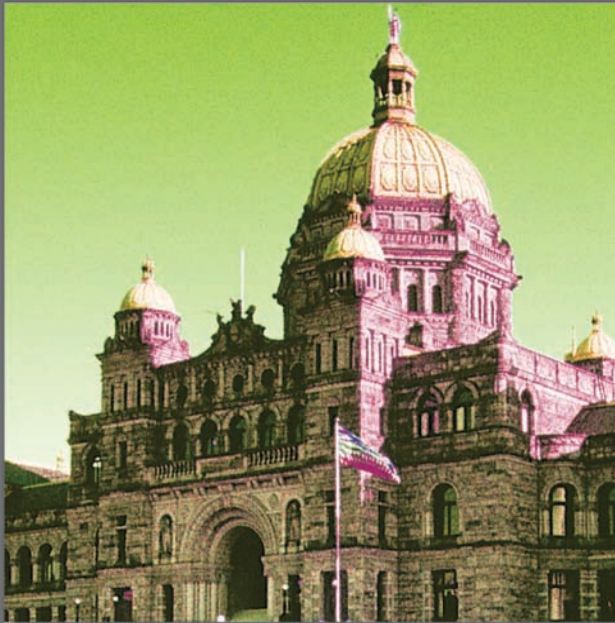


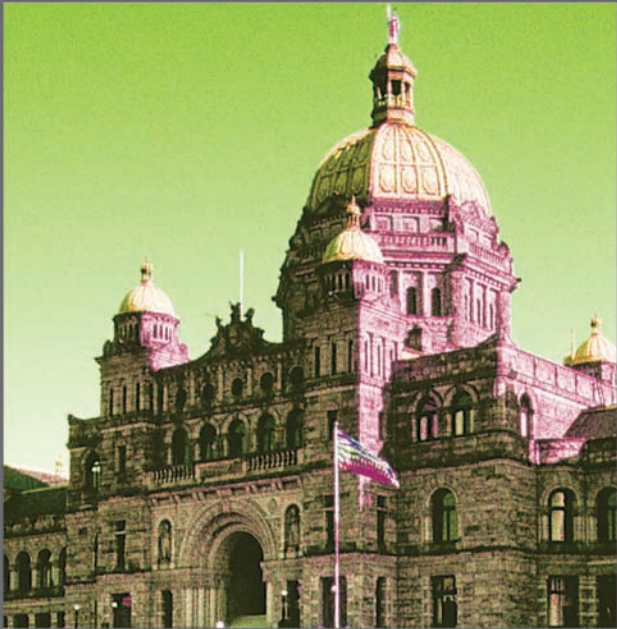
Heritage BC

heritage in crisis



Heritage BC

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Crisis:

- “An unstable condition, as in political, social, or economic affairs”
- “An emotionally stressful event or traumatic change”
- “A point in a story or drama when a conflict reaches its highest tension and must be resolved”

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**2009 & 2010:
Funding terminated**

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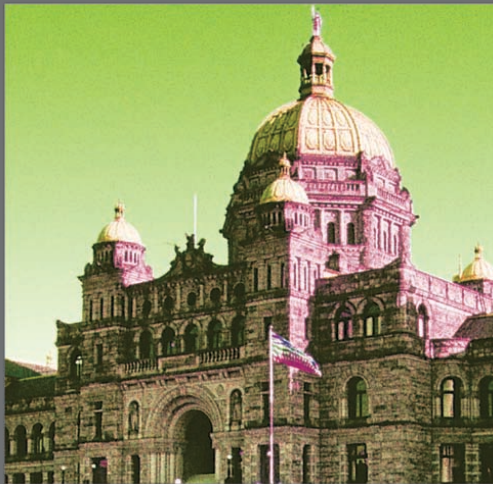


- Heritage BC
- Community Heritage Planning Program
- Heritage Tourism Alliance
- Workshops – Heritage BC
- B.C. Heritage Award
- Other Programs & Initiatives

Heritage BC

**Other sources
terminated or
reduced:**

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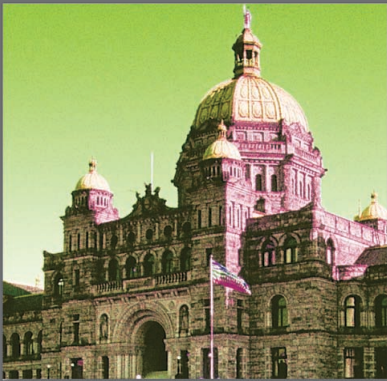


