



Coalition for Canadian
Digital Heritage

Coalition pour
la numérisation
du patrimoine canadien

Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage

Year in Review

2025

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Message from the Chair of the Executive Committee.....	3
Message from the Chair of the Advisory Committee.....	4
Vision, Mission, and Principles.....	5
Participants.....	6
Strategic Framework and Priorities.....	7
Working Groups.....	8
Strategic Framework Sustainability.....	9
Outreach and Engagement.....	10
Future Work.....	10
Acknowledgements.....	11
Contact Us.....	11

Introduction

The Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage (CCDH) is a cross-sectoral alliance of memory organizations dedicated to expanding digital access to Canada's cultural heritage. Through coordination, collaboration, and shared resources, CCDH fosters an inclusive community of practice that advances collective priorities while strengthening digitization capacity across the sector. By providing a collaborative framework for individuals and institutions, CCDH enables community-driven initiatives, promotes the exchange of expertise, and helps reduce duplication of effort. Working together as a national community allows us to make more effective use of limited resources and advocate for a sustainable and accessible digital heritage ecosystem.

Respectful access to and preservation of cultural heritage are essential to a healthy democratic society. Cultural heritage supports economic, social, legal, and cultural understanding, while also fostering innovation and informed decision-making. Access to documentary heritage allows us to better understand lived experiences and the foundations of our present. Although the shift from analogue to digital formats has dramatically increased access to heritage collections, significant work remains to ensure that diverse stories are preserved, digitized, and made discoverable for current and future generations.

In 2025, CCDH made meaningful progress toward these goals. A key focus of the year was targeted outreach within the archival and cultural heritage communities, including presentations, consultations, and engagement activities designed to strengthen relationships and identify shared needs. At the same time, CCDH undertook important discussions about the sustainability and future direction of its strategic priorities and organizational functions. CCDH also continued to seek endorsement of its [Principles](#), published in 2024, which articulate a shared vision for responsible and collaborative digital heritage stewardship. Updates and new endorsements will be shared on the CCDH website. Organizations interested in endorsing the Principles are encouraged to contact the CCDH Secretariat at secretariat@ccd-h-cnpc.ca.

Message from the Chair of the Executive Committee
Emma Wright, Executive Director of Archives, Research and Collections,
Royal British Columbia Museum



The Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage (CCDH) remains a unique cross-sector coalition, bringing together memory institutions from across the country with a shared commitment: to expand digital access to Canada’s cultural heritage, ensuring it is preserved and meaningfully accessible for generations to come. In an era defined by rapid technological change and mounting pressures on our institutions, collaboration is no longer optional—it is essential.

One of our greatest strengths is the depth of expertise within our community. By harnessing the knowledge and experience of our members, we are building a clearer, evidence-based understanding of the capacity challenges facing our sector. I extend my sincere thanks to the Cross-Sectoral Capacity Working Group for leading the development of a national survey, which launched in February 2026, that explores digitization capacity across Canadian GLAM institutions. The findings will provide critical baseline data to strengthen our advocacy, inform funding proposals and strategic planning, and elevate a unified national voice on the future of Canada’s digital heritage.

Amid increasing financial pressures across our sector, the Coalition for Canadian Digital Heritage undertook a sustainability review in 2025 to assess the actions outlined in our strategic framework and ensure our efforts remain focused and impactful. Looking ahead to 2026, CCDH will intensify its focus on national coordination and advocacy. We are working toward convening a national forum that will bring together practitioners from across the country to share the survey results, spotlight innovation and best practices, and chart a collaborative path forward. Together, we will continue to build the infrastructure, partnerships, and national momentum necessary to ensure that Canadian digital heritage is protected and remains accessible—now and for generations to come.

Message from the Chair of the Advisory Committee

Kathryn Ruddock, Director, Digital Services, University of Calgary



I continue to be inspired by the breadth and ingenuity of digital heritage work underway across Canada's galleries, libraries, archives, and museums. Through the CCDH Advisory Committee, I have the privilege of seeing this work from a national, cross-sector perspective and learning directly from colleagues who are advancing digitization, preservation, and access in diverse organizational contexts.

