

BC Heritage Capacity Fact Sheet – 2020



Every year local governments provide information through the Heritage Capacity and Economic Impact (HCEI) Survey¹ to help the Province of BC assess heritage conservation capacity, support policy planning, and measure economic impact. The survey provides a snapshot of heritage conservation activities across the province as reported by participating local governments.

The Fact Sheet summarizes results of the HCEI survey and statistics from the Heritage Branch's BC Register of Historic Places. BC Stats administered the 2020 Survey on behalf of the Heritage Branch, collecting information from 56 of 190 local governments and extrapolating² the results to approximate the responses for all 190 local governments.

Indicators of Heritage Conservation Capacity for Local Governments



BC Register of Historic Places

There are 5,393 provincial, municipal, and federal historic places listed on the register as of December 31, 2020.

The Heritage Branch encourages local governments to submit fully documented heritage sites to the BC Register so a complete picture of historic places across the province can be accessible to the public through the [BC Historic Places web app](#) and [Canadian Register of Historic Places](#).



190 Additions to the BC Register in 2020

23 Heritage Designations in 2020 as reported to the BC Register

9 Removals reported to the BC Register in 2020. Although an uncommon occurrence, a total of 71 sites have been removed from the BC Register.

Heritage Administration at Local Governments



99 full-time equivalent municipal staff work on heritage planning and projects



44% of local governments own **574** historic places and spent **\$9,629,204** on their preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration in 2020



76% of local government-owned historic places generated **\$375,854** in revenue in 2020

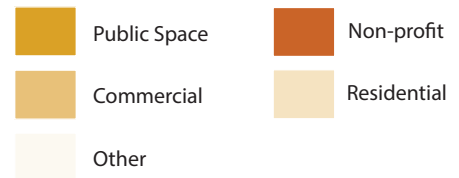
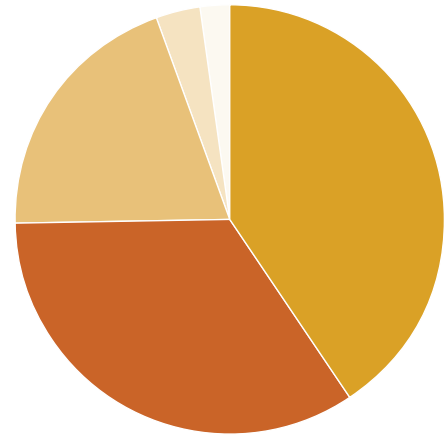


32% of local governments use the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*



59% of local governments reported working with **Indigenous governments, organizations** or **individuals** on heritage conservation matters in 2020

USES OF HISTORIC PLACES OWNED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

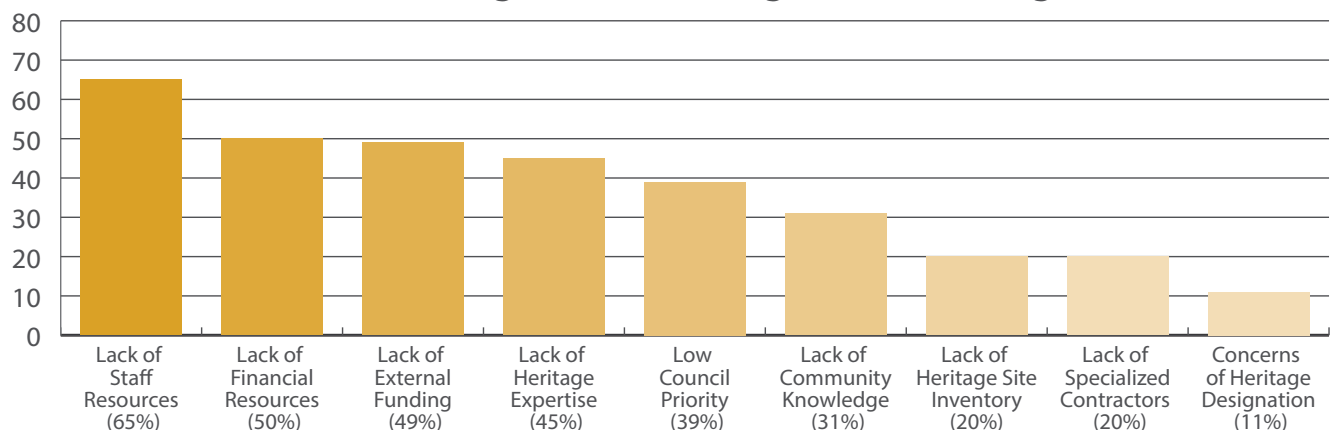


Environmental Benefits of Conserving Historic Places

55% of local governments reported that environmental benefits factored into their planning decisions to conserve historic buildings. The most cited environmental benefits that factored into their decisions include:

1. Adapts under-used or vacant buildings
2. Reduces waste in landfills from demolition
3. Provides opportunity to reuse and recycle construction materials
4. Conserves resources, including building materials, in existing buildings

Local Government Challenges of Protecting and Promoting Historic Places



Contact the Heritage Branch at heritage@gov.bc.ca or 250-356-1432 for more information about the survey

1 Formerly called the Building Capacity for Heritage Conservation Survey

2 Final results were weighted based on government type (municipalities or local government and regional district) and population size (<10,000, 10,000-80,000, >80,000).