



**CARL ABRC**

## **CARL Member Bulletin**

November 29, 2006

### **Canada Map Office**

CARL Directors may recall that Natural Resources Canada had announced that it would discontinue the printing of paper topographic maps and close the Canada Map Office effective January 2007.

A campaign led by the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives with assistance from CARL and supported by many organizations led the Minister, Hon. Gary Lunn, to change his mind. The decision was announced on October 11.

The campaign website has had over 45,000 hits to date.

<http://www.mapsforcanadians.ca/>

CARL's letter to the Minister and his response are posted on the CARL website.

On November 28 Mr. Pierre Lemieux (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, CPC) made the following statement in the House of Commons:

Mr. Speaker, recently, Canadians' right of access to paper topographic maps was protected by the [Minister of Natural Resources](#) because the former government was caught napping on mapping.

Canada has a distinguished history in map making and is a world leader in geomatics. Our country is currently world renowned for its innovative geospatial technology, grounded in what is probably the country's most historical profession, land exploration.

As soon as the minister was made aware of the former government's decision to close the Canada Map Office, he sprung into action and saved the program. In doing so, not only has our minister ensured continued access to maps, but he has increased awareness of the importance of maps to rural and remote communities, sovereignty, infrastructure, tourism, education, national defence and many more areas.

Maps are important. They are not only an integral part of our heritage but also of our current and future economy.

This House applauds and thanks the minister and Canada's new government for keeping Canada on the map.

See:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=39&Pub=hansard&Ses=1#SOB-1804704>

The major campaign is still to come. Funds for mapping have been cut back over the last years and some maps have not been revised for over 30 years.

We will advise CARL Directors on further progress.

Geoffrey Su  
Research and Program Officer / Agent de recherche et des programmes

Canadian Association of Research Libraries / Association des bibliothèques de recherche du Canada  
Room / Pièce 238, Pavillon Morisset Hall, 65 University Private  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9A5  
Phone / Téléphone : (613) 562-5800 ext. 2427  
Fax / Télécopieur : (613) 562-5195  
E-mail / Courriel : [carlrpo@uottawa.ca](mailto:carlrpo@uottawa.ca)  
[www.carl-abrc.ca](http://www.carl-abrc.ca)