- Gaming
- Historic Places Initiative

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Impact on Heritage BC since June, 2009:

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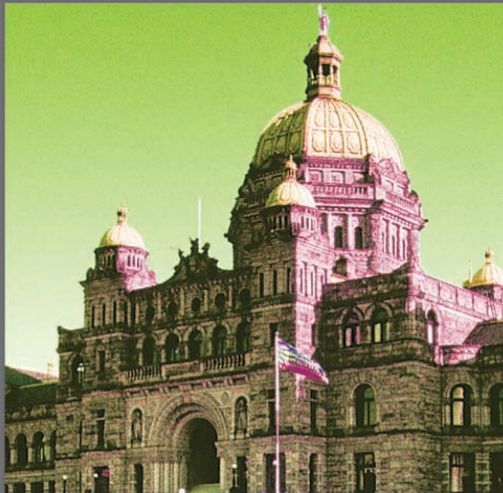
Operating Funding	\$230,000
Gaming	37,500
Workshop Funding	20,000
HPI	<u>5,000</u>
	\$292,500

Heritage BC

Impacts in 2011:

- Budget will be cut 30% (\$148,000)
- Staff four days a week
- Reduced conference
- One board meeting cut
- Cut one issue of *Heritage BC Quarterly*
- Workshop program ends

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Impact on Heritage Legacy Fund, 2010 & 2011:

Grants reduced by 40% (down from \$250,000 per yr. to \$150,000 per yr.)



The Heritage Legacy Fund is an initiative of Heritage BC and The Land Conservancy. Programs are administered by the Heritage Legacy Fund of British Columbia Society. The Fund was established in 2003 with an initial contribution of \$5 million from the Government of British Columbia. The Fund endowment is managed by the Vancouver Foundation.

For information about Grant Programs:
Catherine Umland, Program Manager
250.361.3863

Heritage Legacy Fund
Box 8843 Victoria BC
Canada V8W 3Z1
www.heritagelegacyfund.ca

The Land Conservancy is a province-wide, non-profit land trust and conservation organization that works to protect and preserve historic landmarks and structures as well as areas of natural, recreational or scientific significance. It achieves these goals by direct acquisition, conservation covenants or other legal arrangements. TLC serves as British Columbia's "national trust" and is part of the international family of National Trusts.

Heritage BC is a non-profit, provincial umbrella organization representing over 160 community organizations throughout British Columbia. HBC serves the heritage community and the province through information, education, advocacy, advice, support and recognition of those who make a contribution to conserving our heritage.

HERITAGE
Legacy Fund
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

2010 Board of Directors
Ian Fawcett, President
Don Tomsaker, Vice President
Jim Steven, Treasurer
Maureen Arvanitidis, Secretary
Deborah Hudson, Director
Jennifer Iredale, Director
(ex officio, non voting)
Rick Goodacre,
Executive Officer (non voting)



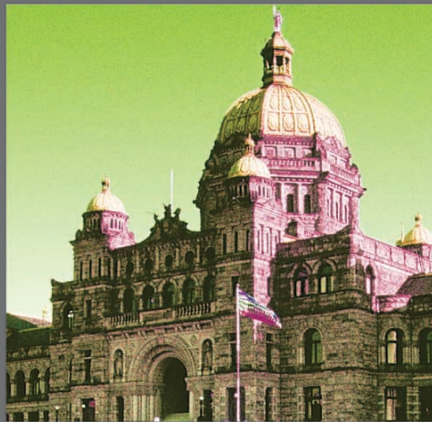
Heritage BC
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Heritage BC

Impacts on communities:

- Loss of gaming funds
- Fewer Heritage Legacy Fund grants this year, next year, and possibly none in 2012

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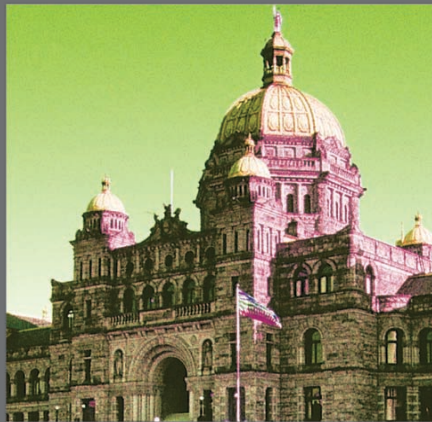


Heritage BC

Impacts on communities:

