

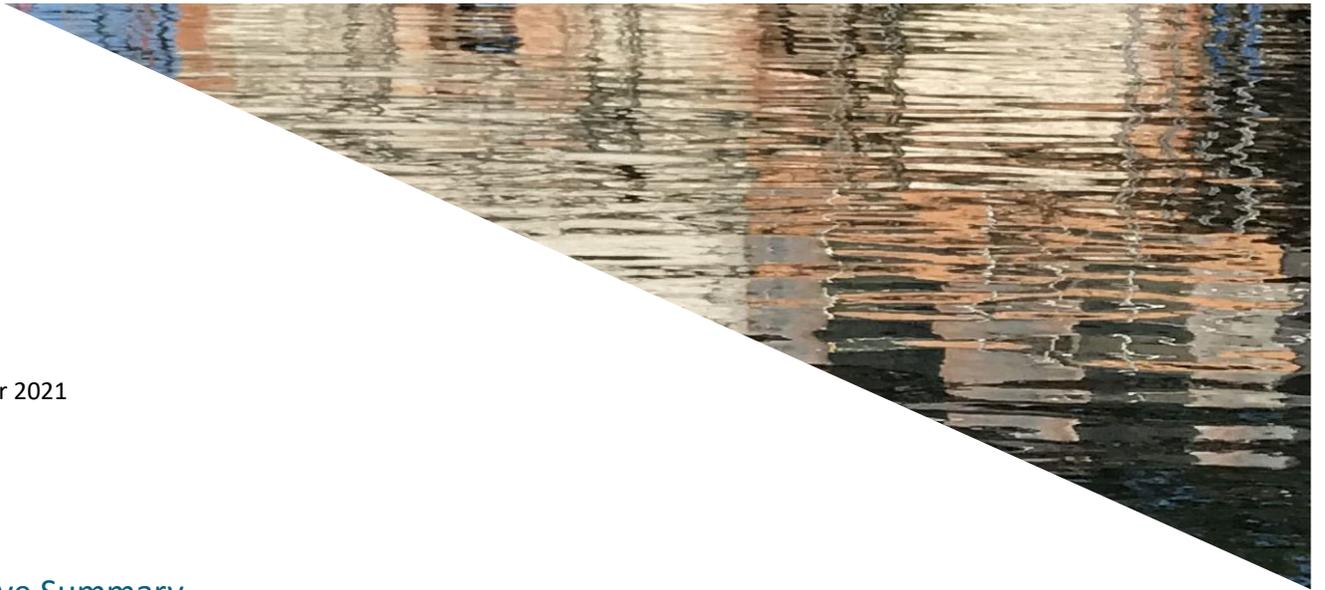
# WHAT WE HEARD

Outcomes of Provincial Engagement  
on Cultural Heritage



Heritage Branch

# Response



September 2021

## Executive Summary

Between 2018 and 2020, Heritage Branch partnered with Heritage BC and First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) to deliver a series of engagement initiatives to identify challenges and opportunities for heritage management in British Columbia. Hundreds of specific recommendations were received that touch on all aspects of the heritage sector. Recommendations were wide ranging including actions for Heritage Branch as well as recommendations for other government bodies and the wider heritage community. This report provides an analysis of these and other recommendations, with the intention of identifying those that relate to the mandate of Heritage Branch.

Heritage Branch heard important messages about changes needed to better deliver on its mandate, including:

- Indigenous Peoples are the Knowledge Keepers and experts about their own cultural heritage. It is critical for government to do its part to help build Indigenous leadership, control and capacity. This includes examining how decisions are made about Indigenous cultural heritage, supporting Indigenous-led projects, enabling the repatriation of Indigenous cultural materials, continuing to recognize Indigenous place names, and ensuring equitable funding of Indigenous cultural heritage initiatives.
- Local governments and heritage organizations need leadership, direction and funding to support community heritage planning and to promote heritage as a key aspect of community identity and economic vitality.
- Past biases and discrimination rooted in colonialism continue to affect how we think about B.C.'s heritage today. It is critical to acknowledge any past wrongs associated with heritage places and the stories that have been told about them and make space for other realities to be shared to expand our collective understanding.
- Understanding, transmitting, and safeguarding the values of B.C.'s heritage is a dynamic and living process, but some see provincial management approaches as static and outdated. There is a need to modernize heritage programs and services to recognize and protect living, or intangible, cultural heritage.

- There is concern about the future survival of B.C.'s heritage based on current funding for conserving heritage places, safeguarding living heritage traditions, and preparing to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Policies and processes for the safeguarding and management of heritage under the *Heritage Conservation Act* need to be reconsidered and updated to reflect these current priorities and concerns.
- Continuing to recognize the role of cultural heritage in community identity, cultural tourism infrastructure and rural resilience.

This report provides Heritage Branch's response to these themes and outlines key commitments that the Branch plans to deliver in the coming years, including:

***Enhance and build partnerships to support Indigenous leadership and control over Indigenous cultural heritage***

- Continue to build support for initiatives to recognize and safeguard Indigenous cultural heritage led by Indigenous Governments and organizations and for Indigenous cultural heritage programs delivered by FPCC.
- Look for opportunities to support Indigenous-led safeguarding and acknowledging Indigenous cultural heritage at Provincial Heritage Properties, including historic places and fossil sites.

***Revise and develop policies to address gaps under heritage legislation***

- Engage Indigenous partners, other stakeholders, and the public to revise and develop Heritage Branch policies in a manner that incorporates diverse perspectives and provides for greater collaboration.
- Modernize existing policies and develop new ones to address current concerns, such as the recognition and designation of provincially significant heritage places and a strategy for living heritage that encourages connections between generations and recognizes heritage as key to community identity.

***Enhance support for the Heritage Sector***

- Work with Heritage BC and FPCC to address current gaps and build support for heritage planning capacity in local and Indigenous Governments.
- Continue to consider funding opportunities to support Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage across B.C., including for provincially owned heritage property.

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## Territorial Acknowledgements

Heritage Branch acknowledges that it carries out its work on the traditional territories of Indigenous Nations throughout B.C. We acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples on whose territories this document was prepared, primarily the Lekwungen-speaking peoples of the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations. We also recognize the Métis and Inuit people who make their homes on this land.

We express our gratitude for the Knowledge Keepers and those whose work recognizes and safeguards Indigenous cultural heritage. We value our relationships with Indigenous Peoples in B.C. and the lessons we learn through our work together.

## Note on COVID-19

The engagement and collection of recommendations included in this report were completed prior to the widescale impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These recommendations therefore do not reflect the additional pressures placed on heritage in B.C. as a result of the pandemic.

The response does include aspects of COVID-19 recovery measures where they are relevant to the recommendations. This report was written during COVID-19 recovery efforts and may not include all initiatives undertaken as a part of B.C.'s economic recovery.

## Part I: Introduction and Background

British Columbia's heritage, traditions and places – buildings, landscapes, stories, objects, place names, and other aspects of culture – are crucial to the understanding and appreciation of the identity and character of B.C.'s communities.

### A. What Is Heritage?

Heritage is a broad concept that is not easily or universally defined and touches on a wide range of places and experiences. It encompasses any aspect of the past that British Columbians continue to value and is vital to individual and community identities. Heritage includes tangible, physical remnants of the past such as buildings, landscapes, and objects, as well as society's intangible values, beliefs, customs, and traditions. These can take the form of stories, language, place names, music, dance, food, ceremonies, or anything we do that is part of a tradition extending into the past.

We heard from contributors that the recognition and celebration of heritage in B.C. has been focused on settler history and on the preservation of physical buildings, sites, and infrastructure associated with what is significant from a specific perspective, often celebrating stories of "conquest", "hardship" and "discovery". This focus for what was deemed suitable of being preserved and remembered was a tool used to shape a certain story of B.C. The sites, buildings, objects and archival materials preserved for posterity recorded the stories of a select few.

For example, many historic places were preserved in the past to tell the story of the gold rush as the origin story of B.C. as a province and at a time when the impacts of the gold rush period on Indigenous communities and populations, or the vibrant Indigenous societies whose social and political systems were supplanted by the formation of a colonial state, were not broadly acknowledged in settler communities. The collective understanding of heritage is changing to reflect greater diversity in whose stories are told, who tells them and what is significant.



Heritage values can be embodied in tangible and intangible ways, such as cultural landscapes, memorials, traditions, buildings and structures, methods of construction, and art passed from generation to generation.

## B. The Role of Heritage Branch

Because heritage affects many aspects of society's cultural and social experiences, there are many organizations both within and outside government whose work touches on heritage in B.C. Appendix 2 provides an overview of the key government ministries, agencies, Crown corporations and non-governmental organizations that contribute to the management, protection and sharing of heritage in B.C.

Heritage Branch, part of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD), supports and facilitates the conservation of heritage values on the land base in B.C. through policies, programs, stewardship of provincial sites, and partnerships. Heritage Branch operates in the context of a broad spectrum of ministry responsibilities including sustainable resource management and rural economic development. Heritage Branch does this through:

- Stewardship of a portfolio of Provincial Heritage Properties (PHPs) and the associated Provincial Heritage Artifact Collection.
- Promoting and modeling good practice in heritage management and conservation.
- Providing provincial leadership to promote a holistic, inclusive and sustainable understanding of cultural heritage.
- Providing heritage conservation advice and support to other provincial ministries, Crown corporations, local governments, heritage organizations, and private land owners.
- Collaborating with Indigenous partners and cultural communities.

To recognize Indigenous control over their cultural heritage, Heritage Branch and First Peoples' Cultural Council have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2019. This establishes a formal mechanism to initiate collaborative projects and provide opportunities to all Indigenous communities to access programs that promote the understanding, safeguarding and revitalization of Indigenous cultural heritage in B.C.

Detail of Kilby Historic Site Exhibit of Baskets

Image Credit: Kilby Historic Site, 2019

The Kilby General Store was established in 1906 and during its heyday (1925-1935) was at the centre of the thriving Harrison Mills community in BC.

It is an example of a business and homestead owned and operated by one multigenerational family for over seventy years and has a significant collection of Indigenous baskets obtained through barter with nearby First Nations.



Heritage Branch’s program outcomes and successes are focused on safeguarding B.C.’s cultural diversity, cultural continuity, building resilient communities, strengthening our collective understanding of heritage value on the land base, and meeting government’s mandate to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. As heritage touches so many parts of peoples’ lives, there are many areas of government whose work affects the heritage of British Columbians. Heritage Branch is a piece of that puzzle, and has a role providing leadership, advice, and assistance to many parts of government.

The provincial government adopted the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (the *Declaration Act*), and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) *Calls to Action* which will guide future work in the branch and all of government. The mandate under the *Declaration Act* to bring all legislation into alignment with the Articles of UNDRIP includes specific rights of Indigenous Peoples “to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage” (UNDRIP Article 31.1).

While Heritage Branch administers most provincially-owned heritage property and associated collections, the majority of heritage places in B.C. are owned and managed by other government entities, non-profit organizations, and private owners. An important part of Heritage Branch’s work is to set policy and guidance for this diverse network of heritage stakeholders. Heritage Branch works with other areas of government that manage sites and objects of heritage value as part of their work, such as BC Parks and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, that manage land and infrastructure of heritage value.

Heritage Branch contains three offices with specialized subject areas:

The **Office of the BC Register of Historic Places** provides heritage status information on over 5,300 historic place records of legally protected and officially recognized historic sites under the *Heritage Conservation Act*, *Local Government Act*, *Vancouver Charter*, and *Islands Trust Act*. These recognized or protected sites are included in the BC Register of Historic Places along with additional sites that have been designated or recognized at the provincial level. An important part of the Branch’s mandate is working with local governments to maintain and update the BC Register, which is used to support land use planning decisions, heritage conservation planning, and initiatives which promote public awareness of heritage in B.C.



