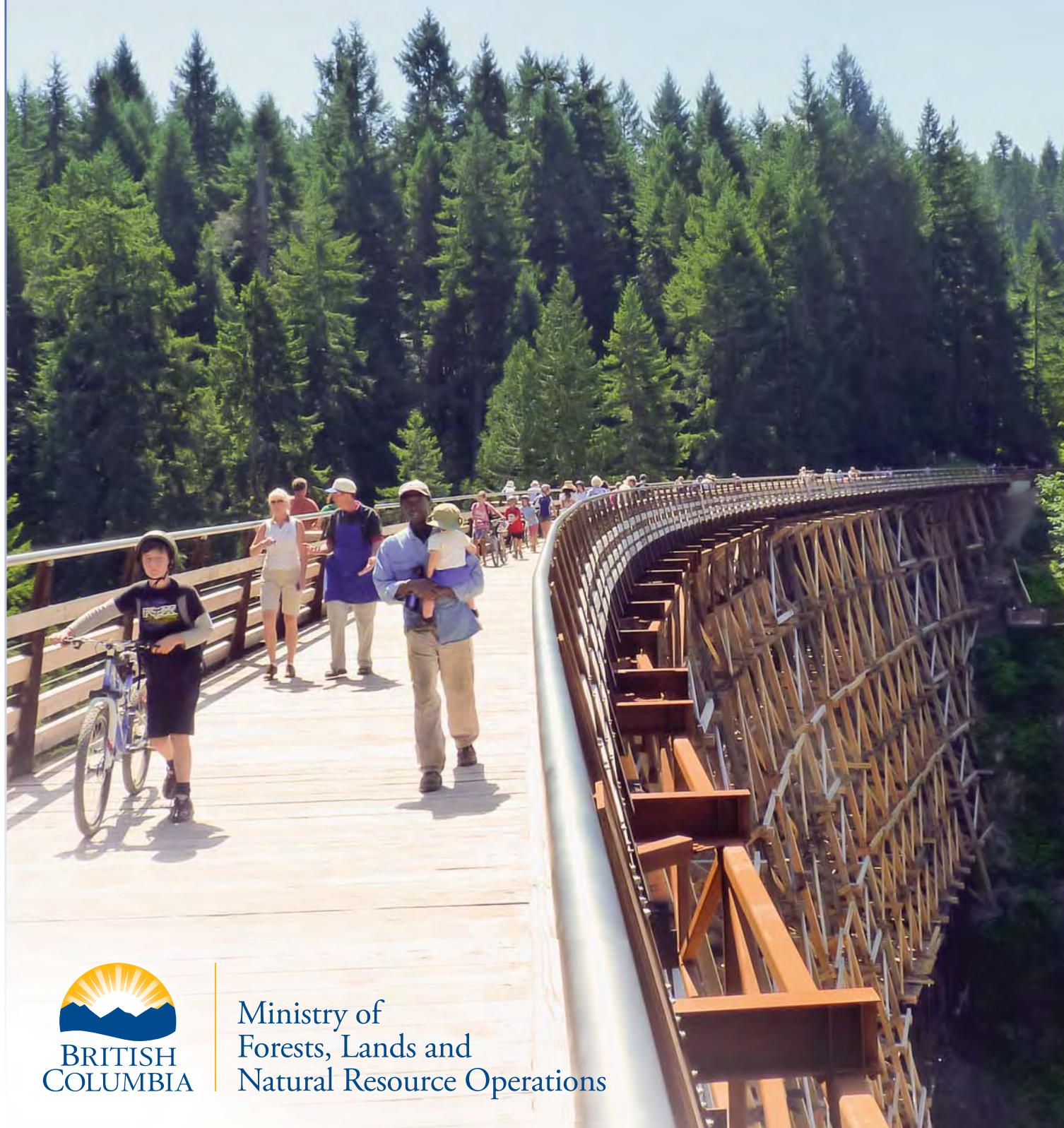
