



## **CNE Foundation announces 2022-2023 Library and Archives Canada Documentary Heritage Communities Program funding**

*Joint project with Canadian Heritage Photography Foundation aims to digitize and preserve 8,000 at-risk CNE archival photographic negatives*

Toronto, ON -- Tuesday, May 24, 2022 – The **Canadian National Exhibition Foundation** is pleased to announce that it is a 2022-2023 grant recipient through the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) Documentary Heritage Communities Program (DHCP) for its project: *Preserving the Legacy of the Canadian National Exhibition: Digitizing Photography from the Alexandra Studio Collection 1977–79*.

The \$39,295 DHCP grant enables the digitization and preservation of 8,000 at-risk archival photographic negatives of the Canadian National Exhibition’s Alexandra Studio collection. The CNE Foundation is pleased to work in partnership with the **Canadian Heritage Photography Foundation (CHPF)** on this initiative. Public access to the images will be available through both foundations following completion of the project.

“We are thrilled to be able to assist this important Foundation with the preservation, digitization and dissemination of a very important heritage collection,” said Nicole Plaskett, CHPF Executive Director.

The CNE portion of the Alexandra Studio Fond consists of 109,032 cellulose acetate photo negatives and captures a visual record of the iconic Canadian National Exhibition event through the years 1947 to 1983. The CNE Foundation and CHPF DHCP project focuses on a selection of the images, from the years 1977 to 1979.

“We are so pleased with this Library and Archives Canada support of our initiative to preserve the legacy of the Canadian National Exhibition, and look forward to sharing the historically and culturally significant images with the public,” said Suzan Hall, CNE Foundation Chair.

During the summer of 2021, the CNE Foundation officially launched its *CNE Archives Project* to raise the funds needed to digitize and preserve more than 64,000 deteriorating archival photo negatives of the Alexandra Studio collection. Through funding and individual donations received after the launch, the CNE Foundation successfully rehoused 8,566 negatives and scanned 4,389 negatives.

“We are grateful for the support we’ve received to date from funders and members of the CNE community to save these precious images,” said Joanne Benerowski, Director of the CNE Foundation. “The DHCP funding is significant for us and we look forward to working on this project with the CHPF team in our shared interest of preserving Canadian heritage images,” said Benerowski.

The CNE Foundation aims to digitize and preserve as many of the collection’s negatives as possible to save CNE memories for future generations. Members of the public wishing to contribute a financial gift in support of the CNE Foundation’s *CNE Archives Project* can do so at: [cnefoundation.com](https://cnefoundation.com).

**Library and Archives Canada quotation:**

"Congratulations to this year's DHCP recipients! LAC is proud to support you. As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the National Archives of Canada, we recognize more than ever the importance of your work to preserve the documentary heritage of your communities, across Canada. Our collective efforts are crucial to ensuring that Canadians of today and tomorrow have access to documentary resources that represent the breadth of our country's realities."

– Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada

**About the CNE Foundation:**

The Canadian National Exhibition Foundation is a public foundation and registered charity. The philanthropic arm of the Canadian National Exhibition Association, the CNE Foundation funds programs year-round to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and the community in support of its vision: "Empowering community. Improving lives." To learn more about CNE Foundation programs, please visit: [cnefoundation.com](http://cnefoundation.com). Charitable Business Number: 118834639 RR 0001

**About the Canadian Heritage Photography Foundation:**

The Canadian Heritage Photography Foundation (CHPF) is an archive of photographs reflecting the diverse cultural heritage of Canada. With a focus on digitizing our holdings, CHPF aims to make these beautiful photographs available to everyone. Whether you are a photographer, researcher, historian, educator, film maker or a proud Canadian, the Foundation provides a window into our country's rich past. Charitable Business Number: 872324710 RR 0001