Image credit: Heritage Branch

Heritage Branch and Bonaparte First Nation celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day at the McAbee Fossil Beds Heritage Site.

Image credit: Wendy Coomber, Community Futures Sun Country



The **BC Fossil Management Office** provides information on and policy to support the protection and management of fossils and fossil sites in B.C. Fossils and fossil sites are managed through a similar values-based approach to other heritage sites in the province, and fossil sites may be protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act* for their heritage value as sites of scientific and educational worth. The Fossil Management Office works with other areas of government whose work impacts fossil resources, particularly the Oil and Gas Commission.

The **BC Geographical Names Office** (BCGNO) oversees the application of official names to geographical features, and maintains records of over 50,000 current and former official place names in the BC Geographical Names Information System (BCGNIS) database, which include mountains, rivers, lakes, bays, reefs and islands. Geographical names hold heritage value as they reflect patterns of settlement, culture, and the relationship between people and the landscape they inhabit. Geographical names are also crucially important for navigation on the landscape, and the BCGNO works with many other areas of government who rely on geographical names as part of their day-to-day work.

## C. Report Scope

Starting in 2018, Heritage Branch embarked on engagement projects with partners at Heritage BC and with FPCC to seek recommendations to modernize cultural heritage in B.C. This report presents what we heard through those engagements. With each recommendation presented, discussion focuses primarily on actions that fall within Heritage Branch's purview.

## D. Engagement with the Heritage Sector

In 2018, Heritage BC and Heritage Branch undertook a major engagement project to reach out across the province at the community level. Heritage BC coordinated 24 day-long roundtable discussions throughout B.C. Approximately 500 people attended one of the roundtable meetings or completed an online survey. These roundtables brought the heritage sector together to discuss challenges, exchange ideas, and collaborate on solutions. Discussions focused on the following eight topics:

- Defining heritage
- The vision and values of heritage
- British Columbia's identity is strengthened and renewed through heritage conservation
- Collaboration in conservation
- Evolving the practice of heritage
- Future opportunities for heritage
- Environmental stewardship through heritage conservation
- Economic diversity and durability through heritage conservation

Heritage BC produced a report titled [Provincial Roundtables on the State of Heritage Final Report and Recommendations](#), which provides a series of recommendations for Heritage Branch, other government agencies, and organizations responsible for heritage including Heritage BC itself.

### About Heritage BC

Heritage BC is a charitable not-for-profit organization supporting heritage conservation across British Columbia through:

- education
- training and skills development
- capacity building in heritage planning
- funding through the Heritage Legacy Fund and support for other grant programs
- annual awards recognizing achievements in heritage
- facilitating communication, reporting key news and updates

Heritage BC provides leadership and guidance to the heritage community in B.C., offering extensive resources, learning opportunities, and regular communication.

Heritage Branch has a long-standing relationship with Heritage BC as a partner in supporting heritage conservation with a province-wide scope. In 2013, FLNRORD's Minister appointed Heritage BC as administrator of the Heritage Legacy Fund, an endowment fund originally established in 2004 by the Province of BC.

For more information, visit [www.heritagebc.ca](http://www.heritagebc.ca)

## E. Engagement on Indigenous Cultural Heritage

Since 2019 Heritage Branch has partnered with FPCC to engage with Knowledge Keepers and practitioners in Indigenous cultural heritage in B.C. on how it can better support the safeguarding and celebration of Indigenous cultural heritage. FPCC led this engagement through several projects to seek guidance from Indigenous communities, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and cultural heritage professionals across B.C. Engagement involved the following actions:

- **Recommendations for Decolonizing B.C.'S Heritage-Related Processes and Legislation.** In 2019 and 2020, FPCC led an academic review of Heritage Branch policies and initiatives from the perspective of decolonization. Reviewers included heritage professionals and researchers in the fields of archaeology and Indigenous heritage in B.C. This group reported back with recommendations for specific policies and program areas, as well as broader recommendations aimed at decolonizing approaches and attitudes towards cultural heritage in B.C.
- **First Peoples' Cultural Council Indigenous Cultural Heritage Forum.** In March 2020, FPCC coordinated a gathering of 43 Indigenous Knowledge Keepers to discuss current challenges and their vision for the future of Indigenous cultural heritage in B.C. The Forum created an opportunity for strengthened networks between Indigenous cultural heritage practitioners and organizations. Forum planning was guided by FPCC's Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ICHAC) and attended by committee members.
- **Decolonizing Indigenous Heritage in British Columbia. FPCC/Heritage Branch Interview Project.** In March 2020, FPCC and Heritage Branch sought interviews with individuals experienced in the management and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage. These interviews identified gaps in current approaches, highlighted the importance for Indigenous communities to manage their cultural heritage, and provided suggestions for improvement and best practices.

This report also draws from recommendations presented in FPCC's September 2019 policy paper "[Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in B.C.](#)".

Heritage Branch continues to consult with the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee on a wide variety of policy and program design questions and is grateful for their guidance.

### About First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC)

FPCC is an Indigenous-run Crown corporation with a legislated mandate to:

- support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia
- work with Indigenous Governments and communities to provide funding and resources for projects in communities throughout B.C.
- provide policy recommendations to Indigenous leadership and the Provincial Government
- provide leadership in developing Indigenous cultural heritage programs

FPCC has developed Indigenous cultural heritage policy papers and other resources for Indigenous communities, governments, institutions and cultural organizations, and is an invaluable source of Indigenous-centred leadership.

For more information, visit: [www.fpcc.ca](http://www.fpcc.ca)

## PART II: Indigenous Cultural Heritage

### A. Indigenous Leadership and Control

We heard it is essential for Indigenous communities to own and control their own heritage places, objects, cultural materials, stories and practices.

- Acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples are the owners, caretakers, and managers of their cultural heritage.
- Ensure Indigenous Peoples have the resources, funding, and authority to develop and administer their own cultural heritage laws, policies and practices.
- Promote research and support in academic and heritage sectors to recognize Indigenous cultural heritage laws and policies. This support could include collaborative work on best practices, and partnerships where Indigenous heritage professionals are integral parts of curatorial teams.

#### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Key to what we heard was that Indigenous leadership and control over their own heritage is an essential component of cultural revitalization and recovery from the continuing effects of colonialism. The colonial governance, policies and approaches have interrupted Indigenous Peoples' ability to practice and share significant parts of their culture and language. The safeguarding and revitalization of Indigenous cultural heritage does not benefit from the same funding, resources, and opportunities that are available to settler heritage initiatives.

Heritage Branch acknowledges that heritage protection in B.C., specifically the authority to recognize and designate heritage, has not been available to Indigenous Peoples. That legislative authority is held by the Province under the *Heritage Conservation Act*, and by municipalities under the *Local Government Act* (or the *Vancouver Charter* and the *Islands Trust Act* where those statutes apply), but this system does not provide Indigenous Governments with the same opportunities or decision-making ability. Through a formal partnership with FPCC, Heritage Branch, with its province-wide mandate, is committed to support FPCC's position as the provincial leader in this work.

Heritage Branch has endorsed the policy paper *Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in B.C.* produced by FPCC and seeks to align work and policies with recommendations found within. The Branch will ensure acknowledgements are incorporated into its online materials.

The Branch commits to continuous improvement in understanding and acknowledging Indigenous cultural heritage at Provincial Heritage Properties (PHPs).

Heritage Branch is reviewing existing policies with the intent of recognizing Indigenous ownership and caretaking of their cultural heritage. For example, recent revisions to the Collection Management Policy - Repatriation Section, acknowledge Article 11 of UNDRIP, which states that Indigenous Peoples have the right to "maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures such as archaeological and historical sites." As such, the Collection Management Policy aims to encourage and facilitate Indigenous Peoples ownership, caretaking, and management of Indigenous Cultural Objects

currently within the Provincial Heritage Artifact Collection. The policy amendment also puts the onus on Heritage Branch to pursue Memoranda of Understanding with relevant First Nations to develop Indigenous-guided policies and procedures for when and how to celebrate or share Indigenous heritage at the PHPs.

## B. Funding to Build Capacity for Indigenous Cultural Heritage (ICH)

We heard that current systems for heritage work were developed to support settler heritage rather than Indigenous perspectives on cultural heritage. This has resulted in an inequity of funding levels for Indigenous cultural heritage when compared to settler heritage.

- *Implementation of UNDRIP and the Declaration Act:* work with Indigenous communities, mainstream heritage organizations, funders, policy makers and governments to shift control of Indigenous cultural heritage into the hands of Indigenous Peoples, in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- *Indigenous caretaking:* promote self-determination of Indigenous Peoples as caretakers of their cultural heritage through supporting capacity in Indigenous communities, comprehensive community Indigenous heritage planning (rather than one-time projects) and increasing awareness of the importance of Indigenous-led approaches in the heritage sector.
- *Strong infrastructure:* support Indigenous communities to rebuild their cultural infrastructure through training, professional networks, research and documentation, and the development of physical cultural centres for Indigenous cultural heritage work.
- *Equitable resourcing:* grant funding for Indigenous communities that will support many aspects of Indigenous cultural heritage that have received little to no funding in the past.

### **Heritage Branch Response**

Heritage Branch understands FPCC is a natural fit to facilitate the survival and revitalization of Indigenous cultural heritage and has developed a five-year plan to accomplish these strategic priorities.

If implemented, FPCC's Indigenous Cultural Heritage Program will be a major step forward in addressing many of the recommendations below by enabling Indigenous communities to:

- Conduct needs assessments and capacity building initiatives for Indigenous cultural heritage in communities.
- Map, document, and celebrate Indigenous cultural heritage traditions across B.C.
- Re-establish connections between Indigenous youth, the land, and cultural heritage through land-based cultural education programs which encourage relationships with Elders and generational transmission. Include opportunities for Indigenous people in urban areas to recognize and reconnect their cultural heritage with the land.
- Develop digital resources that promote learning about and caring for the land such as web applications highlighting oral histories and legends, photos and videos of landscapes and species, place names, and other teachings.

- Provide funding for Indigenous archives and repositories (including data management programs and technologies) to facilitate the caretaking of cultural objects and documents.
- Seek assistance with repatriation, including organizing committees, fundraising, infrastructure, and training in grant writing.
- Develop and operate community-based archival facilities.
- Advise government on Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Obtain training and support for Indigenous people interested in heritage work such as scholarships, internships, and community-based training.
- Support awards or campaigns to recognize and celebrate leaders in Indigenous cultural heritage work.

Heritage Branch has partnered with FPCC in recent years to provide resources to FPCC heritage programs. This first step towards provincial support for Indigenous cultural heritage has enabled valuable work to take place; however, Heritage Branch continues to liaise with other ministries to find more comprehensive ways to support FPCC's mandate.

Provincial support for Indigenous cultural heritage was also included in the Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program ([CERIP](#)), a program to bolster sustainable economic recovery across B.C. Every CERIP stream was open to Indigenous applicants and a dedicated stream of \$4 million was specifically allocated to Indigenous cultural heritage projects. In recognition of the need for Indigenous leadership and control over their cultural heritage, this funding supported the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Infrastructure Grants (ICHIG) program which was designed and delivered by FPCC and the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation (FPCF).