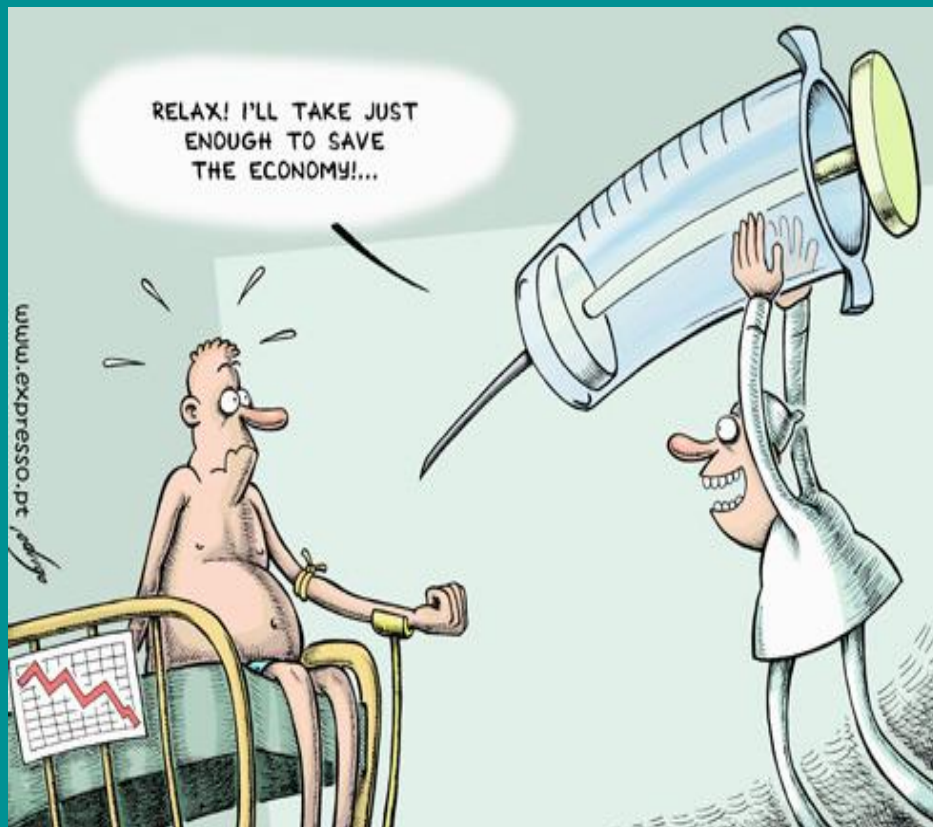
- Reduced support, services, grants, from Heritage Branch
- Reduced support, services, grants from Heritage BC
- Possible termination of Heritage BC in 2012

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Heritage BC

To sum up:



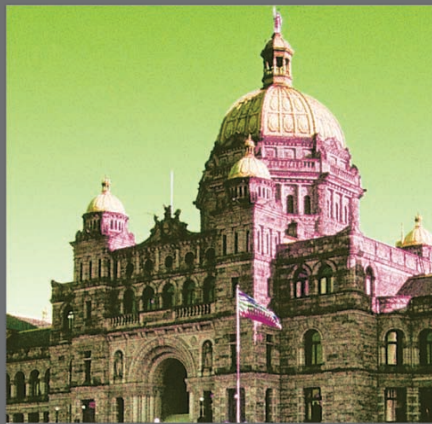
Economic meltdown
leads to
Draconian Measures
and
Heritage Pays
(more than our share)

Heritage BC

The Province's Response in 2010:

- \$7 million restored to arts in September
- \$8.7 million for two Heritage Properties in December
- \$0 for other heritage priorities

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- Third minister in 18 months
- More tinkering = more uncertainty

Heritage BC



“A point in a story or drama when a conflict reaches its highest tension and must be resolved”

Where do we go from here?

Heritage BC

Heritage BC's response so far...



Heritage BC

Fall 2009

Heritage BC
Quarterly

SPECIAL ISSUE
Heritage in Crisis

A number of recent actions by the provincial government have done serious harm to heritage in B.C. Stemming from the current deficit crisis, the cuts and cancellations were in fact just the latest in a trend that goes back almost 20 years. The cumulative effect has been to undo much of what was once widely regarded as the best provincial heritage program in Canada.

This special issue of Heritage BC Quarterly looks at the latest developments, their complex, interconnected impacts, and their effects on B.C. communities.

CUTS & CANCELLATIONS
Is the Provincial Government Getting Out of the Heritage Business?

The warning signs had been there all year. After several months in deficit-denial leading up to the May election, the Liberal government quickly started to put out a very different message as soon as they were returned to power. The deficit crisis was suddenly very real, and the upcoming September budget was going to be a tough one.

