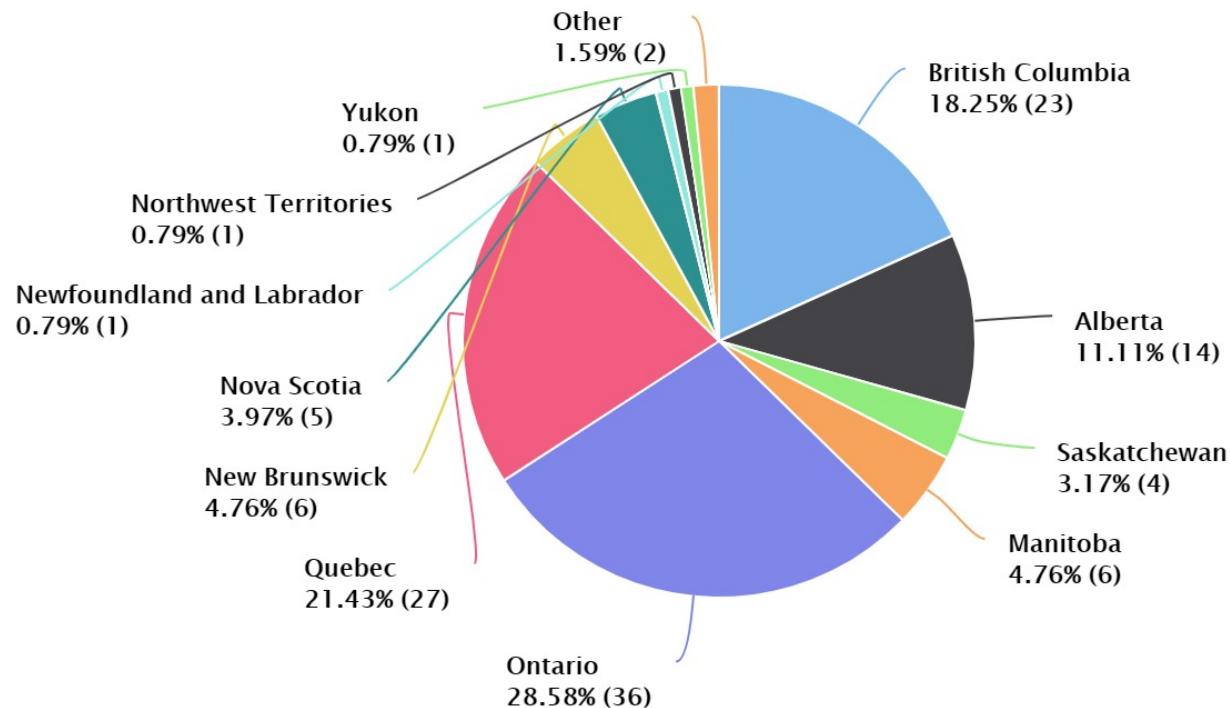
- Visioning exercise
- Output: Draft goals & objectives

