



February 17, 2026

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin
Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature

On behalf of Heritage BC and the British Columbia Museums Association, representing over 800 organizations and professionals, we are writing to invite a renewed dialogue regarding the future of the Canadian Register of Historic Places (the Register) which has recently been discontinued.

Our members view the Register as more than a list of buildings; it is a foundational tool for understanding the intersection of our built heritage and the natural and environmental worlds we inhabit. As Canada moves toward a more sustainable future, having a unified, cross-jurisdictional understanding of our shared landscape is essential.

The Register stands as a premier example of "collaborative federalism" in action. Since 2004, it has provided a bridge between federal, provincial, municipal, and territorial authorities. In British Columbia, our planners, researchers, and community advocates rely on this shared data to:

- Inform Environmental Stewardship: Understanding historical land use is critical for modern climate adaptation and conservation.
- Streamline Project Planning: Developers and public sector use this "one-stop shop" to ensure sustainable and respectful growth.
- Foster National Connection: It allows Canadians to see the interconnected story of our environment and our history across borders.

While we understand the technical challenges currently facing the platform, we believe that decommissioning the Register and shifting to a federal-only directory misses an opportunity to modernize a critical national asset.

Rather than dismantling this tool, we see a path toward a modern, resilient, and sustainable Register. By leveraging new technologies and strengthening our inter-jurisdictional partnerships, we can ensure that accurate information about the places that shape our communities remains accessible to all.

We are working closely with the National Trust of Canada and stand ready to act as proactive partners in this effort. We urge you to take a leadership role in directing Parks Canada to engage in a collaborative "re-imagining" of the Register alongside the provinces and territories.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how Heritage BC and the BCMA can support your office in building a renewed National Register that reflects our shared commitment to Canada's cultural and natural landscape.

Thank you for your dedication to preserving the places that define us.

Kind regards,

Kirsten Clausen
Executive Director, Heritage BC

Jules André-Brown
Executive Director, BC Museums Association



February 17, 2026

The Honourable Wade Grant
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Wade Grant,

We are writing on behalf of Heritage BC and the British Columbia Museums Association. Together, our membership totals over 800 organizations and individuals who represent a diverse range of heritage professionals and advocates. These members rely on the Canadian Register of Historic Places (the Register) for their work. Our members have expressed concern and shock at Parks Canada's plan to decommission the Register in the spring of 2026.

As you are aware through the efforts of the National Trust of Canada, the Register is an online, searchable database of places formally recognized for their heritage value by federal, provincial, municipal, or territorial authorities. Established in 2004 through collaboration between federal, provincial, and territorial governments, it was intended to improve protection of historic sites and foster a culture of heritage conservation across Canada. Unfortunately, due to minimal investment since 2010, the Register has become technologically unstable.

While the federal government actively speaks to collaborative federalism, a key tool is being dismantled. Heritage professionals in British Columbia – including planners, developers, grassroots advocates, developers and researchers working in museums and heritage sites – rely on the Register for comparative research and project planning. It is a trusted, cross-jurisdictional tool essential to both private and public sector heritage projects. Its loss will significantly undermine efforts to promote awareness and conservation of Canada's historic places.

We are actively working with the National Trust of Canada on this advocacy. We fully support their assessment of the Register's loss and have jointly communicated with our memberships to highlight the implications and encourage them to share their concerns.

Parks Canada's plan to shift responsibility to a federal-only Directory of Federal Heritage Designations, with data returned to originating jurisdictions, is insufficient. Such a move undermines federalism, dismantles a critical national tool, and hinders

collaboration across jurisdictions and the broader heritage community. Canadian heritage deserves a comprehensive Registry.

Minister, given your responsibility for historic places in Canada, we urge you to take a leadership role on this issue. Please direct Parks Canada to work collaboratively with provinces and territories, you can help ensure that a modern, sustainable approach is found. We need assurance that accurate, comprehensive information about the places that shape our communities remains accessible to all Canadians. Heritage BC, the BC Museums Association, and the National Trust of Canada stand ready to work with your office to chart a path toward a renewed and resilient National Register.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Kind regards,

Kirsten Clausen
Executive Director, Heritage BC

Jules André-Brown
Executive Director, BC Museums Association