

# HeritageBC

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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As an organization of provincial scope, Heritage BC recognizes that its members, and the local history and heritage they seek to preserve, occupy the unceded and ancestral lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples of BC. Heritage BC asks its members and all people to reflect on the places where they reside and work, and to respect the diversity of cultures and experiences that form the richness of our provincial heritage.

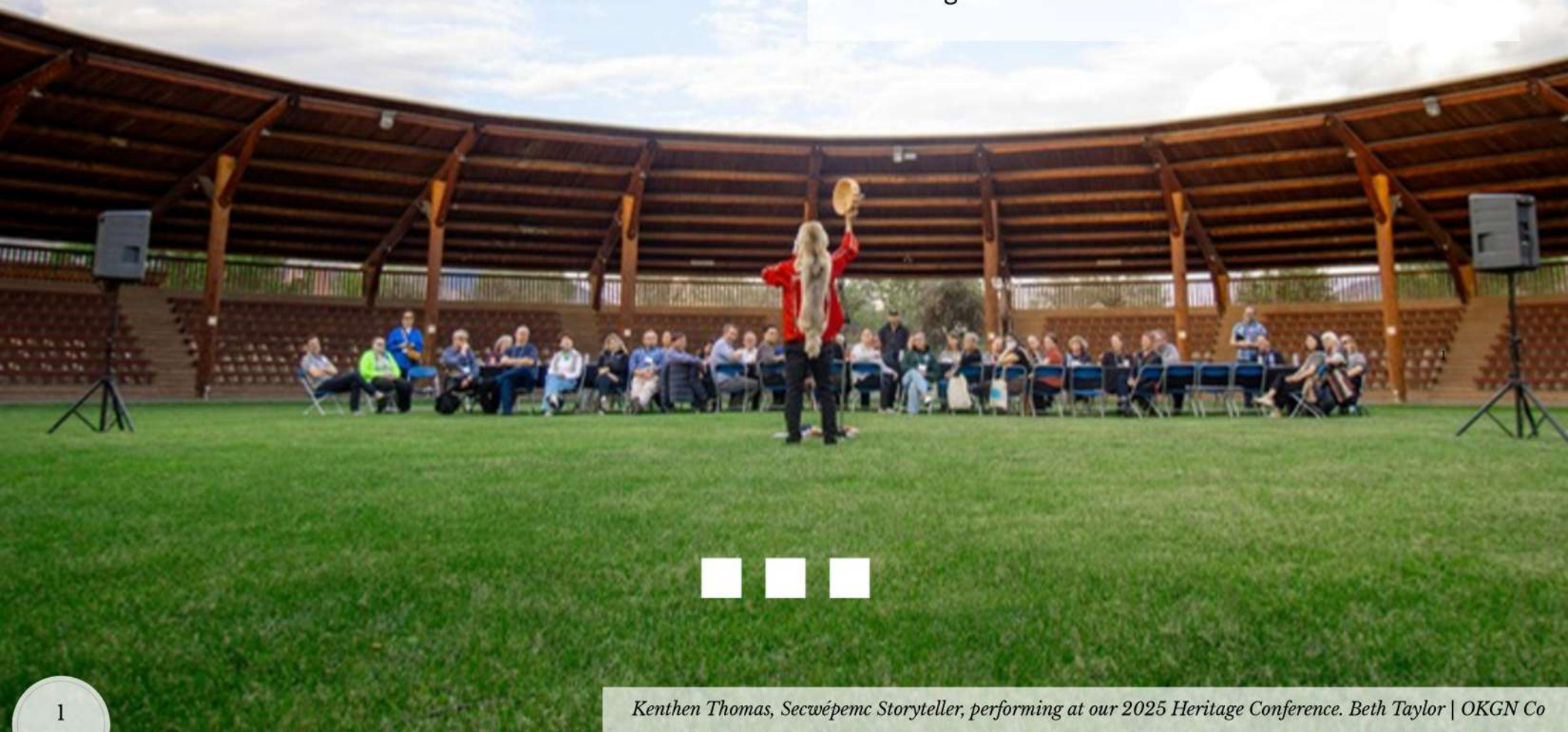


## OUR VISION

Heritage BC is trusted to empower sustainable community heritage stewardship in BC.