## **Step 4: Community Validation**

- Share a draft version of the updated plan with community stakeholders

# Survey

- July – September 2021
- 127 participants



# Community Calls

- Four open community calls in September 2021
- EN/FR
- 62 total participants



# Stakeholder Calls



# Engagement at CRKN 2021 Conference



## Greatest Opportunity:

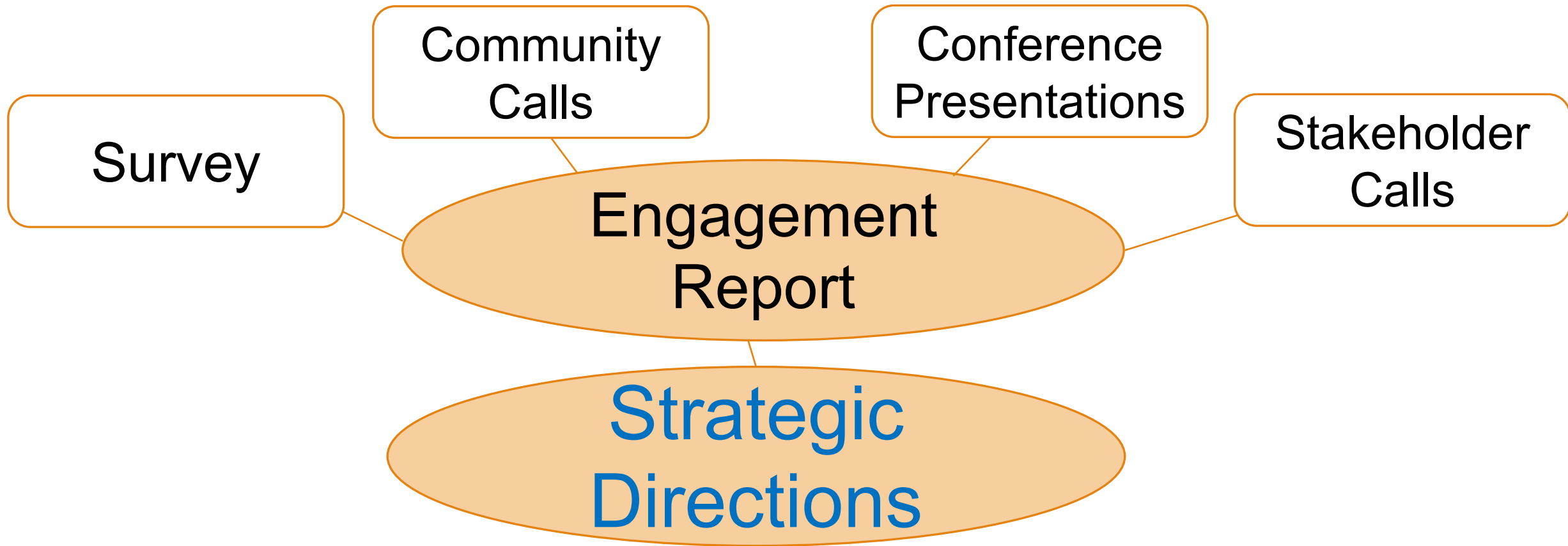


## Short Term Success:



## Long Term Success:





“There is an opportunity to craft a subtle and effective strategy that is national in scale while based in and representative of communities and regions...[and] that is authentically representative of the strength and diversity of Canada.”

*-Respondent from 2021 NHDS Community Survey*

# Introducing the CCDH

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The Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage (CCDH) is a cross-sectoral coalition of memory organizations committed to expanding digital access to Canada's cultural heritage.

We strive to build an inclusive community of practice; enabling and coordinating collaboration, capacity, and resources to advance shared priorities.

CCDH provides a collaborative framework for individuals and organizations in advancing community-driven priorities and short-term and long-term projects and initiatives, while sharing resources and expertise and avoiding the duplication of efforts.

By uniting as a community, we more effectively harness the available resources and advocate for a sustainable future for Canadian digital heritage.

# The Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage

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*kasispowicikew br<sup>n</sup>>Δ·r<sup>9</sup>° VTI S* (“bringing us through the past to the future”)

## Vision:

**Building an inclusive future by revealing our diverse histories**

## Mission:

**The Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage enables digitization, access, and preservation of heritage content for discovery and innovation**

# Our Principles

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The work of the CCDH is guided by the following principles:

- It is our responsibility and promise to future generations to preserve the digitized heritage of Canada
- We intentionally and respectfully surface the diverse stories of Canada's past, as told from many voices and perspectives
- Justice, human rights, and sustainability are advanced through equitable and respectful access to the digitized heritage of Canada





# Strategic Priorities

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# Ensure content of importance to Canadians is digitally accessible

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- Recommend and enable the cross-sectoral coordination of content priorities for digitization and digital preservation
  - Develop a set of community-endorsed principles
- Strive for sustainable access to cultural and heritage materials through collective investments in national infrastructure
  - Advocate for increased and sustainable funding for digitization and digital preservation

# Intentionally and respectfully uncover the hidden stories of Canada's history

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- Support community-led efforts to digitize and preserve the heritage and cultural materials of marginalized and equity-deserving groups
  - Prioritize content and collections for digitization that are aligned with principles of Truth and Reconciliation, and equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Enable cross-sectoral knowledge and awareness of efforts to increase discoverability and usability
  - Engage with the users of memory organizations to understand and support a user-centered approach to discovery

# Build cross-sectoral capacity

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- Identify current digitization capacity in Canada, indicating gaps and future opportunities
  - Develop communities of practice for sustainable digitization and digital preservation expertise and training
- Amplify and support cross-sectoral hubs of expertise in digitization, access, and preservation, providing opportunities for collaboration at local, regional, and national levels
  - Convene a regular forum to encourage partnerships, collaborations, and resource sharing

# Next Steps

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- Stakeholder engagement to introduce the CCDH and the new Strategic Directions, in French and English

Ongoing from October, 2022

- Review of governance structure

Autumn 2022

- Operationalization of goals



# Questions

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**Engage with us!**

**Email us at:**  
**[secretariat@nhds.ca](mailto:secretariat@nhds.ca)**

**Look for upcoming  
announcements on our  
websites: (EN) [www.nhds.ca](http://www.nhds.ca)  
(FR) [www.snpd.ca](http://www.snpd.ca)**

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