While this represents a significant one-time investment in Indigenous cultural heritage there remains a need for Indigenous cultural heritage infrastructure support.

Opening Ceremony at  
Provincial Heritage Fair,  
Victoria, 2011

Image credit: Heritage Branch



## C. Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

We heard that all governments within Canada must embrace the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP).

- Develop a framework, action plan and timeline for the Province of British Columbia to fully implement UNDRIP and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (the *Declaration Act*).
- Make Indigenous cultural heritage management a priority item in British Columbia's Action Plan for the *Declaration Act*.
- Establish jurisdiction and statutory decision-making authority over Indigenous cultural heritage by Indigenous Peoples. Establish shared decision-making processes to allow for Indigenous control of their cultural heritage.

### **Heritage Branch Response**

In 2019, the provincial government passed the *Declaration Act* to align the laws of B.C. with the 46 Articles of UNDRIP. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) is leading this work and is responsible for providing direction and seeking input from other ministries on the development of the Action Plan for the *Declaration Act*.

Heritage Branch is working within FLNRORD to determine priorities for implementing this direction in cooperation with FPCC and Indigenous Peoples. A draft Action Plan has been developed and is available for public consultation as of July 2021.

## D. Equal Relationships and Shared Decision-Making

We heard that there is a need for equal relationships between the provincial government and Indigenous Governments as a necessary part of the recognition and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage at the provincial level. A model of shared or collaborative decision-making around Indigenous cultural heritage should only be applied when a purely Indigenous-led decision is not feasible, and be based on:

- Establishing and nurturing long-term, authentic, mutual relationships between governments and all communities to address any fear, suspicions and imbalances that are inhibiting clear communication and collaboration.
- Using Indigenous Knowledge and values to actively guide and form the basis of decisions rather than simply including their perspective.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Historically the work and decisions of Heritage Branch have not been shared with Indigenous Peoples. This is particularly evident in the acquisition and management of PHPs, where Indigenous Peoples were generally not involved regardless of their connection to the land where the sites are located. Past operating practices did not recognize the unique perspectives of Indigenous Peoples. Greater collaboration and recognition of Indigenous history and culture that is inherently tied to these lands is required moving forward to reconsider previous practices.

As a first step in incorporating these recommendations, Heritage Branch is committed to working with the Indigenous Governments whose traditional territories encompass the PHPs and who are interested in working collaboratively and directly with the Branch at a government-to-government level; Heritage Branch has begun conversations with some Indigenous partners on the cooperative management of several of its sites. Heritage Branch continues its work with site operators to support cultural capacity learning, promote more inclusive interpretation at the sites, and modernize provincial approaches to public history.

Beyond the sites and objects managed by Heritage Branch, the Branch will work with other areas of government to value Indigenous leadership in the stewardship of Indigenous cultural heritage.

## **E. Indigenous Advisory Role in Government**

We heard that there is a need for Indigenous oversight and input into government policies and programs for Indigenous cultural heritage.

- Facilitate Indigenous oversight (by FPCC or another Indigenous-led organization) over Indigenous cultural heritage work undertaken by government to ensure it follows the principles, laws and protocols of the groups whose heritage is involved.
- Provide support for a committee of qualified Indigenous Knowledge Keepers to advise the Province on a case-by-case basis on shared Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage interests.
- Develop a comprehensive communications strategy for delivering clear messaging to communities, institutions, governments and industry regarding Indigenous cultural heritage.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Heritage Branch gratefully acknowledges the partnership it has with FPCC and has provided interim funding to support FPCC's Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ICHAC) to support FPCC's advisory role. This partnership has resulted in several projects beneficial to Indigenous cultural heritage in B.C., as well as Indigenous insight into Heritage Branch policies and procedures. Through this partnership, Heritage Branch aims to continuously re-evaluate and improve its day-to-day operations to better support the needs of Indigenous cultural heritage.

## PART III: Community Heritage

### A. Community Heritage Sites and Organizations

We heard that heritage is integral to community identity and well-being, and much of the conservation, commemoration and celebration of heritage in B.C. happens at the community level. Local heritage organizations are responsible for an enormous amount of advocacy in communities, including caring for historic sites, telling local stories, and building intergenerational connections to, and appreciation for, the past. We heard several recommendations around the role of local heritage sites as relevant and engaging places for community connection.

- Support smaller organizations and heritage sites to define their scope and role within their communities. This role needs to be sustainable over the long-term and focused on the strengths heritage organizations and places have to offer to potential collaborators and funders.
- Collect data on the costs and benefits of diversified revenue sources to enable informed decision-making and investments.
- To address the decline in engagement among young people, adapt management practices to reflect changing expectations around careers and volunteer work in the heritage sector.
- Small organizations and remote communities struggle to participate in provincial conferences and communication channels. This could be improved through events with a regional scope, or additional funding support.
- Increase funding for the heritage sector:
  - Invest further in the Heritage Legacy Fund
  - Grants aimed at core museums collection work, and at archival projects in communities.
- Ensure that grant programs:
  - Provide accessible and easily understood messaging
  - Scale application requirements to the funding envelope and clientele
  - Support and build the capacity of applicants
  - Examine whether program timelines restrict potential projects
  - Examine whether eligibility criteria create systemic barriers for diverse applicants, including Indigenous groups, smaller organizations, and remote communities
  - Consider the needs of Indigenous communities for heritage infrastructure and program support.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

The Heritage Legacy Fund (HLF) is an endowment fund originally established in 2004 by the Province of B.C. In 2013, FLNRORD's Minister appointed Heritage BC as administrator of the HLF. While Heritage Branch does not currently administer grant programs, it actively seeks opportunities to augment heritage funding programs. This has included additional funding that increased the initial \$5M endowment to the HLF since its creation. Heritage Branch understands that the HLF is not sufficient to address the funding demands for heritage conservation work, highlighted by the level of deferred infrastructure work identified through CERIP.

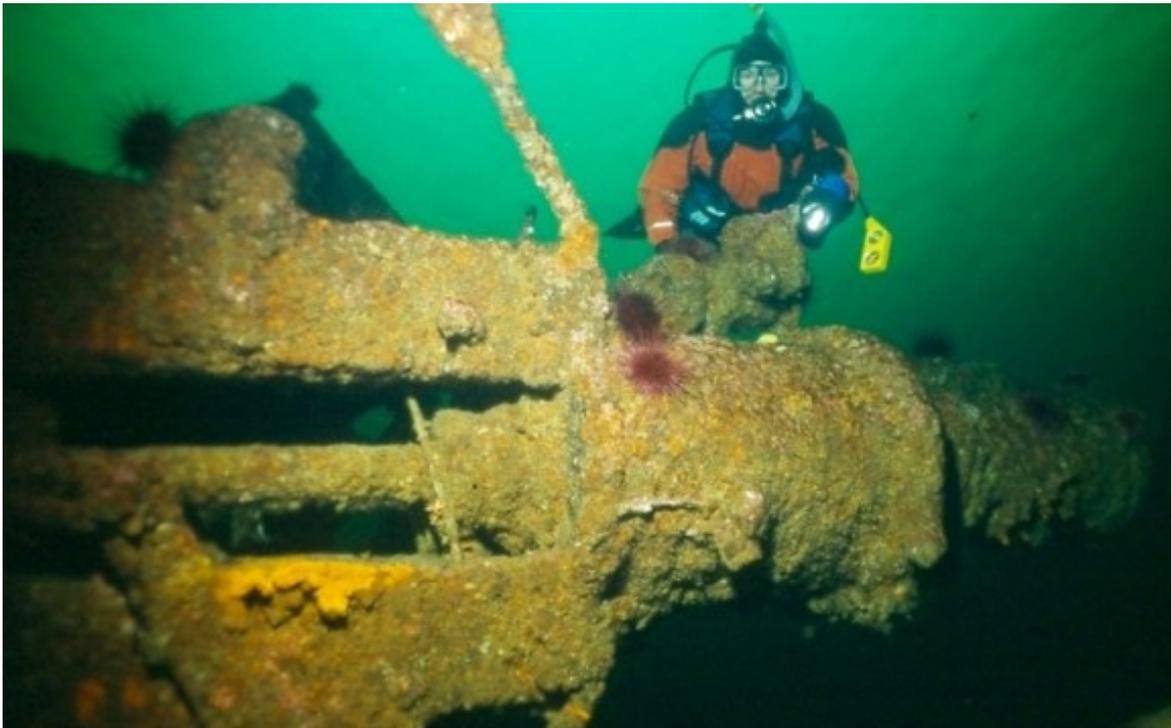
Most recently, Heritage Branch partnered with Heritage BC and FPCC to deliver heritage infrastructure funding under the provincial government's CERIP to support economic resilience, tourism, heritage, and urban and rural economic development projects. CERIP included a dedicated stream for Unique Heritage Infrastructure projects, providing a total of \$20 million to conserve, repair, rehabilitate, and develop cultural heritage in B.C. It was one-time grant program open to applications in fall 2020, has provided an opportunity to gauge the need for additional funding to address deferred maintenance for heritage infrastructure in communities across B.C.

Heritage Branch continues to provide guidance to granting organizations to ensure heritage funding programs are accessible to diverse audiences, aimed at sector needs, and that application criteria are appropriate to the funding level.

As well, Heritage Branch continues to take an active role in addressing community funding through its membership of the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Culture and Heritage Table. In July 2021 the federal government announced \$500M for recovery and reopening initiatives for the culture and heritage sector.

A member of the Underwater Archaeological Society of BC inspects the Steeple Engine of the Shamrock steam tug, a ship wreck protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

Image credit: J. Marc, UASBC



## B. Community Heritage Planning

We heard that remote and smaller communities have lower rates of implementing heritage conservation tools available to them under the *Local Government Act* (LGA). Larger urban municipalities have greater capacity to use these legal tools to support heritage conservation. At the same time, these urban areas have larger amounts of built heritage that requires significant funding support to manage and conserve.

- Assist municipal staff in implementing and maintaining local heritage programs. These resources should be widely promoted to reach their target audience.
- Analyze costs and benefits to communities of implementing a heritage program, especially for smaller municipalities. Provide tools and data to demonstrate the value of heritage conservation to local decision-makers.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

The roundtable discussions were a valuable opportunity to check in with the heritage sector and explore what resources and gaps exist in community heritage planning.

The role of Heritage Branch in providing advice and assistance on community heritage planning has evolved over time. In 2003, the Community Heritage Planning Program (CHPP) was established to build capacity and provide funding for heritage conservation at the local government level. The program provided support for context studies, strategic planning, implementation of heritage plans, development of heritage registers and preparation of conservation plans and, at its peak, employed three Regional Heritage Planners. Provincial funding for the CHPP ended in 2009. Heritage BC maintains an online toolbox to support community heritage planning and facilitates opportunities for learning and networking; however, as a not-for-profit organization it has limited capacity to address this gap. Heritage Branch will continue to work with Heritage BC to explore solutions to strengthen community heritage planning capacity.

Heritage Branch supports an annual survey of local governments and heritage sector organizations to assess municipal and heritage planning capacity and the role of heritage conservation in economic, environmental and community well-being. The survey is reviewed on an ongoing basis to better address the priorities of the sector, and Heritage Branch is considering new ways to measure the impacts of heritage sites as economic drivers and tourism destinations.



## PART IV: Province-Wide Heritage Initiatives

Many communities are working towards heritage projects and goals that are shared across the entirety of the province. These goals focus on wider recognition of heritage, particularly Indigenous cultural heritage, and building a strong foundation for heritage work in B.C.