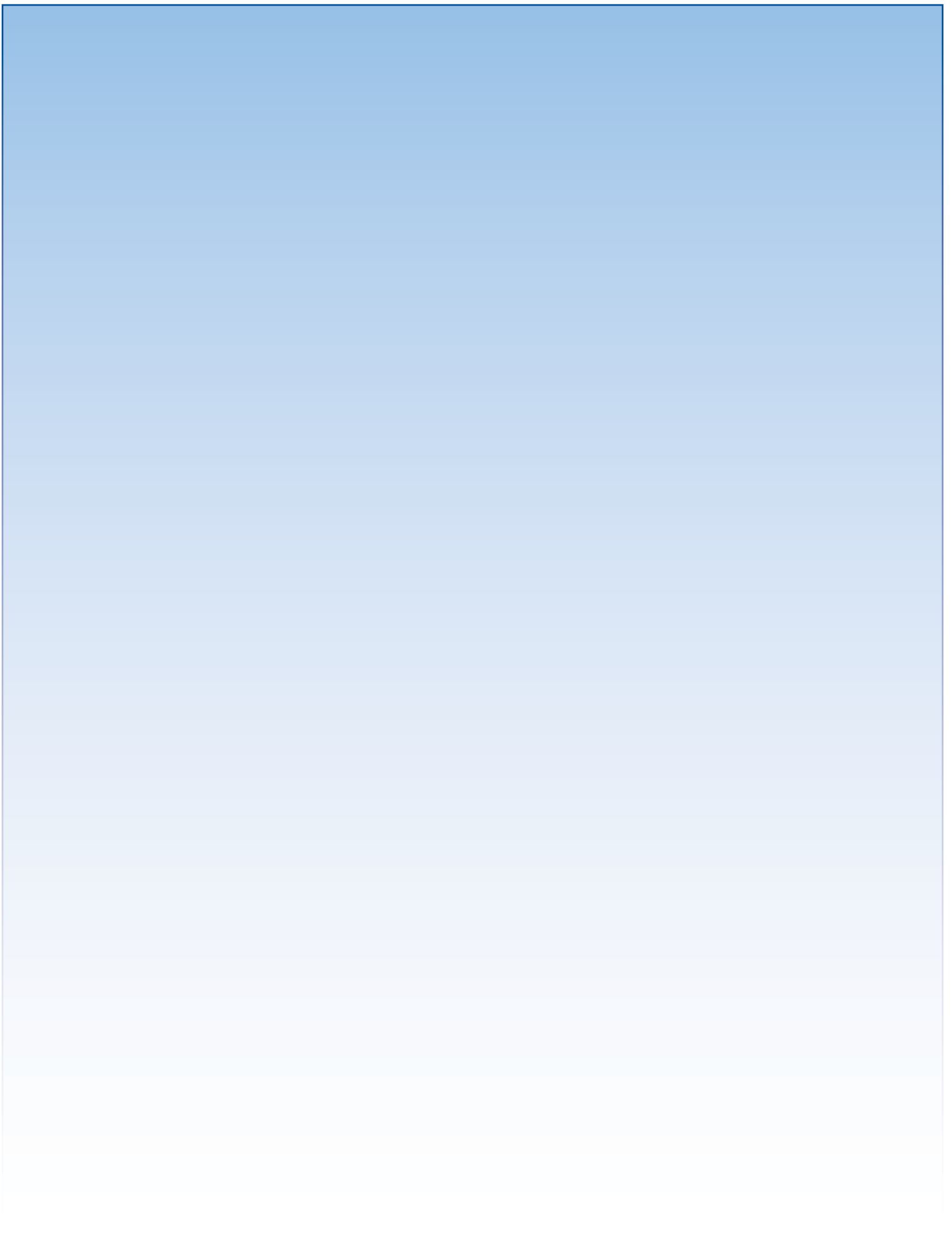


