



# COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTERS

The Community Heritage Register (CHR) is an important component of a local government's heritage program, as it is a recognized method to identify, acknowledge and record local heritage.

By establishing and maintaining a list of heritage buildings, sites and structures, the Community Heritage Register process helps the local government to understand and identify the significance and value of its community's heritage.

The Community Heritage Register is one of several heritage conservation tools found in the *Local Government Act*. While the legislation provides local governments with the authority to adopt a Community Heritage Register, the Act does not detail the formation and function of the register.

A property included in a community heritage register is not designated (unless it has been separately designated by bylaw) and therefore is not eligible for any financial incentive or compensation from the local government. The registration of a property does not offer permanent heritage protection. A registered property, however, is eligible for special provisions in the BC Building Code Heritage Building Supplement.

A CHR is a cornerstone to a local government's community heritage program. It should be implemented as part of a carefully planned heritage program to achieve clearly stated community goals.

The legislation does not give the local government the authority to automatically prevent the owner of a heritage property from developing, redeveloping, or demolishing that property. However, when a local government implements a Community Heritage Register program, it does have access to additional management tools:

- The local government (heritage) planner has the option to discuss proposed alterations and available options;
- Building or development approvals may be temporarily delayed until the next council meeting;
- Demolition permits may be temporarily delayed until the next council meeting or until a building permit and any other necessary approvals have been issued with respect to the alteration or redevelopment of the site;
- An impact assessment may be required if a proposed development might have a negative impact on a heritage resource.

These management tools cannot extend beyond 60 days, which provides time to collect information and conduct an inspection of the heritage features of the property. Local government staff then prepares a report to Council outlining conservation options for their consideration before the temporary protection period expires.

The management tools cannot be used for the same property more than once in a two-year period.

For the heritage property owner, the Local Government Act does not provide local governments with authorities that are significantly different from those applied to owners of non-heritage properties.

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