### A. Geographical Place Names

We heard that the research and documentation of Indigenous place names are priorities for cultural revitalization as they are connected to many aspects of language, oral history and storytelling, and traditional knowledge and practices. We also heard that the policy would benefit from some administrative enhancements related to clarity and scope. Other recommendations include:

- Provide funding to Indigenous communities for dialogue, engagement, recording, and mapping of place names.
- Fund Indigenous place names projects, such as public monuments, markers, signage, and maps. These projects would assert and affirm continued Indigenous presence on the land, particularly in urban areas, and promote the use of Indigenous languages.
- Provide funding and staffing resources to the BC Geographical Place Names Office (BCGNO) to process and evaluate Indigenous place names applications, including engagement with Indigenous communities and cooperative/shared decision-making processes.

#### ***Heritage Branch Response***

The names we use and officially apply to geographical features express the values we hold and what we consider significant about the land and ourselves. Prior to European settlement, geographical features were known by names in Indigenous languages. These names were used from time immemorial, and contained important knowledge about ecology, culture, and oral history that was specific to each location, culture, and language.

The official geographical names we use today were largely applied during colonial settlement and express different values such as memorializing European explorers and exploration or replicating familiar place names from settlers' own backgrounds. Although some place names today are anglicized versions of an Indigenous language name or word, the majority of place names on official maps reference settler history and values.

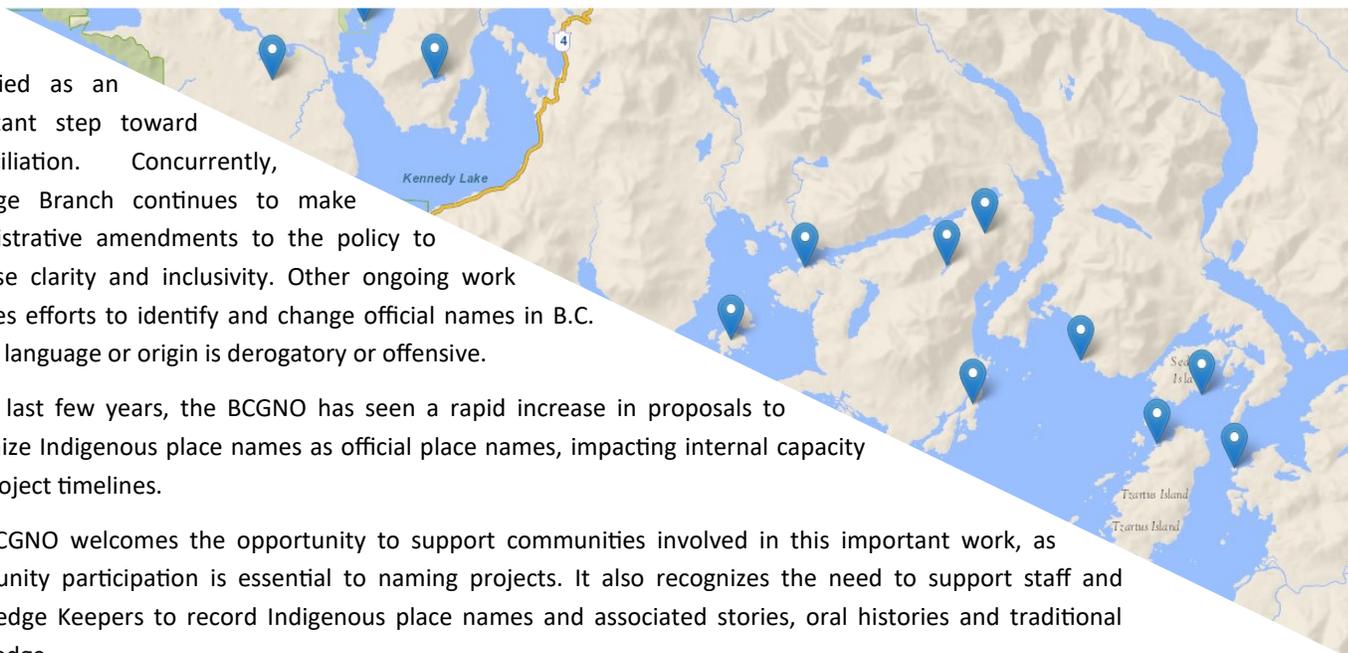
The *Declaration Act*, that establishes the UN Declaration as the Province's framework for reconciliation, as called for by the TRC's Calls to Action. It is informing the assessment of the B.C. Geographical Naming Policy and Procedures in context of UNDRIP, including Article 13.1 which includes the right to "designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons" as well as Article 13.2 which specifies that "[s]tates shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected." This work includes exploring the feasibility of adopting multiple names for the same feature, something Indigenous governments

identified as an important step toward reconciliation. Concurrently, Heritage Branch continues to make administrative amendments to the policy to increase clarity and inclusivity. Other ongoing work includes efforts to identify and change official names in B.C. whose language or origin is derogatory or offensive.

In the last few years, the BCGNO has seen a rapid increase in proposals to recognize Indigenous place names as official place names, impacting internal capacity and project timelines.

The BCGNO welcomes the opportunity to support communities involved in this important work, as community participation is essential to naming projects. It also recognizes the need to support staff and Knowledge Keepers to record Indigenous place names and associated stories, oral histories and traditional knowledge.

The BCGNO also plays a role in supporting municipal, regional, and other areas of provincial governments to recognize place names, while ensuring navigation and public health and safety principles are maintained.



## B. Repatriation of Indigenous Cultural Materials

We heard that much of the work around repatriation is being led by Indigenous communities and described in the “Funding to Build Capacity in Indigenous Cultural Heritage” section. Below are recommendations related to work needed in museums, heritage sites, and other non-Indigenous institutions to support those repatriation efforts, including:

- Training and mentorship for Indigenous archivists, historians and museum professionals.
- Continued support for established programs and partnerships.
- Projects to ensure that important and sensitive items related to residential schools are included in repatriation programs.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Heritage Branch’s approach to repatriation is informed by Article 11 of UNDRIP, which recognizes that Indigenous Peoples have the right to “maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies, and visual and performing arts and literature.” Indigenous Peoples may wish to reclaim objects of Indigenous provenance that are currently part of the Provincial Heritage Artifact Collection. Heritage Branch recognizes the importance of the Cultural Materials to Indigenous Peoples and will work collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples toward repatriation or shared management agreements on a case-by-case basis guided by the Indigenous community. This policy applies only in outside-of-treaty circumstances or in the absence of

other government-to-government agreements regarding Cultural Material. This work will require Indigenous expertise and time, and future repatriation projects may include capacity funding for participating Indigenous communities to the extent possible.

Heritage Branch maintains the Provincial Heritage Artifact Database (PHAD), an online and publicly accessible record of artifacts held in the Provincial Heritage Artifact Collection. Work is ongoing to photograph artifacts and include more detailed information on each object in the collection. The Branch is also exploring options for more focused search options and pages on Indigenous Cultural Objects to support education and repatriation and to encourage disclosure.

The screenshot displays the PHAD website interface. At the top, the British Columbia logo and the title 'Provincial Heritage Artifacts Database' are visible, along with navigation links for Home, About, Contributor Map, Browse, and a search box. The main content area features a large image of a rectangular cedar basket with a lid and two folding handles. A color calibration chart is placed below the basket for scale. The artifact ID 'KGSM2014.003.026' is shown below the image. To the right of the image, a metadata table provides details about the artifact.

KGSM2014.003.026	
<b>Basket</b>	
<b>ARTIFACT</b>	
HERITAGE SITE	Kilby Store and Farm
DESCRIPTION	Rectangular cedar basket with lid and two folding handles. Black checked "X" design with light coloured chevron imbrication geometric design on sides. Leather hinges and tie strap to secure lid. Kilby Collection. Some of the leather straps may have been repaired at some point. Note from Marion Kilby with basket saying "Baskets made by Chehalis ladies Mrs. Alec Joseph & Mrs. Ambrose Point".
MEASUREMENTS	38 cm L x 27 cm W x 17 cm H
MATERIALS	cedar root
ORIGIN	Sts'ailes, British Columbia
CULTURE	First Nations

Below the main image, there is a copyright notice and a grid of eight smaller images showing different views of the basket. At the bottom of the page, there are navigation links for BCGov Home, About gov.bc.ca, Disclaimer, Privacy, Accessibility, Copyright, and Contact Us, along with the British Columbia logo.

Provincial Heritage Artifact Database (PHAD)

Image Credit: Heritage Branch, 2021



Leaf fossil found at McAbee Fossil Beds

Image credit: Heritage Branch

## C. Fossil Management

Protecting B.C.'s fossil resources preserves the natural heritage of the land, and allows for the promotion of its scientific, cultural and educational values. Management of fossils as a natural heritage resource is an important aspect of Heritage Branch's work. Since 2010, the Fossil Management Office has undertaken engagement on the draft Fossil Management Policy with industry, academic palaeontologists, Indigenous Governments, and other stakeholders. B.C. has a significant and diverse fossil record.

Although fossils were not a primary focus of the engagement projects conducted by Heritage BC and FPCC, the Fossil Management Framework (2017), the draft Fossil Management Policy (2018) and the Fossil Impact Assessment Guidelines (2018) were reviewed as part of the *Recommendations for Decolonizing B.C.'s Heritage-Related Processes and Legislation*. This engagement is ongoing, but to date we heard the following recommendations:

- Fossils are the historical record of the evolution and development of life on Earth. They are important globally for their scientific, heritage, educational and economic value.
- Each fossil site is part of a natural and cultural landscape with unique physical attributes and cultural associations and may have special significance. Fossil sites are a source of community pride and identity and may have important oral history and stories associated with them.
- The concept of ownership of fossil resources within Indigenous titled lands needs to be understood.
- The protection and management of fossil sites should be considered as part of land use planning.
- Some Indigenous Governments are interested in developing partnerships with the Provincial government for the management and protection of fossil sites.
- Fossil sites can play a role in regional tourism and economic development and diversification.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

In response to these recommendations, the Fossil Management Office is continuing to engage with Indigenous Governments and with other partners and stakeholders across B.C. on the draft Fossil Management Policy. Feedback will be considered as the policy is finalized.

The Fossil Management Office is working with Indigenous partners to protect and manage some of B.C.'s most significant fossil sites in a way that respects and safeguards the natural and cultural values of the place. When appropriate, this approach allows for responsible tourism that also creates an economic driver for local First Nations and other communities.

## **D. Tourism and Economic Impact**

Heritage organizations and professionals have the potential to drive tourism and economic growth in their communities, but at times are challenged to realize this potential. We heard small-scale organizations and remote communities struggle to articulate the benefits of investment in heritage, and the enormous impact it has on community building, to the decision-makers in their community.

- Strengthen relationships between heritage organizations and regional tourism associations and Destination BC. This is especially important for rural and remote heritage destinations.
- Support planning and resources for heritage organizations to better understand how to leverage tourism opportunities to support their mandate and goals.
- Collect data on the economic impacts of heritage on local residents and tourism. Impacts include quantitative economic impact (job creation, tourism, promotion of local craftspeople etc.) as well as intangible benefits to creating a liveable, healthy community.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Heritage Branch continues to liaise with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport and Indigenous Tourism BC, to ensure heritage places are promoted in regional tourism strategies and marketing. The Branch highlights the advantages of heritage tourism through its portfolio of PHPs and encourages the inclusion of heritage sites in tourism programs. Positive examples of collaborations include cross-promotion done between not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous leaders, tourism organizations and local businesses to highlight historic sites along travel corridors and raise the profile of heritage tourism in B.C.

