

Report on Results of the Heritage Branch Annual Survey: 2006-2016

Building Capacity for Heritage Conservation Survey

This report summarizes information gathered from local governments (municipalities and regional districts) to assess the current capacity of B.C. communities to conserve and use their heritage resources. It provides an overview of heritage conservation activity from 2006 to 2016, as reported by local government staff to Heritage BC on behalf of the Heritage Branch through the Building Capacity for Heritage Conservation (BCHC) survey.

The annual survey raises awareness of heritage conservation tools and emphasizes the strategies that are most effective in building heritage conservation capacity at the local level. Local government responses to the annual survey facilitate Heritage Branch staff interactions with local governments and supply information to support Heritage Branch policy planning.

The data in the table below are the results of each survey done for the calendar years 2006 through 2016. **It is important to note that each year’s results should be seen as a baseline of information for that year, and that the results for all years are not an indication of growth or change over time.**

Prior to 2016, the survey was sent out to all local governments each year, and each year the number of respondents and the set of local governments responding to the survey changes. In 2016, the BCHC survey was sent to 62 of the 190 governments in BC according to a six-year distribution system. This system divides the governments into three groups based on population.

- Governments with a population over 80,000 are asked to respond every year
- Governments with populations between 10,000 and 80,000 are asked to respond every three years
- Governments with populations under 10,000 are asked to respond every six years.

We do not have all of the information for all local governments in the province, but the information we do have allows us to know the minimum number of heritage planning tools implemented and the total amount spent by participating local governments on heritage conservation in a calendar year.

The BCHC survey is a tool that continues to evolve each year. Changes have been made to the wording of the questions each year, but basic content has remained consistent throughout. Key changes are noted in the table below.

INDICATORS OF HERITAGE CONSERVATION CAPACITY	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 ⁴
# of Local Government Respondents	59	106	124	128	125	117	120	124	122	130	147
Heritage Content in Official Community Plan (OCP)	42	80	86	97	96	93	103	97	102	102	79
Community Heritage Commission (CHC)	28	46	49	53	45	37	43	43	52	38	38
Similar entity to CHCs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	n/a
Heritage Planning Documents											
Heritage Strategic Plan	17	30	28	30	27	30	5 ²	1	4	5	21
Heritage Conservation Plan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3	7	14
Heritage Tourism Plan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	3	5
Heritage Context Studies	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	4	12

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Heritage Feasibility Studies	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	2	2
Heritage Values Workshops	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	5	5
Heritage Design Guidelines	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8	26
Other heritage-related planning document	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	18	26
Community Heritage Register (CHR)	25	38	43	44	42	44	45	52	47	45	64
Total number of CHR listings reported	4,481	5,249	5,445	5,518	5,055	5,263	5,351	4,787	5,837	4,710	4,183
Number of CHR listings reported as being documented to BCRHP standards	1,127	1,318	1,709	1,932	1,545	1,562	1,653	1,728	1,894	1,513	1,178
Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) in use	5	10	39	43	45	50	57	55	55	52	59
Heritage Promotion/Interpretation											
Heritage Content on Website	20	36	45	47	39	44	53	57	56	54	53
Information about CHR listings on Website	7	18	24	28	20	20	29	36	36	28	42
Heritage Signs or Plaques installed in last calendar year	22	33	28	25	30	29	33	37	35	30	38
Heritage Brochures published in last calendar year	17	28	31	24	27	30	30	30	31	33	61
Hosted event, festival etc. that celebrated historic places	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	37	41	35	44	36	59
Number of events, festivals etc. hosted	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88	105	n/a
Annual expenditure on recognition activities	\$278,193	n/a	\$405,854	\$415,045	\$411,753	\$597,905	\$563,665	\$496,992	\$963,969	\$865,429	\$1,478,075
Heritage Protection											
Heritage Designations in place	1,198	1396	1,573	1,702	1,689	1,431	1,523	1,006	1,299	1,741	1,896
Heritage Designations in current year	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	36	34	42	36	50
Heritage Revitalization Agreements ³	127	188	30	24	20	17	24	17	22	10	48
Heritage Covenants ³	118	147	16	13	8	4	5	4	3	2	9
Heritage Conservation Areas	79	38	35	37	37	41	35	30	52	36	64
Other special permit areas used to manage heritage values	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	17
Heritage Alteration Permits (HAPs) ³	402	307	92	130	93	67	89	108	115	98	143
Heritage Conservation Incentives (per calendar year)											

