

Dear APA Member:

The recent APA referendum on Ministry of Culture implementation of the proposed New Standards and Guidelines was quite surprising in its results. 39 of our 61 members voted and 35 of our 42 licenced archaeologists were included in that number (an 83% turn-out of licenced archaeologists). The result was as follows:

37 said Yes to delaying implementation, 1 said no, and 1 abstained. According to nearly 95% of our members who participated in the referendum, or 97% if the abstention is not counted, there is an overwhelming wish among APA archaeologists to delay implementation pending an appropriate mechanism for making changes now and on an ongoing basis. APA is fully prepared to assist the Ministry of Culture with this.

Regarding our meeting with the Ministry of Culture on March 03 to discuss these concerns - objections were raised by Ministry staff to our inclusion of non-Executive members (but still APA members) in making a series of short presentations. In addition, we were also informed the day before the meeting that there would be time for "questions" at the end of the meeting but that the original agenda would be followed. In this circumstance, and out of fairness to the APA members who were invited by APA (Nick Adams, Scott Hamilton and Mike Henry), APA declined to attend the meeting. We will, instead, take up the offer of Richard Mortimer, Director of Operations, for a separate and subsequent meeting with APA.

In the meanwhile, we will proceed as an Executive to exercise the mandate given by the membership to present concerns to the Ministers of Culture, Aboriginal Affairs and Municipal Affairs and Housing, among others. May I ask also that APA members who have concerns put them in a letter or [e-mail](#) to me to be taken to the various Ministers or simply be used anonymously to substantiate our case if that is your wish. We have six such letters on file at this moment. I have to say that we were very pleased, as an Executive, at the member turn-out in the referendum and increasingly concerned to address this process before it is too late.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Jackson, Ph.D.  
President APA