**National Trust for Canada Questions - Liberal Party of Canada Response**

**October 17th, 2019**

**Retrofitting Older Buildings**

Retrofitting existing and older buildings is a key component of our broader climate strategy. We understand that it’s expensive to adapt to a changing climate, and we are going to help. To make life more affordable for Canadians, cut our emissions, and protect the environment, we will move forward with a plan to:

* help retrofit 1.5 million homes to help Canadians make their homes more energy efficient, and better protect them from climate-related risks;
* give interested homeowners and landlords a free energy audit;

 help homeowners and landlords pay for retrofits by giving them an interest-free loan of up to $40,000; and,

* invest $100 million in skills training, to ensure there are enough qualified workers to keep up with energy audits, retrofits, and net-zero home construction.

And to help make large commercial buildings more energy efficient, we will move forward with a national competition to create four $100-million long-term funds to help attract private capital that can be used for deep retrofits of large buildings, such as office towers.

**Indigenous Heritage**

No relationship is more important to our government and to Canada than the one with

Indigenous Peoples, and protection and promotion of Indigenous heritage is a crucial step towards reconciliation, and the healing and strengthening of Indigenous identities, pride and communities across Canada.

In museums across Canada and around the world, items that are valuable and culturally significant to Indigenous Peoples are on display or locked in storage, including the remains of Indigenous ancestors. This practice does not respect the inherent dignity of Indigenous Peoples and the things they hold dear. We will move forward – in partnership with Indigenous Peoples – to develop a framework for repatriating Indigenous cultural property and ancestral remains.

Language connects us to our families and communities and helps us discover who we are – rooting us in our culture and affirming our identity. This is especially true for Indigenous Peoples, whose languages are reflective of unique histories, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs, and political and social systems. Reclaiming, revitalizing and strengthening Indigenous languages is a crucial step in our shared journey towards reconciliation. Yet today, there are no Indigenous languages that are considered to be safe in Canada, and three-quarters of Indigenous languages in Canada are endangered.

Our government has invested $90 million for Indigenous languages initiatives, including

funding for Indigenous language revitalization projects, but there is more to do. In partnership with Métis, Inuit and First Nations leaders, we have co-developed Canada’s first Indigenous Languages Act, which will have significant, far-reaching benefits for all Indigenous Peoples.We will ensure that the Indigenous Languages Act is fully implemented, in order to preserve, promote, and revitalize Indigenous languages in Canada. We will also move forward with long-term, predictable, and sufficient funding to support the full implementation of the Act.

**Protecting Nationally Significant Historic Places**

Canada’s nationally significant heritage sites require a coherent and robust system for their identification and preservation. Preserving Canada’s heritage is essential to understanding the history of our communities, and to fostering a sense of connection between people, yet current legislation offers little direction on how Canada’s heritage places are designated and protected, putting the preservation and care of these important places at risk.

Our election platform recognizes that current legislation offers little direction on how Canada’s heritage places are designated and protected, putting the preservation and care of these important places at risk. To provide clearer direction on how national heritage places should be designated and preserved, we have committed to moving forward with new comprehensive heritage legislation on federally owned heritage places.

Currently, Parks Canada engages with organisations impacted by heritage places legislation to create a better understanding of the requirements and conditions that would produce successful legislative measures to strengthen and conserve historic places in Canada. To provide clearer direction on how national heritage places should be designated and preserved, we will move forward with new comprehensive heritage legislation on federally owned heritage places.

Our Government takes its role of protecting Canada’s cultural heritage, and sharing it with Canadians, very seriously. Parks Canada protects the commemorative integrity of the national historic sites that it administers and supports the protection of heritage places under the administration of other federal departments.

Parks Canada is currently investing approximately $1.3 billion to preserve, rehabilitate and restore national historic sites across the country. This is part of over $3.5 billion dollars in funding to support infrastructure work to Parks Canada’s heritage, visitor, waterway and highway assets located within national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas across Canada.

Through Parks Canada’s National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places, the Agency also provides eligible non-federal custodians of national historic sites, heritage lighthouses and heritage railway stations with matching funds to support the protection of these national treasures and help share their stories with Canadians. Since its renewal in 2009, the federal government’s annual contribution has supported 279 projects across the county.

Parks Canada will continue to work with other federal government departments as well as with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, Indigenous partners, and heritage stakeholders to strengthen heritage conservation in Canada.

**Rural Economic Development and Heritage Preservation**

The Liberal Party will continue to invest in rural Canada and continue to make rural success a priority with a dedicated Minister of Rural Economic Development.

We know tourism is particularly important to rural Canadian communities. Last year, Canadian communities of all sizes welcomed more than 21 million international visitors, supporting local economies and good, middle class jobs. We want to help smaller communities capitalize on their unique heritage and character, increasing tourism and the economic benefits that follow.

To help these communities better serve their residents and visitors, we will build on the new Federal Tourism Growth Strategy and move forward with a Tourism Community Infrastructure Fund to invest $100 million in the local needs of communities that rely on tourism, over the next four years. These funds will be delivered and managed through regional economic development agencies.

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