Over the past year, the Advisory Committee has served as a cross-sector forum for exchange and coordination. Representation from across CCDH and related organizations has supported regular sharing of updates, priorities, and challenges. Community reports highlight what is happening in real time across digitization and preservation work, from large-scale initiatives to community-driven and Indigenous, repatriation, and stewardship-focused projects.

Our working groups remain an important area of collaboration and development. They bring practitioners together across roles and institution types to share expertise, surface common needs, and advance areas of our strategic priorities. Current work includes digitization capacity mapping, resource sharing, and data gathering to clarify challenge areas and next steps for connecting communities in this work.

This progress depends on member generosity and collaboration. I extend sincere thanks to Advisory Committee and working group participants, and to the Secretariat, for the time and knowledge they contribute. This collective effort gives CCDH practical value and cross-sector reach and will continue to guide our work in the coming year.

Vision, Mission, and Principles

Our Vision

Building an inclusive future by revealing our diverse histories.

Our Mission

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

Our Principles

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

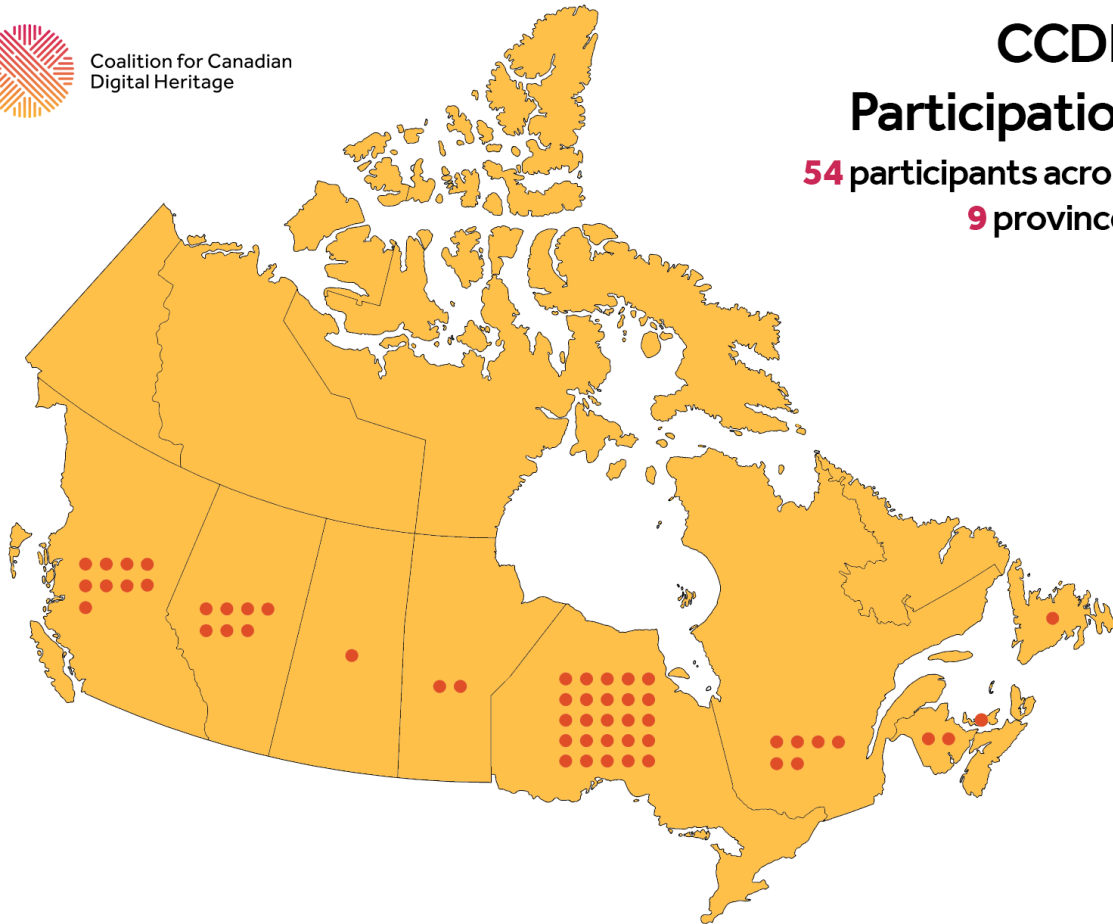
- It is our responsibility and promise to future generations to preserve the digitized heritage of Canada.
- We intentionally and respectfully surface the diverse stories of Canada's past, as told from many voices and perspectives.
- Justice, human rights, and sustainability are advanced through equitable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

Participants

The CCDH is comprised of an Executive Committee and an Advisory Committee with membership representing the Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums (GLAM) sector nation-wide. For information about the specific participants and organizations that comprise the CCDH, please view the [Executive](#) and [Advisory](#) Committee pages on the CCDH website.



