

Heritage BC



January 14, 2019

The Honourable Minister Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Room 248, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Minister Donaldson,

Thank you for your letter dated December 14, 2018 (ref. 244076). We are grateful you will review our request for further investment to the Heritage Legacy Fund with Ministers Beare and Fraser.

In recognition of Heritage BC's success in growing the Heritage Legacy Fund endowment, and in recognition of the Fund's positive impact and potential on communities throughout the province, including specific funding targeted toward reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, we are requesting the provincial government contribute a minimum of \$2.5M to match the growth that we have achieved in the Heritage Legacy Fund, this being consistent with the spirit and intention of the original investment.

Hundreds of people have participated in our provincial roundtable meetings on heritage, ranging in ages from 15 to 90 years and living in Skidegate, Nakusp and points in between, have highlighted the economic, cultural, environmental and social benefits of heritage conservation. They have told us heritage creates civic pride and pride of place, and they have told us that heritage increases community resiliency by creating liveable, unique communities.

Describing values of listening, acknowledging, understanding and accepting, non-indigenous participants spoke about the need to face past wrongs, and Indigenous participants straightforwardly laid bare the impacts of suppression and racism without abandoning hope and potential. Defining heritage as the "human imprint on the earth", participants have told us heritage has tremendous potential to create partnerships to build reconciliation.

Through research and analysis, we know heritage provides outstanding economic benefit for all British Columbians. Investment in heritage can produce a return on investment of up to 576%, and heritage activities contributed an estimated \$42.7M to BC's GDP (2016). The multiplying effect of heritage investment is exceptional.

Year over year, attendance has continued to increase: 70% of Canadians attended heritage sites in 2016 and we estimate over 3.18M British Columbians will visit heritage sites, including provincially-owned historic places, in 2019.

Undoubtedly, the government is aware of these impacts through the \$6M contribution to the operation and maintenance of provincially-owned historic sites. While this investment is important for maintaining links to our province's colonial history, there is a stark disparity of funding for the thousands of other historic places, many of which represent BC's multiculturalism and none of which receive operational funding. Sites that recall Japanese, Chinese, South Asian, Black, and First Nations stories, like the many colonial sites, also need financial support and the Heritage Legacy Fund is BC's only fund supporting conservation.

HeritageBC



Heritage is proven to provide economic, cultural, environmental and social benefits and, by its very nature, heritage contributes to sustainable resource management and builds partnerships that support reconciliation.

We thank you for your consideration and your willingness to discuss our request with Ministers Beare and Fraser.

Sincerely,

Gord Macdonald
Chair

Paul Gravett
Executive Director

cc: Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture
Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Richard Linzey, Integrated Resource Operations, Heritage Branch
Kimberley Reid, Director of Arts and Culture
Grant Sheppard, Director of Multicultural Programs and Grants