Our Heritage ~ Historic Places

Heritage Strategy for British Columbia



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations



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This strategy researched and prepared by



Cover: The rehabilitated historic Kinsol Trestle opened in July 2011. Photo courtesy Heritage Branch.



The Fraser Canyon: A cultural landscape that reflects our heritage of First Nations, mining, and transportation



*Young participants at the
2008 National Heritage Fair
visit the BC Legislature*

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER THOMSON

Our Heritage, Historic Places is the government's response to the need for a provincial heritage strategy. Our heritage, both historic and contemporary, illustrates the diversity of cultures and regions that can be found across the province, and epitomizes what it means to be British Columbian. Our historic places - including buildings, streets, neighbourhoods, and cultural landscapes - tell the stories of who we are as families, communities and as a society.

For me, this story includes serving as a Director of the Kelowna Museum for many years, and having our family farm house on the Kelowna Heritage Register as a recognized Century Farm. In fact, the wooden table that stands in the kitchen of our farm house is one that my grandfather made. I am sure many British Columbians can share similar stories of the impact that heritage has had on their lives.

By including heritage as a core value in how we manage resources and the land base, we can realize growth in the economy, build a greater sense of pride, and instill an even stronger identity for British Columbia. Success depends on the collaboration of governments at all levels, along with community groups and organizations, First Nations and businesses.

I am pleased to introduce this forward-looking strategy that strives to make our heritage of historic places a vibrant part of British Columbia. I am also confident that this strategy will lead to more attractive and sustainable towns, cities and rural areas, as much as it will provide for exemplary stewardship of our landbase and offer world-class experiences for residents and visitors alike.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Thomson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Steve Thomson

Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

OVERVIEW OF THE HERITAGE STRATEGY

Vision

British Columbia's heritage and historic places are honoured, and their contribution to community identity, economic health, and environmental stewardship is fully realized by this and future generations.

GOAL

British Columbia's Identity is Strengthened and Renewed Through Heritage Conservation

GOAL

Environmental Stewardship Through Heritage Conservation

GOAL

Economic Diversity and Durability Through Heritage Conservation

Strategies

- ▶ Create opportunities to celebrate our heritage
- ▶ Model good stewardship of historic places
- ▶ Facilitate the development of the heritage tourism sector
- ▶ Enhance the profile of the BC Register of Historic Places
- ▶ Strengthen heritage conservation in communities
- ▶ Build partnerships with First Nations to celebrate their unique heritage values
- ▶ Promote heritage conservation as a climate action opportunity
- ▶ Advance a triple-bottom line approach to heritage conservation
- ▶ Increase the self sufficiency of the provincial heritage properties
- ▶ Integrate historic place conservation into related business sectors
- ▶ Incorporate best practices for heritage stewardship into resource management

STATE OF HERITAGE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia's heritage includes historic places in communities across the province, providing a 'sense of place' and contributing to our Province's unique identity. This strategy is government's plan for supporting heritage conservation in British Columbia over the next five to ten years. It has been written to help ensure British Columbia remains a leader in sustaining and benefitting from its heritage.

An Evolving Area of Practice

The field of heritage conservation is fairly young in British Columbia. In 1994, extensive amendments to heritage legislation provided stronger powers and authorities to local governments. There has been a shift in British Columbia, and world-wide, from a focus on landmark historic site museums to a broader focus integrating heritage as one of the values in community planning and resource management. This provides for greater recognition, celebration and conservation of the historic places that make up the unique social, economic and environmental fabric of our province. Increasingly, local governments, First Nations, and others consider heritage values in making resource management decisions.

Collaboration in the Conservation of Heritage

There is a growing appreciation that the conservation of heritage is not just the responsibility of a single agency, rather it is better achieved through collaboration within and across governments as well as with the private and not-for-profit sectors. One marker of this has been the development since 2002 of a community governance model for management of the provincial heritage properties. From the largest sites such as Barkerville and Fort Steele, to smaller sites like Emily Carr House and Historic Yale, the new governance models have increased economic benefits to communities through local job creation and as strong economic drivers for tourism in their regions. As well the sites have broadened their financial base and increased their independence from the provincial government, while achieving a stronger connection with and responsiveness to community interests.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT HERITAGE PROGRAMS IN B.C.

A number of B.C. communities have robust heritage programs administered by local government. These heritage programs use a set of planning tools outlined in the 1994 heritage conservation provisions of the Local Government Act, including heritage registers, revitalization agreements, alteration or development permits and financial incentive programs. Nanaimo is a small community that has taken advantage of these provisions. As one of British Columbia's oldest settlements, Nanaimo boasts a rich history in the coal mining and resource industry. In 2001, Nanaimo City Council adopted a Heritage Action Plan which identified key actions including a Community Heritage Register that by 2011 had over 170 listings. As well the City created a downtown Heritage Conservation Area, implemented a Heritage Procedures Bylaw, and created financial incentive programs to encourage homeowners and developers to upgrade Nanaimo's historic buildings. In 2011, Nanaimo's Heritage Program received the Prince of Wales prize and an honourable mention from the Heritage Canada Foundation.