Then the bad news started to roll in. There were cuts right across government, including normally sacred areas such as health care. Most gaming grants were cancelled, the funds redirected into government line departments, affecting hundreds of community services. Programs were terminated and jobs and were lost, in the middle of the worst recession in decades.



Amidst all the doom and gloom, and the angry backlash, the impacts on heritage conservation went largely unnoticed by the general public. But they were substantial.

The government budget crisis hit right in the middle of the culture, arts and heritage gaming grant cycle, so it was these organizations that took the brunt of the hit when grants were cancelled.

The provincial budget for arts, culture and heritage was chopped by more than 80 per cent. The Heritage Branch was stripped down to the bones: all community programs were cancelled and there would be no dollars for any outside grants, contracts and service agreements.

This had an immediate, dire impact on Heritage BC. For the first time in 20 years, our operating grant was denied: not reduced, but wiped out. On top of this, Heritage BC's application for gaming funds, another 20-year relationship, was also denied. The immediate effect was that Heritage BC shut down and more jobs were lost.

Continued on next page...



fall 2009

DOES HERITAGE MATTER?
GAMING & HERITAGE 2

THE HERITAGE PROPERTIES 3

THEN & NOW
1989 - 2009
HERITAGE AT RISK 4

HERITAGE LEGACY FUND 5

HERITAGE OF SPORT & RECREATION 6-7

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS 8

HERITAGE SCENE 9

NEW HERITAGE TOURISM WEBSITE 10

MESSAGES 11

HERITAGE BC CONFERENCE
VICTORIA JUNE 2010 12

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www.heritagebc.ca

heritage in crisis

Does Heritage Matter?

Does Heritage matter? The current Service Plan (September 2009) from the provincial Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts answers an emphatic "yes".

"Thriving arts, culture and heritage sectors not only create a rich place to live and work, but are compelling attractions to visitors. Arts and culture are an integral part of the social fabric of a community, and heritage conservation contributes to environmental sustainability.

Conservation and appreciation of our rich heritage can contribute significantly to the vitality, diversity and sustainability of communities across the province. Investments in the rehabilitation of historic buildings and the protection of archaeological sites are fundamental to the stewardship of British Columbia's heritage.

Cultural and heritage tourism are one of the fastest growing tourism sectors in B.C., and their strong growth must continue in the medium to long term.

The social fabric of the province is strengthened by its robust arts, culture, and heritage sectors.¹¹

Yet the same Service Plan shows a reduction of 81 per cent in operating expenses for Arts and Culture for the current fiscal year; and a further 40 per cent reduction in the next two years.

Exactly what is the provincial government's real heritage policy? What is the plan?

HERITAGE IN CRISIS con't.

HBC delivers services to over 170 group members and communities around the province, and others. With the advent of the Heritage Legacy Fund in 2005, we have also been able to provide critical funding assistance to over 100 projects in dozens of communities. For the province, HBC is an efficient and effective means to deliver on their heritage mandate. At least it was.

Heritage BC, thanks to the support of the Heritage Legacy Fund, is back in business. But now the question is, where do we go from here? Is the province getting out of the heritage business? Or will services and investments be reinstated? If so, when and how?

BREACHING THE SOCIAL CONTRACT Gaming and Heritage

"Changing the allocation of the Gaming Funds represents a breach of the social contract."

This is the stark assessment of the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria in their October 7 submission to the provincial Finance Committee.

When government-sponsored gaming was introduced to B.C. in 1974, the justification was that it would support amateur sports, heritage and culture. Last year, the provincial government netted about \$1.1 billion from gaming, mostly from casinos and lotteries. Of that, over half went straight into consolidated revenue. Just over \$156 million, or 14 per cent, went to community organizations, and just under eight per cent to local governments that have casinos.

This year, the funds to community organizations are going to be a lot less.

Who gets the money? About two-thirds of the funds to communities is paid out through the Direct Access Program, and of that, about one third went to Arts, Culture and Heritage last year. Almost one hundred community heritage organizations received funds through gaming last year, 80 of those receiving about \$1.6 million in Direct Access Grants (this information is available on the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch website).

Many heritage organizations have been receiving gaming funding for years – until now, it has been one of the very few reliable sources of revenue. This year that revenue was denied abruptly and without warning. Many organizations have suffered as a result. For example, the Bowen Island Historians, who operate the Bowen Island Community Museum and Archives received a grant of \$10,000 last year. This year their application was denied. As a result, says their fall newsletter, "the Historians are experiencing a budget crisis, and as of September 8, 2009, the Bowen Island Community Museum will be without a curator, and operations at the museum will be stalled indefinitely."