## OUR MISSION

Heritage BC supports the people and organizations of British Columbia who champion the preservation and conservation of all forms of built and cultural heritage. We achieve this by developing awareness, support and respect for BC's tangible and intangible traditions.





On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to share this annual report highlighting the work and accomplishments of Heritage BC over the past year.

Unexpectedly, 2025 became a year of significant transition at both the staff level and with my appointment as Chair. While assembling a new team was a major achievement, what stands out most is how quickly staff came together with trust, shared purpose, and ambition.

The Board also strengthened its connection to the organization through active committee work, jury participation on the Heritage Legacy Fund and governance.

Heritage BC's work continues to be shaped by what we hear from cultural communities, partners, and audiences. Throughout this report, you will see how listening informed our actions and strengthened programs and partnerships. A clear example is our Annual Heritage Conference in Kamloops on Tkemlúps te Secwépemc land, where place-based themes highlighted how communities collaborate to address shared challenges.

As we approach our 45th anniversary, we remain focused on growing our organizational capacity and advancing equity and integrity across our programs and relationships.

As Chair, I also had much to learn on the governance front. Heritage BC benefits from financial stability, supported by the Heritage Legacy Fund and the Province of BC's trust in our ability to deliver one-time granting opportunities. We hope these opportunities continue, as demand for heritage funding is growing.

I was particularly pleased that Heritage BC was able to meet with the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, who welcomed the opportunity to discuss the intersection of heritage with key issues facing British Columbians, including housing, climate action, racism, and the ongoing work of reconciliation with many cultural communities.

Lastly, I'd like to thank our members, volunteers, sponsors and many partners who have a willingness to engage with us. We are extending our sphere of influence and I am pleased to be doing heritage sector work alongside each of you. I also wish to thank the Board of Directors and our Executive Director, Kirstin Clausen, for continuing to share their experiences and perspectives.



KERI BRIGGS  
BOARD CHAIR



The year 2025 was defined by a renewed focus on building from a strong foundation, deepening relationships across communities, and reinforcing the values that continue to guide our work.

A new Heritage BC staff team was hired in the first quarter of 2025 and came together in April for the first time. Building on an already strong foundation, the team brought curiosity, fresh perspectives, and a wide range of talents to our programs. Together, they quickly established a collaborative and energized culture that set the stage for a successful year.

The 2025–2028 Strategic Plan was presented to the membership in 2025 and guided our planning and priorities throughout the year. In particular, the goal of remaining a respected resource and trusted voice for heritage in BC strongly resonated with the new team as they shaped their approach to programs, partnerships, and responsibilities.

Being both a trusted resource and an effective advocate is central to Heritage BC's role. I believe this report reflects the many ways we advanced this goal over the past year. For example, Heritage BC strengthened its capacity through the hiring of its first full-time Database, Membership, and Development Coordinator, a key step toward becoming a more data-informed organization. Following several months of review, a new database platform was selected and data migration was initiated.

The Heritage BC Awards program underwent a review focused on strengthening policies and enhancing juror training, in response to evolving expectations from cultural communities around ethical standards. This reflects our ongoing commitment across all programs as we continue to improve our practices.

Another significant change was the shift in the intake date for the Heritage Legacy Fund, designed to improve organizational flow and allow a full construction season for heritage restoration projects.

Late in the year, I informed the Board and staff of my plans to retire in spring 2026. I am deeply grateful for their professionalism, resilience, and care during this transition.

Finally, my deepest thanks to the Board for your thoughtfulness and stewardship of Heritage BC. After nearly five years as Executive Director, this has been a transformative chapter of my professional life, shaped by the generosity and collaboration of many across the sector.