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# of Local Government Respondents	59	106	124	128	125	117	120	124	122	130	147
Tax incentives – tax forgiven for tax incentive projects	\$21,018,743	\$2,338,994	\$1,606,576	\$817,393	\$776,421	\$1,674,253	\$474,311	\$473,558	\$132,820	\$1,946,790	\$2,831,217
Private investment resulting from tax incentive projects	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$21,525,703	\$4,107,891	\$2,072,238	\$564,133	\$50,000	Not reported
Loans or Loan Guarantees	0	\$5,000	0	\$50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	\$628,525	\$1,031,626	\$1,322,674	\$1,236,555	\$1,452,410	\$1,106,013	\$700,893	\$288,767	\$494,388	\$1,213,775	\$1,565,225
Private investment resulting from grant program	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$1,887,260	\$3,888,370	\$8,070,027
Other incentives	\$66,029,380	\$51,015,220	\$11,413,288	\$32,909	\$57,200	\$409,000	\$56,500	\$47,323	Not reported	\$105,000	\$30,000
Private investment resulting from other incentives	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Not reported	\$102,000	\$1,063,747
Heritage Investment (per calendar year)											
Conservation of publicly-owned historic places	\$2,779,800	\$7,503,843	\$8,389,014	\$8,486,642	\$9,794,867	\$15,340,921	\$12,753,406	\$5,430,821	\$7,694,688	\$4,275,610	\$9,414,868
Number of publicly-owned historic places	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	494	482	504
Generated revenue from publicly-owned historic places	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$1,777,597	\$662,084	\$1,329,855
Uses of publicly-owned historic places											
• Number of Residential									• 7	• 9	• 7
• Number of Commercial									• 9	• 12	• 10
• Number of Non-Profit									• 20	• 37	• 29
• Number of Public Spaces									• 44	• 50	• 29
• Number of Other use	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	• 16	• 18	• 13
Staff persons	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88	102	82	79 ⁶
Staff person time spent on heritage matters											
• Number at 100%								• 10	• 11	• 12	• 6
• Average % of other	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	• 8%	• 17%	• 14%	• 21.5%
Volunteer persons working on heritage matters	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	677	429
Heritage and Sustainability											
Awareness of environmental benefits of historic place conservation											
• Number Extremely aware	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	• 7	• 7	• 5	• 26 do ⁵

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# of Local Government Respondents	59	106	124	128	125	117	120	124	122	130	147
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number Very aware • Number Moderately aware • Number Slightly aware • Number Not at all aware 								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 • 41 • 29 • 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 • 31 • 21 • 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 • 38 • 27 • 19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 do not • 61 sometimes • 20 don't know

¹ n/a = Not Applicable; indicates that information was not requested for this question in this year.

² In previous years, the question about Heritage Strategic Plans referred to total number in existence. The 2012 question asked only for Heritage Strategic Plans created in the calendar year.

³ In 2006 and 2007, these questions for heritage protection referred to total number of each tool implemented by the local government. Since then, the questions have asked the number of each tool implemented in the calendar year.

⁴ These results are extrapolated according to the distribution plan described above the table. It was generated using the following formula: total for the every year group + (total for the every three years group x 3) + (total for the every six years group x 6).

⁵ This question changed in 2016 to: “Does your local government consider the environmental benefits of historic place conservation when making planning decisions?”

⁶ This represents the responses to the question: “Does your local government have full time or part time staff?” Therefore it is not a representation of the total number of full-time or part-time staff staff but the number of local governments with full-time staff.

For more information please contact Heritage BC at info@heritagebc.ca or 604-428-7243, or the Heritage Branch at heritage@gov.bc.ca, or call us at 250 356-1432.