Heritage Branch also realizes that since this engagement was completed, the COVID-19 pandemic has created new challenges for heritage tourism. Heritage Branch has seen first-hand the effects of closures and reduced tourism at the PHPs and understands the difficult decisions many historic sites face across the province. Heritage Branch has, and continues, to work to ensure that provincial recovery funding is available to help address these issues and aid in the recovery of heritage sites and heritage tourism.

## E. Fostering Diversity

We heard that there is a need to better recognize the diverse heritage of B.C., including Indigenous cultural heritage.

- Recognise and celebrate the diverse heritage of British Columbia. Fund programs that advance inclusion and diversity, and ensure this funding is flexible, accessible to diverse communities, and supports a wide range of needs and abilities.
- Support organizations to diversify collections and tell more inclusive stories. Encourage the recruitment of culturally diverse staff and board members at heritage sites and institutions to ensure the voices of all communities are heard in program development and implementation.
- Work with Heritage Branch, BC Parks, Parks Canada, and other provincial and federal agencies to tell more diverse stories. This includes stories of diverse cultural groups and Indigenous Peoples, and the acknowledgement of past attempts at erasure of these histories and values, which would serve as a counterpoint to colonial stories and histories that dominate heritage narratives. This could include review and revision of signage to reflect stories of diverse cultural groups.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Heritage Branch recognizes a lack of diversity in its historical structures and has taken steps to modernize its policies to prioritize an inclusive approach.

Heritage Branch has built relationships with diverse communities by identifying and celebrating their heritage through the Provincial Historic Places Recognition Program. This program seeks to identify and celebrate historic places for their diverse heritage values, with the objective of telling a more complete story of the people, places and events that have contributed to the development of B.C. This work has brought forward diverse stories rooted in heritage places across the province and has highlighted the experiences and perspectives of those whose stories have often been overlooked in the dominant historical narrative. Places may embody several layers of significance and meaning to different communities, and each project aims to give these layers equal standing with each other. In some cases, these values conflict or reveal dark histories, requiring us to acknowledge both the good and bad outcomes of events and actions throughout history.

To date, Heritage Branch has collaborated with Chinese Canadian, Japanese Canadian, South Asian Canadian, and Francophone communities to tell a more complete story of the people, places and events that have contributed to the development of B.C. A public nomination process is conducted to identify historic places that are meaningful to that focus community or theme. Nominations are researched and evaluated against values-based criteria to identify not only which places have high significance to the community, but more importantly, why. Through the program, a complex array of heritage values has been identified for these places, amplifying the voice of these communities to articulate why these places matter and to inform land and resource decisions through publicly accessible government geo-spatial information.

## F. Heritage Education

Participants identified a lack of local heritage in school-age education, and would like to see more local content, including Indigenous heritage, taught in schools. Recommendations also identified a need for more broad public education on the value of heritage places and objects.

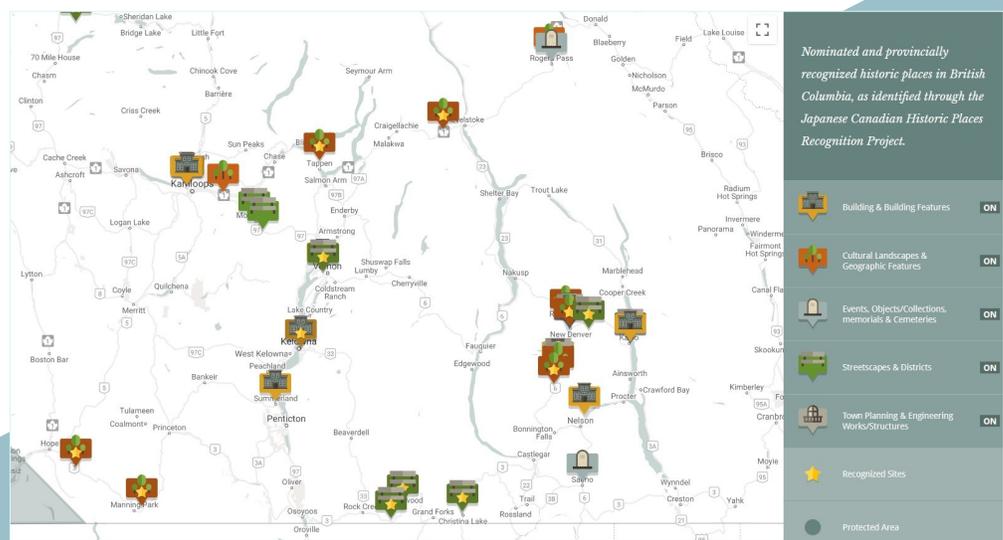
- Improve the education system to teach a fuller history of colonization through Indigenous cultural programs which address societal and structural racism. Provide all students with a representation of a full and accurate history of Indigenous Peoples.
- Create opportunities for land-based language and culture immersion programs in schools.
- Offer teacher training that supports cultural competency and support for language.
- Develop and deliver curricula around Indigenous cultural heritage within public schools, government agencies and industry.
- Establish and support partnerships with B.C. school districts, family culture camps and youth summer camps to promote opportunities for cultural transmission.
- Develop a closer relationship with the Ministry of Education to explore the potential for province-wide initiatives on heritage education.
- Make heritage teaching materials available to educators in one central location and provide guidance about how to develop additional materials.
- Improve public education on the importance of cultural artifacts, to encourage the disclosure and recovery of cultural artifacts held in private collections.

### Heritage Branch Response

Heritage Branch will communicate with other ministries, including Ministry of Education, to share recommendations that may fall within their mandates.

Provincial Heritage Recognition Program cultural heritage map layer, marking historic places associated with themes.

Maps hosted by Heritage BC at [heritagebc.ca/cultural-maps](https://heritagebc.ca/cultural-maps)



# PART V: Heritage in the Provincial Government

## A. Revisions to the Heritage Conservation Act

We heard many recommendations for specific changes to the *Heritage Conservation Act*, including the following:

- Revise legislation to include Indigenous Peoples in the management, recognition, and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage. Revisions should be clear and easily understood by all to avoid differences in interpretation.
- Offer clear definitions, as the current lack of definitions for terms such as “desecrate,” “ancestral remains,” “burial place,” and “scientific/cultural/archaeological significance/value” results in grey areas for protection.
- Develop definitions of heritage and archaeology that are independent of the current artificial barrier at 1846 and delineate the mandates of both branches to reflect current needs.
- Protect Indigenous burial grounds and ancestral remains. Involve Indigenous Peoples in how Indigenous sites are recorded and what protections are afforded case-by-case. Protection should include the option to close sites to visitors not from the community.
- Allow flexibility for Indigenous groups to determine protocols for protecting, recognizing, and granting permits under the HCA that affect their cultural heritage. Ensure the cost of cultural and ceremonial work does not fall on Indigenous communities (rather than developers).
- Update the *Local Government Act*, the *Vancouver Charter*, and the *Islands Trust Act* to align with any changes to the HCA.
- Improve public awareness and understanding of the HCA through communication and educational resources.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Heritage sites and objects in B.C. are primarily protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA). Responsibility for stewardship and protection under the HCA is shared between Heritage Branch and Archaeology Branch. Heritage Branch continues to work closely with Archaeology Branch to review recommendations received through the engagement, and collaborate on developing policies to address concerns with existing legislation.

## B. Provincial Heritage Policy

Other recommendations focused on the need for updated or new policies to support the HCA, including:

- Review policies related to the administration of the HCA.
- Expand the use of the HCA by cultural heritage professionals beyond the current focus on archaeological methodology and values.
- Incorporate the recognition and safeguarding of living heritage (intangible cultural heritage) into provincial heritage legislation, policies, programs, and mindset. This is especially significant for smaller communities where heritage can provide an enduring connection to place and sense of belonging.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

In the immediate term, Heritage Branch is seeking to work with Archaeology Branch to consider these issues through new and updated policies under the current Act which includes tools and provisions that can, through policy, address some of the concerns expressed around heritage recognition and protection in B.C.

As resources allow, a priority for Heritage Branch is to develop a strategy to support the safeguarding and celebration of living, intangible cultural heritage with the following goals:

- Broaden the concept of cultural heritage to strengthen community and build a sense of connection and identity.
- Make diversity and inclusion foundational to the Province's approach to living heritage.
- Prioritize the living heritage of Indigenous Peoples and diverse cultural groups.
- Acknowledge the continuity of cultural traditions in B.C.
- Encourage intergenerational transmission and learning as a way to connect with cultural traditions.
- Evaluate the need for new programs and policies.

Heritage Branch is also collaborating with Archaeology Branch and Recreation Sites and Trails Branch (RST) to develop a management approach for the heritage values of trails. This may be an opportunity to engage with First Nations about trails protected under the HCA and could lead to better incorporation of heritage values into management agreements.

## C. Climate Change Risk to Heritage Places and Practices

We heard that communities and heritage practitioners and caretakers have seen the impacts of climate change on heritage places and that there is a need to take action to counter these threats.

- Formalized initiatives to inventory Indigenous cultural heritage facing imminent threats related to climate change (e.g., heritage at risk of damage or destruction due to flooding, erosion, fires, temperature change).
- Develop a strategy based on Indigenous Knowledge to manage and monitor the effects of climate change on ICH. Include research on how Indigenous Peoples coped with major environmental changes in the past, and how this might help Indigenous communities and their neighbours plan climate change responses today.
- Develop and support community-based monitoring and enforcement programs, such as guardian programs.
- Organizations are looking for provincial or national leadership to encourage preservation of existing buildings as mutually beneficial for heritage conservation and environmental sustainability. There is a need for larger programs that foster this work and mindset.
- Data and messaging are required to understand the threat climate change poses to landscapes, tangible and living heritage. Leadership is needed to fund data collection and provide fact-based best practices and planning tools.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Heritage Branch recognizes the threats posed by climate change to the cultural heritage of B.C., including increased wildfire risk, extreme drought and flooding events, coastal erosion, rising sea levels, and conservation challenges from changing temperature and precipitation patterns. The changing climate will impact heritage values associated with the land, altering the movement of plant and animal species, changing seasonal patterns of freeze and thaw, and causing the disappearance of landmarks such as glaciers and coastline features. Adapting to these effects poses a serious challenge for heritage conservation.

Place names containing knowledge of the ecology and environmental history of the province can help Indigenous communities, governments, and other decision-makers to understand past climate change and plan responses to the current climate crisis. As the BCGNO works with Indigenous Peoples to document and restore Indigenous names of places in B.C., the knowledge those names contain will be increasingly available. This knowledge has the potential to inform many other areas of land management, including wildlife, water, fisheries, and forestry.

Heritage Branch is also supporting measures being taken by the Climate Action Secretariat in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to strengthen approaches to addressing the effects of climate change on cultural heritage. Parks Canada and Heritage Branch collaborated on a workshop, held at Royal Roads University in 2019, to present the Parks Canada methodology of assessing climate change risks for

heritage sites. This workshop was widely attended by heritage and climate professionals and practitioners and included a presentation by the Climate Action Secretariat on B.C.'s Preliminary Strategic Climate Risk Assessment.

The outcomes of this collaborative work with Parks Canada will be promoted at upcoming 2021 Heritage BC spring meetings and Heritage Branch will continue to work with Heritage BC to provide tools to communities and managers of historic places and cultural landscapes.

The Royal Roads University workshop also led to the identification of the need to better integrate cultural heritage and engage Indigenous partners in the identification of climate change risks. As a first step, funding has been provided by the Climate Action Secretariat to FPCC to develop a climate adaptation and preparedness strategy for Indigenous cultural heritage.