KIRSTIN CLAUSEN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# OUR REACH IN 2025 AT A GLANCE

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

2025



**81K+**

UNIQUE VISITS  
TO OUR WEBSITE

**161**

WEBINARS  
DOWNLOADED

**\$494K+**

IN FUNDING FOR PROJECTS  
IN 25 BC COMMUNITIES

**2,771**

HERITAGE UPDATE  
BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER  
SUBSCRIBERS

**92**

CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

**5.8K+**

SOCIAL MEDIA  
FOLLOWERS

**3,060** FACEBOOK

**1,931** INSTAGRAM

**877** LINKEDIN

GROUPS **164**

INDIVIDUALS **90**

GOVERNMENTS **43**

CORPORATIONS **18**

**315**

ACTIVE MEMBERS



Heritage BC is an independent, charitable, non-profit organization that administers and manages foundation-funded and fee-for-service granting programs. One of its key programs is the Heritage Legacy Fund Grant.

In 2025, Heritage BC received 92 eligible applications for Heritage Legacy Fund grants totalling \$1,834,492. There were:

- 39 Heritage Conservation applications totalling \$1,412,567
- 27 Heritage Awareness applications totalling \$259,962
- 9 Heritage Planning applications totalling \$40,852
- 17 Indigenous Partnership applications totalling \$121,111

Following a thorough assessment by our volunteer juries, the Heritage Legacy Fund awarded \$494,475 to 30 projects across 25 communities throughout British Columbia.

Established in 2003 as an endowment by the Province of British Columbia, the Heritage Legacy Fund is held by the Vancouver Foundation. Heritage BC serves as the government's appointed advisor to the fund, working in partnership with the Heritage Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. The endowment currently holds just over \$14 million. Annual interest generated from the fund supports Heritage BC's operations and core programming, including the Heritage Legacy Fund Grant Program.

Heritage BC continues to provide administrative oversight for 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program projects that remain in progress, including the review and receipt of final reports.



*Students and artist-in-residence Julie McIntyre with Revealing Our Histories, a Heritage Legacy Fund-supported project completed in 2025.*

Since its inception in 2003, the Heritage Legacy Fund has disbursed a total of \$2,403,391.25 to 221 projects across BC.



## *PASTTIMES IN PAST TIMES* FEBRUARY 17 - 23, 2025

The 2025 theme, “Pastimes in Past Times,” celebrated the leisure activities and traditions that have helped shape community identity. BC Heritage Week participants explored how games, crafts, hobbies, and celebrations contribute to the cultural fabric of today while also reflecting the heritage of the places they call home.

The range of BC Heritage Week activities was inspiring and demonstrated the creativity and commitment of organizations across the province. To support local marketing initiatives, Heritage BC distributed 1,250 printed posters to libraries, museums, and heritage sites throughout the province.

The Province of British Columbia formally recognized the week with an official BC Heritage Week proclamation. Heritage BC also encouraged local governments to do the same and 10 official proclamations were also issued by local governments. The online event calendar served as a central hub for discovering events, helping to connect communities and highlight the collective effort to honour and explore our shared heritage.





## *ME7 ELKSTWÉCW-KT — WORKING TOGETHER* MAY 21 - 23, 2025 | T́KÉMLÚPS (KAMLOOPS)

The 2025 Heritage Conference brought together heritage professionals, community leaders, Indigenous knowledge holders, and advocates in T́kémłúps (Kamloops). Held on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded lands of T́kémłúps te Secwépmc, the conference reflected Heritage BC's renewed approach to convening through partnerships, place-based learning, and community connection, with a stronger focus on hyper-local content and presenters. Developed with host partners the Kamloops Museum and Archives and the Secwépmc Museum and Heritage Park, it used local venues, including the Historic Courthouse, downtown Kamloops, and the former Kamloops Residential School, to centre the stories, histories, and lived experiences of the host community.

The program featured 12 sessions, guided tours, and field trips exploring mentorship, knowledge sharing, heritage conservation, site management, film and storytelling, and collaborative community processes. Conference delegates visited the Secwépmc Museum and Heritage Park, the Kamloops Residential School site, St. Andrew's on the Square, and the Kamloops Railway Museum. A keynote by Ronald E. Ignace, Commissioner of Indigenous Languages, anchored the Friday program, while a plaque unveiling commemorated the 1910 Memorial to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, presented by Secwépmc, Syilx, and Nlaka'pamux leaders.