Future Opportunities for Sustaining Heritage

The preparation of this strategy draws on consultation with hundreds of stakeholders in all areas of the province. British Columbians expressed enthusiasm about honouring and sharing their legacies with this generation and the next. Through these consultations, the opportunities for the future include:

- **Representation** – Recognition of historic places could be more representative of the diversity of British Columbia’s population, including more opportunities to celebrate First Nations’ heritage.
- **Communication** – The public value of our heritage can be more effectively communicated to a broader audience. Celebrating historic places, which includes provincial recognition, is one factor for success in addressing this opportunity.
- **Capacity** – Community capacity to conserve and manage historic places should be bolstered. This includes investing in traditional trades and skills, increasing volunteerism, and engaging youth, First Nations and new residents in the celebration and stewardship of heritage.

This strategy acknowledges these opportunities and in addressing them seeks to ensure that heritage plays an even stronger role in the prosperity of British Columbia.

Emerging Areas of Focus for this Strategy

From this understanding of the interests British Columbians have with their heritage, and the evolution that has taken place with conservation goals and approaches, four areas of focus for the next five years have emerged:

- **Facilitate community heritage conservation, including First Nations.**
- **Recognize and celebrate British Columbia’s historic places.**
- **Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship.**
- **Increase the financial self sufficiency of provincial heritage properties.**

These four areas of focus do not rule out other efforts to encourage and facilitate the conservation and celebration of our province’s historic places. These areas of focus provide a concerted effort to be more proactive, strengthen relationships, ensure sustainability of our historic places, and more broadly, increase the depth of our shared heritage as British Columbians.

First Nations and Historic Places

The Province seeks to work with First Nations to foster a common understanding of their important, non-archaeological historic places. Strengthening the relationship with First Nations around the identification and management of their cultural landscapes and built environments is integral to achieving this goal. Through a focused effort to build inclusive, respectful processes, the Province seeks to continue its work with First Nations to more effectively recognize their historic places as a key component in British Columbia’s heritage mosaic.



Staff members at Fort Steele Heritage Town work with provincial government staff to create Statements of Significance, tools to help the site managers make stewardship and conservation decisions that maintain the historic place’s heritage values.



Workshop participants learn about the heritage conservation planning process during Heritage Branch led sessions.

SETTING THE VISION AND GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

This strategy reflects a shared commitment to embrace the social, economic and environmental benefits of our heritage of historic places, as part of our collective history. It also recognizes the critical need to encourage and facilitate recognition, conservation, and commemoration of this history through government, First Nations, community and industry collaboration.

A Vision for Heritage in British Columbia

British Columbia's heritage and historic places are honoured, and their contribution to community identity, economic health, and environmental stewardship is fully realized by this and future generations.

Goals for Realizing British Columbia's Vision

This strategy strives to achieve the following goals:

1. **British Columbia's identity is strengthened and renewed through heritage conservation** – By honouring the collective legacies of our cities, towns, rural areas and lands with citizens and visitors to our province, we can strengthen British Columbia's identity as well as facilitate community renewal.
2. **Environmental stewardship through heritage conservation** – This goal will be realized through leadership in sustainable practices and historic place conservation that can be applied to stewardship in the broader built environment. This, combined with a triple-bottom line approach, brings together the economic and social aspects of heritage with the environmental.
3. **Economic diversity and durability through heritage conservation** – In working toward this goal, the link between history and the economy needs to be made in a compelling way so that British Columbians understand the role their historic places and heritage play as a catalyst for economic vitality throughout the province. An entrepreneurial approach to the management of historic places must also be fostered to ensure their long term operation and sustainability. Further, the building of capacity for future community stewardship of heritage contributes to this goal.

These goals, and the overarching vision for heritage in British Columbia, will guide the investment of resources toward encouraging and facilitating the recognition, conservation and celebration of heritage in the province.

Resource Management

The Province, in partnership with the Cowichan Valley Regional District has rehabilitated the largest wooden structure in North America, the Kinsol Trestle. The rehabilitated trestle is an important part of the Trans-Canada Trail on Vancouver Island building community health and tourism along with contributing to job creation.