Heritage Branch is also exploring applying the Parks Canada methodology at the Provincial Heritage Properties to assess risks from climate change and develop adaptation strategies.

## D. Acknowledging Past Wrongs

We heard that more work is needed for the provincial government to acknowledge past wrongs such as colonialism, systemic oppression, past violence, and racial injustice. Indigenous cultural heritage and the heritage of other cultural groups are not given the same respect and protection as settler heritage.

- Acknowledge past wrongs to develop bridges to positive, mutually beneficial relationships.
- Promote acceptance of a shared history of land and culture between Indigenous, settler and newcomer communities among general society today.
- Eliminate any influence of colonial doctrines including the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*.
- As priorities for the heritage sector, acknowledge racism and injustice, both in the past and continuing into the present.
- Include the narratives of Indigenous Peoples and other cultural groups on their own terms and in relation to each other, rather than primarily through their interaction with a dominant settler European culture.
- Support projects to commemorate and interpret Indigenous cultural heritage as it relates to residential school experiences.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Heritage Branch acknowledges the positive role that PHPs can serve in acknowledging colonial dispossession, past wrongs, and dark histories. Heritage Branch will continue working with PHP site operators to ensure any past wrongs are acknowledged and are a part of the multiple layers of interpretation at these sites.

The BCGNO is undertaking identification and review of derogatory and offensive place names that currently exist for geographical features in B.C. Once completed, it will initiate conversations with the community, Indigenous Governments, and local stakeholders, to identify appropriate replacements. The priority will be to identify any Indigenous-language names and restore the connection between these features and their long-standing names in Indigenous languages.

Heritage Branch completed Historic Places Recognition Projects (Chinese Canadian, Japanese Canadian, South Asian Canadian, Francophone) with the understanding that there several under-represented cultures, communities and types of places with historic sites protected under the HCA and included in the BC Register of Historic Places. The content of the BC Register remains weighted towards colonial heritage with an emphasis on built heritage. Heritage Branch continues to consider ways to increase inclusivity by developing recognition and designation policy inclusive of diverse cultural narratives and, equally important, the interactions between diverse cultures on their own terms and outside of the dominant settler narrative.

Heritage Branch acknowledges the importance of Indigenous cultural heritage as it relates to residential school experiences, and the work underway by communities and individuals to recognize and heal from those experiences. Heritage Branch also acknowledges the leadership of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and their partners in coordinating larger initiatives including the recent designation of two residential schools as National Historic Sites. The Branch will remain mindful of opportunities to contribute to this ongoing work.



Tashme Internment camp road sign unveiling, 2017

Image credit: J. Endo-Greenaway

## E. Provincial and Federal Government Approaches to Heritage

We heard that leadership from the Heritage Branch is needed to grow relationships, foster collaboration, and streamline heritage work underway in multiple areas of government. Provincial leadership is also needed to create catalyzing moments for change in the heritage sector.

- Recognize that each situation is different and therefore can only be approached case-by-case, rather than creating one-size-fits-all solutions and applying them to everyone, everywhere.
- Improve communication and cooperation between various branches of government, including Heritage Branch, Archaeology Branch, BC Parks, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.
- Develop policy to expand on these recommendations and to support the sector in furthering the practice of heritage, advancing inclusivity and diversity, gaining stability, and achieving greater effectiveness in managing B.C.'s history and heritage.
- Transform the management of protected areas to support:
  - Reintroduction of Indigenous cultural practices into protected areas.
  - Integration of Indigenous cultural heritage management with protected areas management.
  - Development of new integrated approaches to the establishment and management of protected areas.
  - Recognize that the Indigenous understanding of Indigenous cultural heritage is both tangible and intangible and is holistic, integrated, fulsome and inclusive. Move beyond the singular and physical when recognizing importance or significance in cultural heritage management.

### ***Heritage Branch Response***

Heritage Branch is considering ways to incorporate these recommendations into collaborative approaches for the sites and collections under its stewardship. Heritage Branch will explore opportunities, as funding permits, for Indigenous-led initiatives to interpret Indigenous cultural heritage at PHPs. Heritage Branch is also working to make its collections and the BC Register of Historic Places (the BC Register) more transparent and collaborative. Heritage Branch is exploring moving the BC Register to a more flexible and collaborative technical platform, which allows for the development of programs and applications to highlight stories, oral histories, legends, photos, and other cultural heritage from Indigenous and diverse communities in B.C.

The branch worked with FPCC to conduct desktop ethnographic and archeological research projects to describe Indigenous presence in certain areas of the province where the provincial government has a responsibility to manage values on the land. The outcomes of these projects are owned by the local First Nations and can later be used to design an oral history research project that would enrich the findings.

Heritage Branch understands its portfolio of heritage property plays an important role in demonstrating the benefits of heritage places, and effective strategies to operate them sustainably and efficiently. While the engagement efforts led by Heritage BC and FPCC did not produce direct recommendations about its PHPs, Heritage Branch continues to hear from its operators that a significant amount of deferred maintenance remains to be addressed at the sites and that a more robust funding model is required to preserve these assets for future generations. Heritage Branch will continue to evaluate the operational models at these sites in order to ensure the best value and highest effectiveness on behalf of the people of B.C.

Heritage Branch will continue to partner with BC Parks and other agencies to better integrate management of Indigenous cultural heritage across jurisdictions, and to recognize the heritage value of areas originally protected for their natural and recreational value. Heritage Branch sees the management of fossil sites as a potential platform for implementing this approach.

An important instrument through which Heritage Branch models changing approaches to Indigenous cultural heritage is through participation in a national Federal, Provincial, and Territorial (FPT) table on culture and heritage. Through participation in this ongoing dialogue, Heritage Branch leadership continuously strives to make B.C. a leader in rethinking how government agencies can better support Indigenous cultural heritage. The branch will continue to articulate the need to include FPCC as an Indigenous Crown corporation to be the authoritative voice at the table when discussing Indigenous cultural heritage in B.C.



## PART VI: Next Steps

Hundreds of recommendations about how to improve the state of heritage in B.C. were identified through these engagement initiatives. After carefully reviewing and considering these recommendations and how they align with its mandate and sphere of influence, Heritage Branch has identified the following priorities to advance in the coming years.

### Enhance and build partnerships to enable Indigenous leadership and control over Indigenous cultural heritage

- Build on the existing partnership with the First Peoples' Cultural Council to increase support for Indigenous cultural heritage programs.
- Partner with Indigenous Nations to care for and share Indigenous cultural heritage at provincial heritage sites, including fossil sites.
- Encourage Indigenous partnerships as an integral tool for the management of Indigenous cultural heritage in all provincially protected places.

### Revise and develop policies to address gaps under heritage legislation

- Coordinate with Archaeology Branch on policy initiatives.
- Revise and develop Heritage Branch policies in a manner that incorporates diverse perspectives and provides for greater collaborative management and decision-making with Indigenous partners, other stakeholders and the public.
- Continue to engage British Columbians on future policy initiatives. Examples may include:
  - Fossil Management Policy;
  - Geographical Naming Policy and Principles;
  - New policy for the recognition and designation of heritage places under the HCA; and
  - New policy for the management of designated heritage trails.

### Develop an approach to Living Heritage that:

- Respects diversity of cultures, including diversity in how heritage is understood, shared, and protected.
- Acknowledges the continuity of cultural traditions in B.C.
- Draws on traditions from the past to foster community identity and belonging in the present.
- Encourages intergenerational transmission and learning to connect with cultural traditions.
- Broadens public understanding of heritage and brings heritage into daily lived experiences.

### Provide better support for community heritage planning

- Coordinate roles and responsibilities of Heritage Branch and Heritage BC to address gaps in support for municipal heritage planning.
- Work in partnership with FPCC to provide heritage planning resources and guidance to Indigenous communities.

### Enhance supports for cultural heritage

- Continue to engage with FPCC as they develop programming.
- Continue to consider funding opportunities to support Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage across B.C., including for provincially owned heritage property.



# Appendix 1 – Heritage Branch at a Glance

On behalf of all British Columbians, **Heritage Branch** oversees matters related to the conservation of heritage values on the land base, and the development of policy related to heritage conservation at local, provincial, and federal levels. The Branch works with the Federal government, other Provincial agencies, Indigenous and non-Indigenous governments, non-profit societies and the private sector to deliver integrated heritage programs and services.

**16 BRANCH MEMBERS**  
Representing **12** areas of professional development including archeology, architecture, museology, community planning, linguistics and communications

**BC Geographical Names Office**  
Responsible for **42,000 official names** and **Leads Indigenous Toponymy** in Canada

**Partnerships** with several provincial agencies including BC Parks, Transportation and Infrastructure, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Multiculturalism, GeoBC & Royal BC Museum

**4000+**  
HOURS DEDICATED BY **VOLUNTEERS** ANNUALLY AT PROVINCIAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES

Endorsed First Peoples' Cultural Council 2019 policy paper: "Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in B.C."

Secured **\$20M** to support **Unique Heritage Infrastructure** as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery package

The **LARGEST** Provincial Heritage Property is **643** hectares—about **3** times the size of **Monaco!**

The **BC Geographical Names Information System** receives an average of **280,000** hits per month. It is **one of the most visited** apps in government.

Projects are underway at **McAbee Fossil Beds Heritage Site** to develop a trail network to enhance access, respectful use of the site and tourism opportunities. The first phase of trail building started in 2020 with involvement of local Bonaparte Indian Band members.

Annually proclaims **Heritage Week** through Order in Council during the **3rd week of February** since 2002

More than **78,000** artifacts publicly accessible in the **Provincial Historic Artifacts Database**

**270 serviced & tenting camp** sites within Provincial Heritage Properties

**167 KMs** of **designated** historic trails under our jurisdiction

**115** Historic Places provincially recognized under the **Provincial Heritage Recognition Program**

Responsible for **Fossil Management** and a growing database of currently **17,000** sites, representing **half a billion** years of life on Earth

Memorandum of Understanding with **First Peoples' Cultural Council** active since 2019 to **collaborate** on projects supporting the advancement of **Indigenous cultural heritage** in B.C.

Designated **PROVINCIAL HERITAGE SITES**, including **56** **shipwrecks**

**360+** Buildings in the branch's portfolio

at a **Heritage Branch** **GLANCE**

**British Columbia's heritage and historic places** – stories, traditions, buildings, structures, cultural landscapes, historic districts and other places of heritage value – are crucial to our understanding and appreciation of the identity and character of our communities. Culture and heritage help people understand each other better, and if people understand each other better, it is easier to overcome barriers. By conserving and celebrating these places, we **contribute to the future of our communities.**

Responsible for **2 STEAM TRAINS & 1 WATERHEEL** all operational

**5438**  
HISTORIC SITE RECORDS MANAGED ON **BC REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**—THE MOST OUT OF ALL JURISDICTIONS IN CANADA

## Appendix 2 - Provincial Heritage Organizations in British Columbia

Who is responsible for heritage in B.C.?

Heritage is a part of all aspects of our cultural and social experiences, and therefore the work of many organizations within and outside government touches on heritage. Twenty-one British Columbia statutes provide for heritage conservation action and Heritage Branch provides support to facilitate the development of heritage conservation policy in other areas of government. The following table presents some of the organizations that are involved in heritage conservation, management, interpretation, and promotion at the provincial level in B.C.