*Our 2025 conference took place in historic and iconic locations in and around T́kémłúps te Secwépmc territory and Kamloops.*

*Photos: Beth Taylor | OSGN Co, Katie Varney and Scott Swan*



## STRATEGIC PLANNING

Work on our 2025–2028 Strategic Plan continued through the first part of the year, culminating in its presentation to the membership in June 2025. The plan reflects the growing recognition that heritage practice is evolving and must adapt to better serve both the sector and the broader community, with cultural and intangible heritage increasingly central to this work. Through the Strategic Plan, Heritage BC aims to strengthen the sector, respond to critical societal change, and ensure our work remains relevant, innovative, and impactful.

The Strategic Plan also provided an important foundation for the newly formed staff team. As new staff became familiar with the programs and activities under their responsibility, they reviewed and assessed their work through the lens of the plan and its priorities. The process began with an in-person planning session in April and continued through more than 15 strategic working sessions over six months. Discussions focused on audiences, communications, data integration, and key programs, including the Heritage Legacy Fund, BC Heritage Week, Heritage Awards, Annual Heritage Conference, and member engagement.

This work resulted in a comprehensive Annual Program Strategic Alignment Document and, equally importantly, established a repeatable planning cycle to help guide future years.



*Staff participated in a two-day Strategic Planning workshop in Squamish.*

The 2025–2028 Strategic Plan centres on five key areas: communications, programming, advocacy, relationships, and organizational capacity.

### Key Priorities:

- Remain a respected resource and voice for heritage in BC
- Facilitate stewardship of heritage in BC through knowledge sharing and programming
- Empower communities and inform government through advocacy
- Build and nurture relationships with government and community partners
- Achieve financial, human, and organizational sustainability



## AWARENESS

Heritage BC remained active in both leading and supporting advocacy efforts across the heritage sector throughout 2025. Heritage BC continued its involvement with the National Trust's National Council, a network of provincial heritage organizations working collaboratively on issues of national importance. A key focus in 2025 was the development of a Statement of Significance on heritage, presented at the National Trust Conference in Halifax. The statement affirms that heritage conservation is a powerful act of strengthening communities and a deliberate response to ignorance, indifference, and erasure.

Heritage BC also continued to participate in the ongoing engagement on the transformation of the Heritage Conservation Act, contributing written submissions and sector perspectives throughout the consultation process.

We were pleased to support the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals through its NRCan Codes Accelerator Fund project by providing a short-term loan that ensured the timely continuation of research and case study development focused on existing buildings. In October 2025, the organization released its report, "Unlocking the Value of Existing Buildings".

We continued to prioritize advocacy and education around building code interpretation as an important area of focus. Heritage conservation projects, whether involving designated buildings or not, can face challenges when building officials are unfamiliar with the alternative compliance provisions under Table 1.1.1.15A of the BC Building Code. Barry Thorson addressed this issue in a presentation at the annual conference of the Building Officials' Association of BC.

Heritage BC remained active in BC's Coalition for Arts, Culture and Heritage, helping ensure heritage is included alongside arts and culture in broader advocacy and public policy discussions. Through this collective work with allied organizations, Heritage BC strengthened the visibility of heritage issues and amplified the sector's voice across sectors.



## LOOKING AHEAD

With a newly expanded staff team in place in 2025, Heritage BC undertook a comprehensive review of its programs, practices, and timelines. This included assessing each program through a strategic lens and making thoughtful adjustments to strengthen delivery, alignment, and impact. This period of intensive reflection and planning has helped reset key foundations for the organization's next phase of work.

With this strengthened capacity, Heritage BC is well positioned to build on existing programs while developing new approaches that deepen community engagement and regional connection. One early outcome has been an expanded approach to staff travel connected to planning sessions, conferences, and training, which now includes intentional visits with local communities. These visits provide valuable opportunities to learn directly from heritage projects across BC while reinforcing place-based, community-informed practice.