There is no indication at this time that gaming funding will be restored to heritage organizations in 2010.



Heritage BC

January, June 2010

- Met with heritage minister
- Minister addressed 2010 conference, first time since 1997

HERITAGE IN CRISIS HBC Meets with the Heritage Minister

The last issue of *Heritage BC Quarterly* featured a pretty bleak assessment of the provincial heritage program ('Heritage at Risk', Fall 2009). Copies of the newsletter were sent to all 85 MLAs, along with a cover letter from Heritage BC President, Larry Foster. The purpose was to underscore the seriousness of the current state of affairs:

After 20 years, Heritage BC's provincial funding has been eliminated. The Heritage Legacy Fund society has now stepped in to keep us going, but only by cutting grants to B.C. communities. Gaming grants to heritage organizations have also been virtually wiped out, and all of the provincial Community Heritage Planning Programs have been cancelled. Almost nothing remains of what was once one of the best provincial heritage programs in Canada.

In response, the Honourable Kevin Krueger, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, who is responsible for heritage programs, proposed a meeting on January 21.

Heritage BC's position is that several things need to happen to return the provincial heritage program to a state of health and vigor:

- In order for the Heritage Legacy Fund to continue supporting the important work of Heritage BC while at the same time meeting the growing demand for financial support from B.C. communities, the provincial government should make a second investment of at least \$5 million to the Fund endowment.
- The government must reinstate gaming funding to heritage and culture. For many of our members and other community organizations this is an essential and often unique source of support.
- The budget for the Heritage Branch should be restored to allow at least the retention of current staff levels and the return of basic services to communities, particularly the Community Heritage Planning Programs. Without a properly functioning Branch, the province really has no heritage program.
- The government needs to find a sustainable solution for the Provincial Heritage Properties. This chronic problem is sapping the strength of the province's heritage program, which affects all of the other priorities.

Mr. Krueger's position was familiar and predictable. Recent decisions by his government, including the termination of funding for Heritage BC, were driven by the world-wide downturn in the economy. His government has been forced to adopt deficit budgets, for which, in the Minister's own words, they are ashamed. Worse, there is not much hope for improvement, at least in the short term -- we should expect more of the same for the next couple of years. And the government's top priority is to put an end to deficit budgets.

None of this is unexpected. Heritage BC's position, however, is that government will return to a position of greater fiscal health as the economy recovers. There are clear signs that this is happening already. We can also be sure that there will be more good news and government spending before the next provincial election campaign, three years hence. We believe that heritage has a better claim than most to consideration as we return to a state of normalcy, a claim based not just on the harsh treatment of recent months, but on decades of slow but persistent erosion of government heritage programs, policies and funding.

Heritage BC plans to follow up our meeting with Mr. Krueger with a detailed proposal of how a renewed heritage program can be achieved. In the meantime, it will be essential to keep the heritage issue on the agenda when other priorities clamor for attention as we enter the post-Olympics phase and the government gets back to work.

heritage in crisis



What the Premier said...

PREMIER GORDON CAMPBELL ALSO RESPONDED TO THE LAST ISSUE OF HERITAGE BC QUARTERLY. NOTING THAT HE HAD SHARED OUR COMMENTS WITH HERITAGE MINISTER KEVIN KRUEGER, HE WROTE TO HERITAGE BC:

“As you know, the economic situation is difficult everywhere. Like other jurisdictions, British Columbia has to make tough decisions in order to maintain vital health, education and social services. We look forward to being able to support other initiatives better as the economy improves.”

Heritage BC

August, 2010



NATIONAL HISTORICAL FAIR, VICTORIA, 2008

**A Call to Renew
British Columbia's Heritage Program**

HeritageBC


- Adopt Strategy
- Restore Branch Budget
- Resolve Properties Issue
- Restore Community Support
- \$5-10 million for Heritage Legacy Fund

Heritage BC

Fall 2010:

- Met with Opposition Critic
- Following up with CHC's, members for support
- Submission to Finance Committee
- Media releases
- Contacting other provincial organizations

Heritage BC

Plans for 2011:

- Meet with new minister
- Keep pressure on government
- 30th anniversary publication, event
- Conference 2011: Heritage Summit, Vancouver
- UBCM
- INTO, APT & ICOMOS conferences in Victoria

Heritage BC

What You Can Do:

- Write to the Premier, minister, MLA
- Talk to your MLA
- Get local council, business & community interests involved
- Contact the media

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