

The Historica-Dominion Institute (HDI) is Canada's leading independent institution focusing on our country's history and citizenship. Much like the country we serve, we at HDI are well aware of the importance of maintaining the ability to adapt with changing times and challenges even as we adhere to the core values that define us.

The generous and longstanding support of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies is a crucial element in allowing us to do both. Like almost all not-for-profit organizations, our operating budget for each year can be something of a moving target, based on a combination of long-term funding commitments, contributions to programs that may have a specific end end-date, and levels of general gift-giving that can vary dramatically from year to year. The commitment of ACBP over the years has given us a source of stable funding that we rely on in a variety of ways. Because it is tied to our ability to adhere to our general mandate rather than to specific programs, it allows a measure of flexibility in our planning. Another intangible – but no less important – benefit is that the reputation of ACBP and the individuals associated with it lend themselves, by extension, to HDI: in other words, being judged as worthy of support by ACBP is an attribute that is also taken into good account by others.

We strive to ensure that our programs are worthy of that support — and are similarly appreciated by Canadians from all walks of life. Some of the larger programs we offer include the iconic Heritage Minutes, 60-second long vignettes of defining moments in Canadian history; Passages to Canada, a speakers' program by which audiences hear first-hand what it is like to come to this country from another land and culture; The Memory Project, in which Canadian military veterans of World War Two and the Korean War are recorded for posterity recounting their experiences; the Speakers Bureau, by which veterans of those conflicts similarly recount their experiences and answer questions from live audiences — often made up of young students; The Canadian Encyclopedia, which is the definitive source of people and things Canadian; and Encounters with Canada, a program that each year offers thousands of young people from across the country the opportunity to travel to Ottawa, meet and greet each other, and learn more about Canada from elected politicians and other distinguished Canadians. (For a more complete list of our activities, see our website www.historica-dominion.ca.)

One of the most important qualities of our organization is a willingness to periodically reexamine our mandate, our programs, the manner in which we execute them, and our relevance to the country we seek to reflect and serve. ACBP's support and encouragement in this regard are crucial to our ability to do so. To that end, it is not only a source of great support to our activities today, but also a guiding light in our efforts to contribute to a better tomorrow. The generous vision and high degree of commitment of ABCP to the values and heritage of this country — and their impact upon our future — reflect an example that we at HDI must always try to emulate.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

President, the Historica-Dominion Institute