Investments made in 2025 toward becoming a more data-informed organization are also beginning to open new possibilities. Stronger systems and tools are improving our understanding of audiences, strengthening program delivery, and enhancing advocacy through more meaningful cultural data collection and analysis. As this work evolves, we look forward to deepening partnerships with organizations leading in this space and applying new insights to increase the reach and effectiveness of our work.

The coming year will also bring important milestones, including Heritage BC's 45th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the Heritage Legacy Fund. These milestones offer an opportunity to reflect on impact, strengthen awareness, and advance advocacy for the sector.

Looking ahead to 2026, Heritage BC will also experience a significant leadership transition as Executive Director Kirstin Clausen retires after serving in the role since 2021.



*Completed in 2025, the restoration of the historic Vernon Music School was one of many projects supported in part through the Heritage Legacy Fund.*



## NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

Our work is made possible through the active participation, expertise, and collaboration of heritage organizations and professionals across the province and beyond, whose contributions strengthen our programs, resources, advocacy, and initiatives.

Each year brings different opportunities for collaboration, shaped by organizational priorities and capacity, and we remain proud to work alongside an extraordinary network of partners and stakeholders. In 2025, these included the BC Heritage Branch, the First Peoples' Cultural Council and First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, the BC Association of Heritage Professionals / Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals, the BC Museums Association, heritage organizations from communities across British Columbia, Royal Roads University, Arts Service Organizations of BC / BC's Coalition for Arts, Culture, and Heritage, and the National Trust for Canada.

## STRENGTHENING ENGAGEMENT THROUGH DATA AND INSIGHTS

Heritage BC took an important step forward in its evolution as a more data-informed organization by creating a dedicated data role and implementing a new database system. These improvements strengthen our ability to understand how people engage with our organization and the broader heritage community across British Columbia. This work is helping us build stronger relationships, better support the sector, and make more informed decisions to guide our future direction.

## ONLINE LEARNING WITH ROYAL ROADS

Our work would not be possible without the active In partnership with Royal Roads University, Heritage BC delivered the online Community Heritage Fundamentals for BC Practitioners course from January to March 2025. Led by Dr. Geoffrey Bird, the course responded to growing demand for practical heritage training in BC, focusing on community-based heritage planning, Indigenous collaboration, advocacy, and consensus-building through case studies and applied learning.

## PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

The 2025 conference was delivered in close partnership with the City of Kamloops Museum and Archives and Tkemlúps te Secwépemc. This collaboration grounded the program in local knowledge and priorities, reflecting a shift toward community-led programming where host communities help shape content, speakers, and learning. The result was a more relevant, place-based conference centred on local voices and relationships.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR Keri Briggs (Victoria), Heritage Building Specialist

VICE-CHAIR: Judith Mosley (Vancouver), Heritage Conservation Professional

TREASURER: Ben Capps (Vancouver), Chartered Accountant & Partner, Smythe LLP

### DIRECTORS:

Rizwaan Abbas (Surrey), Cultural Historian and Archaeologist

Gavin Chamberlain (Victoria), Heritage Advocate and Mason

Kate Cox (Gabriola Island), Community Heritage Advocate

Suki Dhillon (Port Alberni), Community Heritage Advocate

Kristina Hannis (Vancouver), Senior Researcher, UBCIC

Dianne Hinkley (Duncan), Anthropologist

Orville Lim (Vancouver), Advocate and Consultant

Lillian Rose (elected in 2025, unable to complete term)

Christina Reid (Mission), Executive Director, Heritage

Abbotsford

PAST CHAIR: Britney Dack (Vancouver), Senior Heritage Planner, City of New Westminster (term completed June 2025)

PAST VICE CHAIR: Nelson Wight (Castlegar), Urban Planner, Regional District of Central Kootenay (term completed June 2025)

## STAFF

Kirstin Clausen, Executive Director

Dr. Maria Paula Arias, Heritage Program Coordinator

Maria Buhne, Grants and Administration Assistant

Leslie Bush, Community Heritage Coordinator

Scott Swan, Data, Membership & Development Coordinator

Katie Varney, Communications Specialist

Staff attended the National Trust conference in Halifax and BCAHP's one day symposium. They also participated in regular professional development.

## CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS

Eden Dupont, Conference Logistics and Support

Diane Mitchell, Interim Communications Support

Meghan Stewart, Conference Logistics and Support

Michelle Wong, Summer Student, Heritage Communications



*The Heritage Legacy Fund provided partial funding for the multidisciplinary Dark Sky Festival in Huu-ay-aht First Nation (Bamfield).*



## BOARD COMMITTEES AND JURIES

Heritage BC benefits from several active committees and adjudication juries. Some, including the Governance and Finance Committees, are made up of Board Directors and the Executive Director, while others include staff and members of the broader Heritage BC community. Together, these groups strengthen accountability, provide valuable expertise, and support informed decision-making across our programs and initiatives.

### ANCIENT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Rizwaan Abbas  
Kristina Hannis  
Dianne Hinkley  
Christina Reid

### AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Keri Briggs  
Ben Capps  
Judith Mosely

### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Keri Briggs  
Suki Dhillon  
Orville Lim  
Judith Mosley

### HERITAGE LEGACY FUND COMMITTEE

Keri Briggs  
Gavin Chamberlain  
Orville Lim  
Judith Mosely  
Nelson Wight

### BUILDING CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE & HERITAGE BC AWARDS COMMITTEE

Both inactive in 2025.



## HERITAGE LEGACY FUND JURY

Keri Briggs  
Lorenda Calvert  
Suki Dhillon  
Eileen Fletcher  
Elliot Hearte  
Shea Henry  
Ryan Hunt  
Hayley Inglis  
Robert Inwood  
Henry John  
Orville Lim  
Katie McEvoy  
Reece Milton  
Judith Mosley  
Kate Robertson  
Elijah Sabadlan  
Dr. Sharanjit Kaur Sandhra  
John Somogyi  
Kristal Stevenot  
Ivonne Voelkel  
Nelson Wight

We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions of our donors, sponsors throughout 2025.

## SPONSORS OF THE 2025 ANNUAL HERITAGE CONFERENCE

BC Association of Heritage Professionals (BCAHP)  
City of Kamloops  
Cascadia Windows & Doors  
Iredale Architecture  
Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation  
RJC Engineering  
Thompson Rivers University (Faculty of Arts)

## OTHER DONATIONS

Anonymous  
Gambrinus Malting  
Sue Morhun  
Provincial Employees Community Services Fund



This 2025 financial snapshot is based on audited financial statements prepared by Tompkins Wozny. Heritage BC’s financial stability is supported by the Heritage Legacy Endowment Fund. As a service delivery partner for the 150 TIGP, Heritage BC also receives fee-for-service funding for overseeing these grant projects.

The Heritage Legacy Endowment Fund and the Heritage BC Stability Transferability Fund are not included in the financial statements. As of December 31, 2025, their market values were \$15,035,207 and \$781,576 respectively.

In 2025, Heritage BC also earned interest on funds held in trust for final payment to the 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program. Excess revenue for the year was \$17,835.

Audited financial statements are available upon request.

## REVENUE

Heritage Legacy Fund Income	\$665,697
Fees for Service	\$180,000
Community Gaming Grant	\$35,000
Other Income/Interest	\$65,787
Memberships, Donations & Sponsorships	\$162,030
	<b>\$1,107,514</b>

## EXPENDITURES

Heritage Legacy Grant Disbursement	\$494,475
Wages and Benefits	\$450,757
Professional Fees and Project Contracts	\$42,105
Office, Insurance and Sundry	\$32,094
Communications, Conference, Travel and Other	\$70,248
	<b>\$1,089,679</b>

# HeritageBC



[heritagebc.ca](http://heritagebc.ca)