Heritage sites and objects in B.C. are primarily protected under the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA). Responsibility for stewardship and protection under the HCA is shared between Heritage Branch and Archaeology Branch, which are both in the Integrated Resource Operations Division of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

- The mandate of the Archaeology Branch includes sites and objects that are automatically protected under the HCA, primarily pre-1846 archaeological sites and objects but also including heritage wrecks, burial sites, culturally-modified trees and rock art (petroglyph and pictograph) sites.
- The mandate of Heritage Branch encompasses post-1846 heritage sites and objects that have been designated or recognized as having heritage value under the HCA. It is also home to the BC Register of Historic Places, the BC Geographical Names Office, and the BC Fossil Management Office. See Part 1-b of this report for more details on the role of Heritage Branch.

This division of responsibilities is significant to the work and mandate of both branches and continues to shape how heritage sites and objects are recognized and protected at the provincial level.

Heritage conservation powers have been provided to local governments since 1971, recognizing the value of managing community heritage and history at the local level.

## Appendix 2 – Continued

<b>Federal Government Departments</b>	<a href="#">Environment and Climate Change Canada</a>	<a href="#">Parks Canada</a>	
		Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office	
	<a href="#">Canadian Heritage</a>	Federal Provincial Territorial Culture and Heritage Table Canadian Conservation Institute	
	<a href="#">Public Services and Procurement Canada</a>	Heritage Conservation Directorate	
<b>Provincial Government Ministries</b>	<a href="#">Ministry of Citizens' Services</a>	Properties Management Real Estate Services	
	<a href="#">Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation</a>	Oversight of the BC Oil and Gas Commission	
	<a href="#">Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy</a>	BC Parks Climate Action Secretariat	
	<a href="#">Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development</a>	Archaeology Branch Recreation Sites and Trails Branch	
		Heritage Branch   BC Fossil Management Office   BC Geographical Names Office	
	<a href="#">Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation</a>	Indigenous Culture and Language Reconciliation	
	<a href="#">Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport</a>	Tourism Branch Arts and Culture Oversight of the BC Arts Council and BC Museums Association	
		<a href="#">Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure</a>	Stop of Interest Signage Program
<b>Local Governments</b>	Municipalities	Local government heritage designations	
	Regional Districts	Municipal heritage registers Municipal heritage committees Grant programs and municipal tax incentives	
		<a href="#">BC Arts Council</a>	Grant programs
		<a href="#">BC Oil and Gas Commission</a>	Regulation of heritage sites (archaeology and fossils) under the <i>Oil and Gas Activities Act</i>
<b>Provincial Agencies and Crown Corporations</b>	<a href="#">Destination BC</a>	Destination marketing	
	<a href="#">First Peoples' Cultural Council</a>	Revitalizing Indigenous languages, arts, and cultures Grant programs	
		<a href="#">Royal BC Museum Corporation</a>	Royal BC Museum BC Provincial Archives
	<b>Non-Governmental Provincial Heritage Organizations</b>	<a href="#">Archaeological Society of BC</a>	
		<a href="#">Architectural Institute of BC</a>	
<a href="#">Archives Association of BC</a>			
<a href="#">BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres</a>			
<a href="#">BC Association of Heritage Professionals</a>			
<a href="#">BC Association of Professional Archaeologists</a>			
<a href="#">BC Genealogical Society</a>			
<a href="#">BC Heritage Fairs</a>			
<a href="#">BC Historical Federation</a>			
<a href="#">BC Museums Association</a>			
<a href="#">Heritage BC</a>			
<a href="#">Indigenous Tourism BC</a>			
<a href="#">Planning Institute of British Columbia</a>			
<a href="#">Underwater Archaeological Society of BC</a>			

## Appendix 3 – Summary of Recommendations and Responses

II. Indigenous Cultural Heritage (ICH)	
Engagement Recommendations	Heritage Branch Responses
<p><b>a. Indigenous Leadership and Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples are the owners, caretakers, and managers of their cultural heritage.</li> <li>• Ensure Indigenous Peoples have the resources, funding, and authority to develop and administer their own cultural heritage laws, policies, and practices.</li> <li>• Recognize Indigenous cultural heritage laws and policies in heritage and academic sectors, such as collaborative work on best practices, and partnerships where Indigenous heritage professionals are integral parts of curatorial teams.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsed the policy paper <i>Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in B.C.</i> and continue to align Heritage Branch’s work with its principles.</li> <li>• Continue to support FPCC in the implementation of its Indigenous Cultural Heritage program development and delivery.</li> <li>• Build relationships with Nations whose territories include the PHPs and create space for them to interpret their own heritage at the sites.</li> <li>• Encourage the articulation of Indigenous-settler narratives in public history.</li> </ul>
<p><b>b. Funding to Build Capacity for Indigenous Cultural Heritage (ICH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Implementation of UNDRIP and the Declaration Act:</i> work with Indigenous communities, mainstream heritage organizations, funders, policy makers and governments to shift control of Indigenous cultural heritage into the hands of Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>• <i>Indigenous caretaking:</i> promote self-determination of Indigenous Peoples as caretakers of their cultural heritage through supporting capacity in Indigenous communities and prioritizing Indigenous-led approaches.</li> <li>• <i>Strong infrastructure:</i> support Indigenous communities to rebuild their cultural infrastructure through training, professional networks, research and documentation, and the development of physical cultural centres for Indigenous cultural heritage work.</li> <li>• <i>Equitable resourcing:</i> grant funding for Indigenous communities that will support many aspects of Indigenous cultural heritage that have received little to no funding in the past.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate the value of FPCC’s plans to support cultural heritage programming.</li> <li>• CERIP heritage funding was structured to provide specific funding for Indigenous organizations; continue to communicate the value of partnerships with Indigenous leadership in support for safeguarding Indigenous Cultural Heritage.</li> <li>• Province of BC announces funding through 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program: <a href="https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MUNI0040-001509">https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MUNI0040-001509</a></li> </ul>

II. Indigenous Cultural Heritage (ICH)	
Engagement Recommendations	Heritage Branch Responses
<p><b>c. Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a framework, action plan and timeline for the Province of British Columbia to fully implement UNDRIP and the <i>Declaration Act</i>.</li> <li>• Make Indigenous cultural heritage management a priority item in British Columbia's <i>Declaration Act</i> Action Plan.</li> <li>• Establish jurisdiction and statutory decision-making authority over Indigenous cultural heritage by Indigenous Peoples. Establish shared decision-making processes to allow for Indigenous control of their cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although this work is led by MIRR, commitment to work within FLNRORD to determine priorities in implementing the Action Plan for the <i>Declaration Act</i> and the alignment of laws.</li> </ul>
<p><b>d. Equal Relationships and Shared Decision-Making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared decision-making over the management of Indigenous cultural heritage should only be applied when a purely Indigenous-led decision is not feasible.</li> <li>• Establish and nurture long-term, authentic, mutual relationships between governments and all communities to address any fear, suspicions and imbalances that are inhibiting clear, collaborative efforts and communication.</li> <li>• Use Indigenous Knowledge and values to actively guide and form the basis of decisions rather than simply including their perspective.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work directly with the Indigenous Governments whose traditional territories encompass the PHPs.</li> <li>• Support site operators to strengthen the cultural capacity of all staff who work at the PHPs.</li> <li>• Continue to work closely with FPCC on the development of Indigenous-led programs and policies for Indigenous Cultural Heritage.</li> <li>• Work toward using Indigenous Knowledge and values to actively guide and form the basis of land-use decisions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>e. Indigenous Advisory Role in Government</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate Indigenous oversight over Indigenous cultural heritage work undertaken by the Province to ensure it follows the principles, laws, and protocols of the groups whose heritage is involved.</li> <li>• Provide support for a committee of qualified Indigenous Knowledge Keepers to advise the Province on a case-by-case basis on shared Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultural heritage interests.</li> <li>• Develop a comprehensive communications strategy for delivering clear messaging to communities, institutions, governments, and industry regarding Indigenous cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide short-term funding to support the FPCC Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (ICHAC) to support FPCC's advisory role.</li> </ul>

III. Community Heritage	
Engagement Recommendations	Heritage Branch Responses
<p><b>a. Community Heritage Sites and Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support smaller organizations and heritage sites to define their scope and role within their communities, make that role sustainable, and highlight what heritage organizations have to offer to collaborators.</li> <li>Collect data on the costs and benefits of diversified revenue sources to enable informed decision-making and investments.</li> <li>Address engagement among young people, adapt management practices to reflect changing expectations around careers and volunteer work in the heritage sector.</li> <li>Assist small organizations and remote communities to participate in provincial conferences and communication channels, through funding or through regionally located events.</li> <li>Increase funding for the heritage sector by investing in the Heritage Legacy Fund and providing grants to support core museum collection and archival work.</li> <li>Ensure that grant programs are accessible and reduce barriers to Indigenous and diverse applicants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through CERIP, the Province has provided \$20 million in funding for heritage and \$80 million in other economic development, community development and tourism related funding.</li> <li>Communicate the need for future funding opportunities to align with the recommendations around accessibility, diversity, and sector needs.</li> <li>Continue to represent the value of the Heritage Legacy Fund (HLF) for supporting community heritage programming and services.</li> <li>Communicate diverse funding opportunities to the sector through continuing collaboration with Heritage BC and the BC Museums Association (BCMA).</li> <li>Province of BC announces funding through 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program: <a href="https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MUNI0040-001509">https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021MUNI0040-001509</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>b. Community Heritage Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist municipal staff in implementing and maintaining local heritage programs.</li> <li>Analyze costs and benefits to communities of implementing a heritage program, especially for smaller municipalities. Provide tools and data to demonstrate the value of heritage conservation to local decision-makers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update to the annual survey to better capture sector needs.</li> <li>Explore new ways to survey and measure the impacts of heritage sites as economic drivers and tourism destinations.</li> <li>Work collaboratively with Heritage BC and BCMA to support community heritage and provide leadership to the sector.</li> <li>Continue to participate in discussions at the FPT table about measuring the impacts of cultural heritage.</li> </ul>
IV. Province Wide Heritage Initiatives	
Recommendations	Responses
<p><b>a. Geographical Place Names</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide funding to Indigenous communities for dialogue, engagement, recording, and mapping of place names.</li> <li>Fund Indigenous place names projects, such as public monuments, markers, signage, and maps. These projects would assert and affirm continued Indigenous presence on the land, particularly in urban areas, and promote the use of Indigenous languages.</li> <li>Provide funding and staffing resources to the BCGNO to process and evaluate Indigenous place names applications, including engagement with Indigenous communities and cooperative/shared decision-making processes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the feasibility of including multiple names into the Policy and align it with the UNDRIP Article 13 right for Indigenous Peoples to designate and retain their own names for communities and places.</li> <li>Continue to engage with and support Indigenous Governments with their naming projects.</li> <li>Complete administrative amendments to the Policy to streamline and clarify naming procedures and make it more inclusive.</li> <li>Communicate community feedback to government on the BCGNO capacity to administer the volume of Indigenous naming actions.</li> </ul>