Job Creation and Investment

In 2009, the Community Development Trust's Job Opportunities Program provided employment and retraining for over 60 displaced forestry workers. These people learned new skills in historic place conservation by working at provincial historic properties and receiving training in the College of New Caledonia's Heritage Building Conservation Program. A number have since gone on to work in the renovation and construction sector.

Recognition of British Columbia's Heritage

The BC Register of Historic Places is the master record of places that have been recognized as having significance to British Columbians. The Register contains over 3,200 entries representing the diversity of B.C. communities. A further 2,300 recognitions are anticipated to be included on the Register in the next few years.

Cross-Government Integration – In 2012, the provincial government designated the McAbee Fossil Beds as a provincial heritage site. Planning for the site has brought together diverse government departments to realize both its protection and future management. The integration of heritage functions alongside other resource management functions of government has facilitated this approach.

LAYING OUT THE STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

GOAL

British Columbia's Identity is Strengthened and Renewed Through Heritage Conservation

GOAL

Environmental Stewardship Through Heritage Conservation

GOAL

Economic Diversity and Durability Through Heritage Conservation

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	PRIORITIES ADDRESSED			
1. <i>Create opportunities to celebrate our heritage</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and facilitate a variety of celebration initiatives across the province including heritage fairs, multicultural events, and Heritage Week Collaborate across governments on increasing engagement of British Columbians in their heritage, specifically targeting youth, new residents, First Nations and rural communities 	Facilitate community heritage conservation, including First Nations	Recognize and celebrate British Columbia's historic places	Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship	
2. <i>Enhance the profile of the BC Register of Historic Places</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to, and encourage the use of, the BC Register of Historic Places Integrate the use of BC Register data into crown resource management* 	Facilitate community heritage conservation, including First Nations	Recognize and celebrate British Columbia's historic places		
3. <i>Strengthen heritage conservation in communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate guidance and training to local governments on the application of the heritage conservation provisions in provincial legislation Support ways to build the capacity of communities to understand their unique identities and the opportunities for sustainable development and growth Monitor and report on community heritage capacity Explore ways to strengthen the role of the non-profit and private sectors in heritage conservation Advance the community governance model for the use and conservation of provincial heritage properties Acknowledge the potential of new development to reinforce community identity 	Facilitate community heritage conservation, including First Nations	Recognize and celebrate British Columbia's historic places	Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship	Increase the financial self sufficiency of gated provincial heritage properties

**This action is repeated in support of the strategy, "Incorporate best practices for heritage stewardship into resource management"*

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	PRIORITIES ADDRESSED			
4. <i>Promote heritage conservation as climate action</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use heritage conservation to advance government mandates for environmental sustainability Collaborate with the green building sector to raise awareness of, and advance research in, the environmental benefits gained from the use of historic buildings Work with property managers to realize the environmental benefits of historic place conservation 	Facilitate community heritage conservation, including First Nations		Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship	
5. <i>Advance a triple-bottom line approach to heritage conservation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build community leader and organizational awareness of the economic, environmental and social benefits of historic places in British Columbia Facilitate Heritage BC in charting a new direction that ensures financial independence and fosters a culture of conservation in British Columbia Participate ex-officio in the Heritage Legacy Fund of BC 	Facilitate community heritage conservation, including First Nations		Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship	
6. <i>Model good stewardship of historic places</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the provincial heritage properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Address deferred maintenance to ensure resource protection</i> <i>Facilitate on-going, effective stewardship</i> <i>Engage in long-range planning</i> Work with leadership in government and the renovation and construction sector to develop policy and planning tools that encourage retention and reuse of the existing built environment In concert with post-secondary institutions and professional associations, build skills in heritage conservation trades as well as competencies in professional historic place management and repair 	Facilitate community heritage conservation, including First Nations		Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship	Increase the financial self sufficiency of gated provincial heritage properties
7. <i>Increase the self sufficiency of the provincial heritage properties</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities to expand the uses of, increase revenues from, and better align provincial heritage properties with community plans Work with heritage site operators to ensure that opportunities to improve both the efficiency and effectiveness of operations are identified and implemented 	Facilitate community heritage conservation, including First Nations		Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship	Increase the financial self sufficiency of gated provincial heritage properties

