

## What are the parties saying about Heritage in federal election platforms?



There is limited material explicitly about heritage places in the major party platforms, despite clear signals from the sector, the 17 recommendations in the House of Commons Environment and Climate Change Committee report [Preserving Canada's Heritage: the Foundation for Tomorrow](#), and the tax incentive for heritage rehabilitation signaled in 2021 [Finance Committee pre-budget recommendations](#). Building retrofits are mentioned in every platform, primarily in relation to the climate crisis, which does address in part the need for wider spread building reuse.

### We asked each major party 3 questions about heritage, and they responded:



- How will Your Party Address Climate Change by Encouraging Building Reuse?
- How Will Your Party Support Indigenous Cultural Heritage Capacity and Reconciliation?
- How Will Your Party Create Green Jobs That Equip Industry to Re-Use Existing Buildings and Renew Heritage Infrastructure?

Find each party's answers to the Trust's questions [here](#).


Below is a breakdown of the platform points most relevant to the heritage sector, taken directly from each party's posted platform verbatim.

Party	Topic: Building Retrofits
 <a href="#">Platform</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Le Bloc Québécois met de l'avant le rôle du bâtiment vert et des rénovations écologiques depuis 2019. Le Bloc est en faveur de rabais pour l'installation de chargeurs de véhicules électriques dans les bâtiments résidentiels ou commerciaux existants, ainsi que sur les lieux de travail.</li> <li>• En parallèle de la transition énergétique, il nous faut développer une culture de l'efficacité énergétique. Cela signifie contrôler nos besoins en énergie à la source, par exemple par l'isolation efficace des bâtiments: résidences, commerces, industries et immeubles publics doivent répondre aux plus hauts standards.</li> <li>• Ensuite, la population et les entreprises doivent être accompagnées financièrement par le gouvernement pour assurer les coûts de la mise à niveau.</li> </ul>
 <a href="#">Platform</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing initiatives to pilot new technologies and solutions that will lower the cost and speed up the pace of retrofits, particularly residential retrofits</li> <li>• Provide a regulatory and financial framework that will facilitate Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC). This is a model that involves the private sector in financing and implementing retrofits and then being paid back through savings. Our program will be modelled after the SOFIAC program in Quebec.</li> </ul>

 <p><a href="#">Platform</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and implement a national green retrofit of existing residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings</li> <li>• Change the national building code to require that all new construction and major renovations to older buildings meet net-zero standards by 2030</li> <li>• Undertake a green retrofit of all federal government buildings, including government agencies</li> <li>• Finance building retrofits and installation of renewable energy technologies such as solar and heat pumps through direct grants, zero-interest loans and repayments based on energy/cost savings</li> </ul>
 <p><a href="#">Platform</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, we have to retrofit almost every building in Canada.</li> <li>• Continue to help Canadians improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce their energy bills, providing grants of up to \$5,000 for home retrofits and interest-free loans of up to \$40,000 for deep retrofits.</li> <li>• Launch a National Net-zero Emissions Building Strategy, which will chart a path to net-zero emissions from buildings by 2050 with ambitious milestones along the way.</li> </ul>
 <p><a href="#">Platform</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Democrats will undertake a mission-based approach, setting an ambitious retrofitting program to upgrade where people live and work, including requiring large scale building retrofits in all sectors.</li> <li>• Will set a target of retrofitting all buildings in Canada by 2050 – beginning with upgrades to all buildings built before 2020 in the next 20 years.</li> <li>• Ensure that by 2025 every new building built in Canada is net-zero.</li> </ul>

