



Heritage and Municipal Elections: Questions for Candidates

With the upcoming province wide municipal election in British Columbia on November 15, 2014 this is the opportunity to take your heritage questions and issues to the candidates and to educate candidates about why heritage is significant for your community.

Consider attending all-candidate forums and asking questions about heritage conservation. Or host an all-candidates forum on heritage, arts, and culture issues in collaboration with other local organizations. Heritage Toronto, for example, has hosted “Heritage Matters” mayoral debates in Toronto in 2010 and 2014. Or, create a questionnaire for candidates to complete on heritage issues. Here are some questions to ask your candidates¹:

- What do you think is the single most important action the local government could undertake to encourage heritage preservation in the community?
- Will you support funding, laws, policy, and appointments that encourage heritage conservation? Please specify any initiatives that you would propose.
- Would you encourage the adaptive reuse of your community’s built heritage when its traditional uses are no longer feasible?
- Will you support financial assistance and advice to those who seek to conserve and restore their heritage properties?
- How will you balance development pressures against the need to preserve archaeological, natural, and heritage structures and neighbourhoods?
- Do you think heritage conservation areas help communities?
- Do you have examples in your community of lost heritage that you think should have been saved? If so, what would have been needed to change the outcome?
- What do you see as the value to the community of the preservation of heritage properties? What have you done to save built heritage in your community?
- Do you agree that a municipal council should act if necessary to designate a heritage property even where the owner disagrees?

¹ These questions are based on questions posted by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario in 2010.