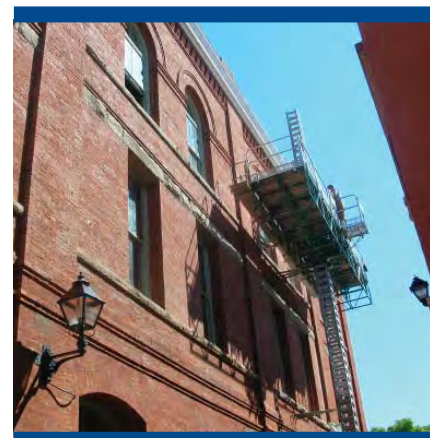


Workers repairing the Historic Hat Creek Ranch.

Our Heritage – Historic Places

STRATEGIES	ACTIONS	PRIORITIES ADDRESSED			
8. Facilitate the development of the heritage tourism sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the awareness of historic places, and of the cumulative effects of cultural tourism development, in partnership with tourism mandated agencies Facilitate the promotion of provincial heritage properties as a significant element of British Columbia's tourism sector 	Facilitate community heritage conservation, including First Nations	Recognize and celebrate British Columbia's historic places	Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship	
9. Integrate historic place conservation into related business sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen and support effective, co-operative relationships between the Province and professional bodies, sector leaders, and industry associations Develop partnerships that integrate historic place conservation with the planning for, and promotion of, other economic sectors 		Recognize and celebrate British Columbia's historic places	Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship	Increase the financial self sufficiency of gated provincial heritage properties
10. Incorporate best practices for heritage stewardship into resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with leaders in government and the provincial portfolio of heritage properties to improve resource management of historic places on Crown land Integrate the use of BC Register data into crown resource management 	Facilitate community heritage conservation	Recognize and celebrate British Columbia's historic places	Foster cross government and sector collaboration in heritage stewardship	

The implementation of the strategies and actions profiled above will require provincial government and partner support, but will also offer the means to make the best use of these resources. The Province invested \$5 million in the Heritage Legacy Fund of BC in 2003, with this endowment generating an annual interest income that is available to support community groups in heritage conservation. The provincial government also contributes an annual budget for the BC Heritage Branch and in 2011 set aside \$21 million over three years for continued operations as well as maintenance of the provincial heritage properties. Another \$8.7 million was approved for a four year project to upgrade sewer, fire and water infrastructure at Barkerville and Fort Steele. Together, these resources can contribute to the advancement of this strategy, and potentially leverage other sources of support.



Did you know? As a direct result of the powers given to local governments in the 1994 heritage legislation, the City of Victoria's tax incentive program for residential conversions has forgiven just short of \$10 million of property tax that has stimulated \$144 million of private investment in the rehabilitation of commercial property for residential use in Victoria's Old Town heritage conservation area.

REPORTING ON SUCCESS

In order to tell the story of our progress in fulfilling the strategy's goals we will report on the following measures of performance:

GOAL

British Columbia's Identity is Strengthened and Renewed Through Heritage Conservation

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Environmental Stewardship Through Heritage Conservation

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Performance Measures

- Number of reported heritage events hosted in British Columbia
- Utilization of the BC Register of Historic Places:
 - Number of records on the BC Register of Historic Places
 - Number of historic place records accessible to the public
- State of heritage conservation capacity in British Columbia communities:
 - Number of First Nation communities reporting heritage conservation projects
 - Number of communities reporting heritage planning content in Official Community Plans
 - Number of communities reporting that they are maintaining a Heritage Commission or equivalent organization
 - Number of communities reporting incentive programs
 - Private sector investment reported by local government incentive programs
- Average ratings of awareness among surveyed community leaders on the environmental benefits gained from the conservation of historic places
- Prevalence and description of collaborations with the green building sector and leading institutions on historic place conservation as a means of advancing environmental sustainability
- Estimated economic impacts of historic place conservation in British Columbia:
 - Provincial GDP
 - Full-time employment
 - Tax revenues
- Level of self-sufficiency of provincial heritage properties:
 - Percentage of the provincial heritage property portfolio that has been converted to a routine maintenance footing
 - Percentage change in provincial contributions to operating budgets for heritage properties



Kekuli, or pit house at Historic Hat Creek Ranch. Historic places valued by First Nation communities are a significant part of our collective heritage.



Heritage Branch

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