IV. Province Wide Heritage Initiatives	
Engagement Recommendations	Heritage Branch Responses
<p><b>b . Repatriation of Indigenous Cultural Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and mentorship for Indigenous archivists, historians, and museum professionals.</li> <li>• Continued support for established programs and partnerships.</li> <li>• Projects to ensure that important and sensitive items related to residential schools are included in repatriation programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed revision and engagement on the Collections Policy.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to work with Indigenous Governments on a case-by-case basis on repatriation requests and other forms of agreements involving cultural materials, such as shared management agreements.</li> <li>• Continue to make the collection more accessible through updates, photos, and additional details on PHAD.</li> </ul>
<p><b>c . Fossil Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each fossil site is part of a natural and cultural landscape with unique physical attributes and cultural associations and may have special significance, including to Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>• Fossil sites are a source of community pride and identity and may have important oral history and stories associated with them.</li> <li>• The concept of ownership of fossil resources within Indigenous titled lands needs to be understood.</li> <li>• Fossil sites should be considered as part of land use planning and Indigenous Peoples should have a role in making decisions about the protection and management of fossil sites.</li> <li>• Some Indigenous Governments are interested in developing partnerships with the Provincial government for the management and protection of fossil sites.</li> <li>• Fossil sites can play a role in regional tourism and economic development and diversification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to engage with Indigenous Governments and with other partners and stakeholders across B.C. on the draft Fossil Management Policy.</li> <li>• Consider the feedback received in the finalization of the policy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>d. Tourism and Economic Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen relationships among heritage organizations and regional tourism associations and Destination BC. This is especially important for rural and remote heritage destinations.</li> <li>• Support planning and resources for heritage organizations to better understand how to leverage tourism opportunities to support their mandate and goals.</li> <li>• Collect data on the economic impacts of heritage on residents and tourism. Impacts include quantitative economic impact (job creation, tourism, promotion of local craftspeople etc.) as well as intangible benefits to creating a liveable, healthy community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to collaborate with regional tourism organizations and organizations to encourage heritage tourism and travel routes.</li> <li>• CERIP provided a response to the impacts of Covid-19 on heritage tourism.</li> <li>• Continue to engage with TACS and FLNRORD colleagues to communicate the shared benefits and responsibilities of the historic environment.</li> </ul>

IV. Province Wide Heritage Initiatives	
Engagement Recommendations	Heritage Branch Responses
<p><b>e. Fostering Diversity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise and celebrate the diverse heritage of British Columbia. Fund programs that advance inclusion and diversity, and ensure this funding is flexible, accessible to diverse communities, and supports a wide range of needs and abilities.</li> <li>Support organizations to diversify collections and tell more inclusive stories. Encourage the recruitment of culturally diverse staff and board members at heritage sites and institutions.</li> <li>Work with the Heritage Branch, BC Parks, Parks Canada and other provincial and federal agencies to tell more diverse stories of cultural groups and Indigenous Peoples, to acknowledge past attempts at erasure of these histories, and to serve as a counterpoint to colonial stories and histories that dominate heritage narratives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modernize the designation and recognition policy to reflect the diversity of B.C.'s Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>f. Heritage Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the education system to teach a fuller history of colonization through Indigenous cultural programs which address societal and structural racism. Provide all students with a representation of a full and accurate history of Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>Create opportunities for land-based language and culture immersion programs in schools.</li> <li>Offer teacher training that supports cultural competency and support for language.</li> <li>Develop and deliver curricula around Indigenous cultural heritage within public schools, government agencies and industry.</li> <li>Establish and support partnerships with B.C. school districts, family culture camps and youth summer camps to promote opportunities for cultural transmission.</li> <li>Develop a closer relationship with the Ministry of Education to explore the potential for province-wide initiatives on heritage education.</li> <li>Make heritage teaching materials available to educators in one central location and provide guidance about how to develop additional materials.</li> <li>Improve public education on the importance of cultural artifacts, to encourage the disclosure and recovery of cultural artifacts held in private collections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connect with other ministries, including Ministry of Education (MOE), to share recommendations that may fall within their mandates.</li> </ul>

V. Heritage in the Provincial Government	
Engagement Recommendations	Heritage Branch Responses
<p><b>a. Revisions to the Heritage Conservation Act</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise legislation to include Indigenous Peoples in the management, recognition, and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage. Revisions should be clear and easily understood by all to avoid differences in interpretation.</li> <li>• Offer clear definitions, as the current lack of definitions for terms such as “desecrate,” “ancestral remains,” “burial place,” and “scientific/cultural/archaeological significance/value” results in grey areas for protection.</li> <li>• Develop definitions of heritage and archaeology that are independent of the current artificial barrier at 1846 and delineate the mandates of both branches to reflect current needs.</li> <li>• Protect Indigenous burial grounds and ancestral remains. Involve Indigenous Peoples in how Indigenous sites are recorded and what protections are afforded case-by-case. Protection should include the option to close sites to visitors not from the community.</li> <li>• Allow flexibility for Indigenous groups to determine protocols for protecting, recognizing, and granting permits under the HCA that affect their cultural heritage. Ensure the cost of cultural and ceremonial work does not fall on Indigenous communities (rather than developers).</li> <li>• Update the <i>Local Government Act</i>, the <i>Vancouver Charter</i>, and the <i>Islands Trust Act</i> to align with any changes to the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i>.</li> <li>• Improve public awareness and understanding of the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> through communication and educational resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work closely with the Archaeology Branch to highlight the recommendations received through the engagement, and collaborate on developing policies to address concerns with the existing legislation.</li> <li>• Work with other parts of government to align laws in accordance with the objectives of the <i>Declaration Act</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>b. Provincial Heritage Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review policies related to the administration of the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i>.</li> <li>• Expand the use of the <i>Heritage Conservation Act</i> by cultural heritage professionals beyond the current focus on archaeological methodology and values.</li> <li>• Incorporate the recognition and safeguarding of living heritage (intangible cultural heritage) into provincial heritage legislation, policies, programs, and mindset.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Living Heritage Charter or strategy.</li> <li>• Collaborate with Recreation Sites and Trails Branch and Archaeology Branch on the Provincial Trails Policy.</li> <li>• Provide leadership at the FPT Culture and Heritage Table to implement national policy on intangible cultural heritage.</li> <li>• See also “Fostering Diversity” and “Geographical Place Names”.</li> </ul>

V. Heritage in the Provincial Government	
Engagement Recommendations	Heritage Branch Responses
<p><b>c. Climate Change Risk to Heritage Places and Practices</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalized initiatives to inventory Indigenous cultural heritage facing imminent threats related to climate change.</li> <li>Develop a strategy based on Indigenous Knowledge to manage and monitor the effects of climate change on ICH. Include research how Indigenous Peoples coped with major environmental changes in the past, and how this might help Indigenous communities and their neighbours plan climate change responses today.</li> <li>Develop and support community-based monitoring and enforcement programs, such as guardian programs.</li> <li>Organizations are looking for provincial or national leadership to encourage preservation of existing buildings as mutually beneficial for heritage conservation and environmental sustainability. There is a need for larger programs that foster this work and mindset.</li> <li>Data and messaging are needed to understand the threat climate change poses to landscapes, tangible and living heritage. Leadership is needed to fund data collection and provide fact-based best practices and planning tools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make ecological knowledge held in Indigenous place names available to other areas of government working on climate change issues.</li> <li>Apply the Parks Canada model of assessing climate change impacts to heritage properties to the PHPs, for the conservation of the PHPs and to provide a broader range of best practices for environmental conditions in B.C.</li> <li>Support measures being taken by the Climate Action Secretariat in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to strengthen the role of Indigenous leadership in addressing the effects of climate change on cultural heritage. As a first step, funding has been provided to the FPCC to develop an Indigenous Climate Adaptation and Preparedness Strategy.</li> <li>Communicate the environmental value of the stewardship of existing buildings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>d. Acknowledging Past Wrongs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledge past wrongs to develop bridges to positive, mutually beneficial relationships.</li> <li>Promote acceptance of a shared history of land and culture between Indigenous, settler and newcomer communities among general society today.</li> <li>Eliminate any influence of colonial doctrines including the Doctrine of Discovery and <i>terra nullius</i>.</li> <li>As priorities for the heritage <b>sector</b>, acknowledge racism and injustice, both in the past and continuing into the present.</li> <li>Include the narratives of Indigenous Peoples and other cultural groups on their own terms and in relation to each other, rather than primarily through their interaction with a dominant settler European culture.</li> <li>Support projects to commemorate and interpret Indigenous cultural heritage as it relates to residential school experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledge settler colonialism and contested values at the PHPs.</li> <li>Review derogatory geographical names.</li> <li>Reduce bias of whose heritage is represented in heritage registers through initiatives like the Provincial Historic Places Recognition Program.</li> <li>Monitor opportunities to collaborate with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation on their work.</li> </ul>

V. Heritage in the Provincial Government	
Engagement Recommendations	Heritage Branch Responses
<p><b>e. Provincial and Federal Government Approaches to Heritage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize that each situation is different and therefore can only be approached case-by-case, rather than creating one-size-fits-all solutions and applying them to everyone, everywhere.</li> <li>Improve communication and cooperation among branches of government, including Heritage Branch, Archaeology Branch, BC Parks, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.</li> <li>Transform the management of Protected Areas to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reintroduction of Indigenous cultural practices into protected areas.</li> <li>Integration of Indigenous cultural heritage management with protected areas management.</li> <li>Development of new integrated approaches to the establishment and management of protected areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Recognize that the Indigenous understanding of Indigenous cultural heritage is both tangible and intangible and is holistic, integrated, and inclusive. Move beyond the singular and physical when recognizing importance or significance in cultural heritage management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities, as funding permits, for Indigenous-led initiatives to interpret Indigenous cultural heritage at PHPs.</li> <li>Continue to evaluate the operational models at PHPs to ensure the best value and highest effectiveness on behalf of the people of B.C.</li> <li>Continue to work with FPCC to provide Indigenous Nations with resources to research and record their cultural heritage and retain ownership of their information.</li> <li>In collaboration with Archaeology Branch, support other areas of government to incorporate Indigenous cultural heritage values in their work.</li> <li>Promote Indigenous cultural heritage values and the need for Indigenous voices at the FPT table on Culture and Heritage.</li> <li>Consider future opportunities for community involvement in preserving the values at fossil sites.</li> </ul>

## Appendix 4 – Links and Resources

### Heritage BC

<https://heritagebc.ca/>

- Provincial Roundtables on the State of Heritage: Final Report and Recommendations  
<https://heritagebc.ca/resources/state-of-heritage-provincial-roundtables/>
- Heritage Legacy Fund (HLF)  
<https://heritagebc.ca/heritage-legacy-fund/>

### First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) – Heritage Program

<https://fpcc.ca/programs/about-our-heritage-programs/>

- Policy Paper: Recognizing and Including Indigenous Cultural Heritage in B.C.  
<https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FPCC-ICH-Policy-Paper-190918-WEB.pdf>
- Fact Sheet: 10 Recommendations for Supporting Indigenous Cultural Heritage  
<https://fpcc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FPCC-ICH-Fact-Sheet-190918-WEB.pdf>
- Report on the First Peoples' Cultural Council Indigenous Cultural Heritage Forum 2020  
<https://fpcc.ca/cultural-heritage-forum-report/>
- Recommendations for Decolonizing B.C.'s Heritage-Related Processes and Legislation  
<https://fpcc.ca/resource/recommendations-for-decolonizing-b-c-s-heritage-related-processes-and-legislation/>

### United Nations

- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

### Government of British Columbia

- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act  
<https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/19044>
- Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP)  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/economic-recovery/cerip>

### Archaeology Branch

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/archaeology>

### Heritage Branch

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/historic-places>

- BC Geographical Names Office  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/historic-places/geographical-names>
- BC Fossil Management Office  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/natural-resource-use/fossil-management>
- BC Register of Historic Places  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/historic-places/provincial-federal-registers>
- Provincial Heritage Properties  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/celebrating-british-columbia/historic-places/provincial-heritage-properties>
- Provincial Heritage Artifacts Database  
<https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/pub/heritageartifactcollection/>