



Dr. Pierre Coulombe  
President  
National Research Council Canada  
NRC EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
1200 Montreal Road  
Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1A 0R6

March 13, 2009

Dear Dr. Coulombe:

The Atlantic Provinces Library Association (APLA) is a professional association representing knowledge workers from throughout the Atlantic region, drawing from dozens of different institutions, including public and academic research libraries, as well as specialized government and corporate information centres. As such, we are deeply concerned about the future of the Canadian research and innovation landscape and urgently seek your support in addressing these concerns.

The cuts recently announced for the National Research Council (NRC) and the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) are significant. CISTI alone will see a cut from \$48 million to \$16 million. As one of Canada's largest publishers and disseminators of scientific material in our country, a cut of this magnitude will likely end the NRC Press as we know it and impact the 2.3 million dollar subsidy from the Depository Service Program (DSP) to support free access to the NRC Presses' Science and Technology journals. Incredibly, it is also reported that CISTI will cut its workforce by 2/3 over the next year.

From the perspective of libraries and information centres, these are devastating cuts that will severely impact our ability to get current information to our researchers in a timely fashion. They will compromise the research efforts of academics across the country.

APLA strongly recommends you to limit these cuts and support this country's libraries, information centres and our scientific knowledge community.

Sincerely,

Susan Cleyle  
President, Atlantic Provinces Library Association

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