



HERITAGE LAWS IN BC

The Heritage Conservation Act (HCA)

The [HCA](#) creates a distinction between heritage and archaeology, using the date 1846 as the distinction between the two. Archaeology is before, and heritage is after. The heritage portions of the Act create the Provincial Register of Historic Places and govern how sites can be added to the register. It also lays out how sites of provincial significance can be designated at the provincial level.

The LGA and the Charter are the laws that recognize and/or protect the vast majority of BC's heritage sites that are legally recognized and/or protected. Heritage work as a whole is largely done at the local community level.

For more information about heritage conservation tools, please refer to our in depth series of [resource guides](#).

The Local Government Act (LGA)

[Part 15 of the LGA](#) gives local governments the power to recognize and legally protect heritage. This includes Community Heritage Registers, Community Heritage Commissions, heritage designation, covenants, Heritage Conservation Areas, and Heritage Revitalization Agreements. These measures are almost entirely limited to 'real' property; that is, structures and improvements affixed to the land.

The Vancouver Charter

[Part XXVIII of the Charter](#) gives the City of Vancouver similar powers to those in Part 15 of the LGA.