Coalition for Canadian
Digital Heritage



CCDH

Participation

54 participants across
9 provinces

Strategic Framework and Priorities

The CCDH [Strategic Framework](#) was published in May 2023. Our Strategic Framework is the culmination of an extensive community engagement process outlined [here](#), which included a survey, four open community calls, direct stakeholder engagement, conference presentations, and invaluable feedback from the members of CCDH's large and diverse Advisory Committee. We are grateful to all those who engaged with us to shape the future of CCDH.

Through the strategic planning process, it has become clear that CCDH is more than just a strategy; we are a community of practice – a coalition of diverse organizations with shared principles and priorities. The needs of the community also extend beyond digitization, and the strategic framework reflects the importance placed on respectful access, preservation, fostering diversity, connecting institutions, and sharing resources. These are our strategic priorities:

1) Ensure content of importance to Canadians is digitally accessible

- 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

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

- 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

3) Build cross-sectoral capacity

- 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

Working Groups

With a clarified set of strategic priorities, CCDH established three working groups in spring 2023 to advance its commitment to respectful access to and preservation of Canadian digital heritage. These groups, composed of members of the Executive and Advisory Committees, were aligned with the core priorities identified in the strategic framework and tasked with translating these priorities into concrete activities and outcomes.

The Community-Endorsed Principles Working Group successfully completed its mandate in 2024 with the publication of the CCDH Principles, representing a significant milestone in articulating shared values for the digital heritage community.

Throughout 2025, the remaining working groups continued to meet and assess their respective workplans and areas of focus. The Cross-Sectoral Capacity Working Group made steady progress toward strengthening collaboration and identifying opportunities to support digitization capacity across sectors.

The Connecting Communities Working Group explored approaches to intentionally and respectfully uncover hidden and underrepresented stories in Canada’s historical record. Through these discussions, CCDH gained valuable insight into the scope, challenges, and resource requirements associated with this priority.

Working Group	Central Strategic Priority
Connecting Communities Working Group	Intentionally and respectfully uncover the hidden stories of Canada’s history
Cross Sectoral Capacity Working Group	Build cross-sectoral capacity

Highlights from the Working Groups

Cross-sectoral Capacity Building Working Group

This working group has been assigned three key objectives:

- 1) Identify current digitization capacity in Canada, indicating gaps and future opportunities
- 2) Organize training and resource sharing
- 3) Develop communities of practice for sustainable digitization and digital preservation

In the group’s work towards objective 1, existing survey data was examined from various sources across the GLAM sector. Ultimately, it was determined that while some information was available, gaps in data prevented a proper analysis of the sector’s digitization

capacity. This year, the group addressed the matter by developing an online survey targeting all Canadian cultural heritage institutions to assess digitization and digital preservation capacity. The survey has undergone peer review and ethics review, has been translated into French, and is expected to launch in early 2026. The group would like to note a special thanks to the Canadian Council of Archives for their assistance with survey translation. Aggregate data from the survey will be shared as an open access dataset.

With the assistance of the Canadian Heritage Information Network, the group has also moved forward with the translation of the “[Recueil de règles de numérisation](#)” published by the Canadian Museum of History (CMH), Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF), and Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ). An agreement to publish the translated version is in the final stages of legal review with all organizations involved, and publication is anticipated in 2026. The group will continue to search for other opportunities to share siloed materials in the upcoming year.

Finally, this working group continues to seed their Facebook page with content coming largely from the Digitization and Digital Preservation Discussion Group (DDPDG), an informal group of digital preservation practitioners from the National Capital Region and beyond, as a means of encouraging cross-sectoral participation. Interaction with this page will be recorded, and results will be shared in 2027. The DDPDG is co-chaired by a working group member and remains open to all those working in Canadian GLAM institutions who wish to share their knowledge and experiences of cultural heritage digitization and digital preservation activities.

