Commission

PRESS RELEASE

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THE 2012 FEDERAL BUDGET NBC MINIMIZES THE IMPACTS

Quebec, April 4, 2012 - The 2012 Budget provides us with a brief survey of the Economic Action Plan for 2012 and of the Canadian Government's commitment to return to a balanced budget. Last March 29, it was announced in the budget that the National Battlefields Commission (NBC) will achieve savings of \$800,000 (rounded figure) beginning in 2013-2014 as part of the government's efforts to reduce the deficit. More precisely, this amounts to \$755,000.

Already we should point out that the Commission will not reduce the services it offers the public so as to achieve the objective set by the government, which is to take off 10% of its budget over the next two fiscal years. Instead, the Commission will draw on its investment budget and take advantage of a current reorganization to downsize its workforce.

The savings to be achieved in 2012-2013 are of the order of \$156,000 and revolve around payrolls. Some of the changes made, unrelated to the budget, as well as the non-renewal of two currently vacant positions (including social benefits) should help reduce the impact on human resources.

Moreover, an analysis of the various operating budget items shows a possible reduction in the long-term capital plan, i.e., the non-recurring special projects. The reduction will be of the order of \$599,000 beginning with the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Although this is a substantial reduction it will not adversely affect the achievement of NBC's objectives: the preservation and development of the territory. The Commission wanted to limit as much as possible the impacts on the public and the employees, but various projects, including the renewal of infrastructures, will need to be spread over a greater number of years. The more pressing priority repairs will be carried out, and efforts will be made to minimize the risks for user safety and maintain the conformity of the facilities.

- 30 -

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