Party	Topic: General Heritage and Culture
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Le Bloc s'engage à se tenir derrière la culture québécoise afin d'assurer la pérennité et la prévisibilité des programmes et des subventions culturels et touristiques, alors que le secteur, ses créateurs, ses diffuseurs et ses petits comme grands événements</li> <li>• Le Bloc propose le rapatriement de tous les pouvoirs en matière de culture et la création d'un organisme québécois se substituant au CRTC, parce qu'on ne confie pas sa culture à la nation voisine.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a new Canadian Heritage Preservation Fund to provide a total of \$75 million in grants to municipal governments over the next five years for the repair and restoration of historical monuments, statues, and heritage buildings.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support efforts to maintain Canada's national monuments.</li> <li>• Ensure the prompt completion of the Canadian Monument to the Victims of Communism.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$25 million in additional funding to aid museums and cultural organizations in both post-pandemic reopening and continuing to offer accessible digital offerings.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch a new cultural diplomacy strategy with an annual budget of \$20 million per year to leverage the work done by our artists and cultural industries to support Canada's diplomatic goals</li> <li>• Forge an international coalition to work on a new UNESCO Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Content Online.</li> <li>• Committed \$1.9 billion to support the arts, culture, heritage, and sport sectors through the pandemic and help them recover</li> <li>• Support Commemorate Canada and ensure this program recognizes modern Veterans as well as women, Indigenous, racialized, and LGBT2Q Veterans from all conflicts.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Democrats will protect our heritage and support a strong, independent Canadian arts and culture industry. New Democrats will be there to support with a dedicated re-building package for the performing arts, theatre, festivals and other arts that have been most severely impacted by the pandemic.</li> <li>• Local candidates have committed to advance tax credit and recommendations from 2017 Standing Committee if elected</li> </ul>

Party	Topic: Indigenous Cultural Heritage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Le Bloc travaillera de concert avec les nations autochtones sur la scène fédérale pour renforcer et garantir leurs droits inhérents. De concert avec les peuples autochtones, il veillera à ce que le gouvernement fédéral applique intégralement la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones dans ses juridictions.</li> <li>• Le Bloc a fait adopter une motion demandant au gouvernement fédéral de presser le pas dans la réalisation de tous les appels à l'action de la Commission de vérité et réconciliation (CVR).</li> <li>• Nous avons prévu 321 millions de dollars sur trois ans en investissements dans notre cadre financier de la présente campagne pour permettre d'aller de l'avant avec la réalisation de ceux-ci et nous continuerons de</li> </ul>

	travailler en collaboration avec organisations autochtones pour qu'elles établissent leurs priorités.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Conservative government will respect and uphold the rights affirmed by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People by supporting Indigenous Protected Areas that safeguard culturally significant areas without alienating future benefits that may accrue to the impacted Indigenous community if used in a way that maintains those safeguards</li> <li>• Recommitted to National Monument for Residential Schools (TRC call to action)</li> <li>• Committed to commemorative strategy for unmarked graves at residential schools</li> <li>• Fund the investigation at all former residential schools in Canada where unmarked graves may exist, including the sites where children have already been discovered</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide \$100 million in funding and incentives over three years for the creation and conservation of Indigenous art forms, particularly creative knowledge that is passed through the generations</li> <li>• Support the Canadian Museums Association in ensuring, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples and in accordance with the 94 Calls to Action, continued compliance of museum policies and best practices with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>• Establish a dedicated national funding program, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian Museums Association, for commemoration projects on the theme of reconciliation.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue work to build a national monument in Ottawa to honour residential school survivors and all the children who were taken from their families and communities.</li> <li>• Provide the necessary supports for communities who wish to continue to undertake the work of burial searches at the former sites of these institutions.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all trade agreements are consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>• Build reconciliation into the heart of our plan to address the climate crisis, ensuring First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples are full and equal partners in Canada's efforts to confront the climate crisis.</li> </ul>

**What is missing from the platforms? Here are some thoughts:**

At a [Gathering of the Heritage Sector](#) on September 8, co-hosted with CAHP, the Indigenous Heritage Circle, and ICOMOS Canada, we heard the following observations from our colleagues and partners:

- Federal heritage legislation for federally owned heritage buildings and protection for nationally significant places – which was included in recent mandate letters for two federal Ministers but not yet achieved.
- There is no direct reference to whether heritage places with cultural value will be treated appropriately by retrofitting programs.
- All parties discuss adding new infrastructure, showing a disconnect between wanting new builds while at the same time retrofitting existing buildings
- All parties have a gap on protecting Indigenous heritage beyond ecosystems, language or residential schools.
- There is no reference to a broader strategy for residential school sites/communities outside of commemoration or ground scanning.
- Platform promises regarding National Parks do not address potential involvement or displacement of Indigenous Peoples.

The heritage sector will continue to work with elected officials to close the gaps in legislation and action. Whether you lead a heritage organization, own heritage property, or make your living in the heritage sector, Canada's heritage places need your perspective and your voice.

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