Connecting Communities Working Group

The working group’s initial tasks involved refining their Terms of Reference, defining the correct scope of work, and identifying areas of potential future exploration. In early 2026, CCDH made the strategic decision to conclude the group’s activities in order to reassess how best to advance this work through other mechanisms and partnerships. This decision reflects CCDH’s ongoing commitment to ensuring that its efforts remain focused, sustainable, and aligned with community capacity and needs.

Strategic Framework Sustainability

Throughout 2025, CCDH has discussed the ongoing sustainability of its strategic framework and associated goals. To shed light on how CCDH plans to reorient to current conditions and pressures both within and outside the GLAM sector, we felt it was important to report on what these conversations have looked like. Key highlights are as follows:

- The upcoming digitization capacity survey will be an important tool for guiding CCDH’s work, particularly its first strategic priority, while also signaling where CCDH may need to adjust its focus.
- Members identified CCDH’s second strategic priority (Intentionally and respectfully uncover the hidden stories of Canada’s history) as especially challenging due to lack

of resourcing for the extensive community consultation and coordination which is required for initiatives such as this.

- The broader funding environment remains difficult, with most federal organizations facing 15% reductions. Many within our membership, including LAC and CRKN, are responding through creating partnerships and seeking grant funding to support specific project-based opportunities to advance important work.
- Ongoing financial pressures at both the federal and provincial levels are limiting the capacity of individual organizations to advance major initiatives independently. In response, members identified national coordination and collective advocacy as essential, which would enabling the sector to align efforts, speak with a unified voice, and more effectively secure support for shared priorities.
- Members emphasized CCDH's **unique value as Canada's only cross-sectoral national digitization body**, noting its ability to run national surveys, convene stakeholders, and maintain a community that bridges libraries, archives, museums, and galleries.
- Looking ahead, there is interest in hosting a national forum, beginning first with a cross-sectoral planning committee. This would also serve as an opportunity to build partnerships with key representatives across the GLAM sector.

Outreach and Engagement

In 2025, in addition to maintaining our connections with existing participants, CCDH focused on fortifying our relationships with archives associations across the country.

A presentation about CCDH entitled "Where Have We Been? Where are We Going?" with a particular focus and invitation for involvement from the archival community was pre-recorded by Emma Wright and presented during the Association of Canadian Archivists conference in June 2025. This presentation was also delivered at the Archives Association of BC and Yukon Council of Archives 2025 virtual conference by Emma Wright and Kathryn Ruddock in October.

So too, CCDH and the Canadian Council of Archives met to discuss areas of overlap and potential collaboration. As stated in the Working Group section of this report, CCA kindly provided support for the French translation of the Digitization Capacity Survey, which allowed the working group to advance its dissemination timeline significantly.

In 2026, CCDH will continue to broaden its reach to archives organizations nationally, as well as broaden our reach to communities representing museum and galleries.

Future Work

In 2026, CCDH will continue to advance the objectives of the Cross-Sectoral Capacity Building Working Group and the broader strategic plan. CCDH continues to work diligently to identify and explore advocacy routes to support digitization and preservation efforts across these lands now known as Canada. Our major focus will be to assess the feasibility of hosting a national forum to bring together members of the GLAM sector to discuss current industry challenges and create opportunities for collaboration and connection.

Ongoing work will also be undertaken on the CCDH website to update and provide additional context and information to potential parties.

Given the pressures currently being faced by all in the GLAM sector, CCDH is eager to work with other national and provincial bodies on collaborative efforts that fortify documentary heritage preservation and associated supports.

Acknowledgements

CCDH acknowledges the territories of Indigenous Nations and peoples that exist in lands now known as Canada. We commit ourselves to respecting the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories, and aspirations.

CCDH benefits from Secretariat support provided by the Canadian Research Knowledge Network. We thank the Secretariat and the many individuals and organizations across Canada who contributed to the development of a re-envisioned CCDH, our strategic framework, and our collaborative efforts over the course of 2025.

Additionally, we acknowledge the efforts of the working groups and their respective chairs for their dedication to realizing CCDH's strategic priorities.

Contact Us

Visit the CCDH [website](#) or contact us at secretariat@ccdh-cnpc.ca. If you want to hear from us directly, please join the [CCDH mailing list](#).