



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS
National Trust Conference 2023
(with Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals
and Indigenous Heritage Circle)

Transforming Heritage

October 26–28, 2023 (Ottawa, Ontario)

National Trust for Canada 50th Anniversary Conference

Canada’s heritage conservation movement is transforming itself to meet new needs in society. Are you on board? Advancing decolonization and anti-racism, leading climate action, and supporting the efforts of grassroots organizations, governments, and the private sector and to address socio-economic challenges are front and centre in our communities. At this watershed moment, the heritage sector has the opportunity to accelerate our benefit to society through transformational changes to our mission and practice, based on a shared vision.

The National Trust’s 50th anniversary conference is a fitting heritage milestone to seize on lessons from the movement’s many dramatic or gradual transformations over time as a compass for the future. Together, how will we shape the next 50 years, addressing pressing issues like reconciliation, affordable housing, accessibility, climate change, social justice, and economic resiliency?

The National Trust for Canada – with the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP) and Indigenous Heritage Circle (IHC) – invites your participation in this pivotal conference about the transformation of the heritage sector.

Transforming Heritage will bring together 500+ participants from a diverse range of backgrounds – from professionals (emerging and established), craftspeople, and advocates, to developers, planners, heritage site operators, academics, students, and volunteers. The event will feature challenging and inspiring case studies and lessons from heritage practice, communities, and industry, along with productive, goal-setting discussions where conference delegates will refine a shared vision for the future of our work.

Presentation/session proposals are invited on the following themes:

1. Social-Cultural Reset – Activating the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), Confronting Exclusion, and Transforming Practice

There is now growing recognition that heritage conservation needs to actively transform current practices and principles to ensure they cease to perpetuate bias or exclude, and to decentre the colonial stories that have historically been associated with heritage places. This conference stream explores how new social and ethical imperatives are propelling a fundamental revamp of conservation paradigms, including what is defined as heritage, and by whom. How can heritage practitioners, site operators, advocates, policymakers, and others create an inclusive culture of conservation?

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Activating UNDRIP and Prioritizing Indigenous Self-Determination – Practical lessons learned in the co-creation of transformational heritage work; heritage sites and their journeys in redress, reciprocity, co-management, and right relations; case studies in decolonizing heritage practice, and championing/integrating Indigenous cultural heritage.
- Rethinking Existing Narratives – Strategies for transforming narratives at heritage sites; realigning advocacy strategies and initiatives to foster inclusion; lessons on how to approach sites associated with colonialism, genocide, and other forms of injustice and violence where histories can be contested or traumatic (e.g. internment camps, commemorating AIDS crisis).
- Heritage Workforce/Volunteerism and Advocacy – Confronting exclusion and opening up spaces for marginalized voices; attracting under-represented groups to heritage sector.
- Heritage Tools and Practice – Solutions for rectifying process or system bias/exclusion; co-creation of meaningful heritage planning processes with Indigenous and diverse communities; challenging existing recognition frameworks and engaging marginalized communities in heritage identification; renewing heritage tools oriented to the tangible to integrate the intangible, or creating new ones.
- Accessibility and Equity – Active strategies to prioritize accessibility measures and heritage places; addressing the interplay between heritage, gentrification, and inequality; prioritizing advocacy for the heritage of historically marginalized groups.

2. Environmental Reset – Championing Heritage Conservation as Climate Action

We are in the midst of a climate crisis and immediate action is paramount. While the heritage sector has embraced “the greenest building is the one that already exists,” it has been slow to seize a leading role in climate action, and been reluctant to deviate from long-held principles to accommodate heavy site intensification or substantial changes like deep retrofits and moving buildings. How far are we prepared to go? How quickly can we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with allied fields (e.g. circular economy, building deconstruction, environmental protection) and are

we prepared to make necessary compromises? This conference stream explores how the Canadian heritage sector can rapidly recalibrate to accelerate building reuse and landscape preservation, build allies, and shift public attitudes.

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Intensification and Infill – Lessons learned in balancing intensification (in commercial or residential areas) with heritage retention; practical examples for accommodating infill/additions, particularly in low-rise residential areas; under what circumstances is façade retention alone or building relocation appropriate in redevelopment projects?
- Adaptive Reuse and Minimal Intervention – Strategies for “working with,” not against, existing buildings (including shaping client expectations); lessons in working with existing buildings to maximize in situ materials and minimize intervention; analysis of adaptive reuse job creation and marketplace shift vs. new construction.
- Fit for the Climate Crisis? - Heritage Principles, Practices, and Tools – Lessons for balancing energy retrofits and retaining heritage value; examining building deconstruction as a potential conservation treatment or brake on demolition; integrating Indigenous perspectives on climate response and environmental conservation; adaptation of the *Standards and Guidelines* for climate action.
- Heritage Places, Tourism, and Climate Action – Leveraging heritage site and museums as public education tools for climate action; mitigation for heritage places in peril, including Indigenous cultural landscapes and archaeological remains; strategies for implementing regenerative tourism.
- Building Allies & Communicating the Heritage Stewardship Ethic – Practical experience in heritage collaborations with green allies (e.g. urbanism, public transport); strategies for shifting public attitudes around heritage as climate action; new data or tools (e.g. LCA or embodied carbon calculators), or case studies making the climate heritage case or informing reuse decision-making.

3. Economic Reset – Removing Systemic Barriers to Reuse & Empowering Conservation

Heritage conservation is still popularly seen as a cost versus an investment. It is also sometimes co-opted as an elitist, NIMBY-fueled tool focused on protecting elite neighbourhoods and maintaining the status quo. The heritage sector needs to do more to champion affordable housing through building reuse and ensure heritage renewal does not displace existing communities. How can the heritage sector be more effective at removing systemic barriers to reuse, levelling the financial playing field to compete with new construction, and ensuring equal access to heritage conservation expertise across Canadian society? How can we ensure adequate funding for essential heritage places that cannot easily adapt to new uses? This conference stream focuses on changing the system for urban and rural heritage places, and identifying how the heritage sector can realign its work to drive transformational change.

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Heritage and Housing Creation – Lessons in adaptively reusing buildings for housing, including affordable (e.g. office conversion); addressing intersections between heritage conservation, gentrification, and NIMBYism; heritage and Indigenous-led reuse projects.
- Legislation and Policy – Responding to the erosion of heritage legislation or policy, or the need to strengthen or evolve; new tools we need to take pressure off heritage as primary “community character” and stewardship tool at the municipal level (e.g. strengthening demolition review, LCA project evaluation); making the business case for heritage (e.g. green job creation, economic impact); understanding and resolving reuse barriers (e.g. fire and building codes, zoning, green ratings, *Standards and Guidelines*)
- Planning and Practice – Lessons in expanding heritage conservation and zoning tools; culturally sensitive heritage planning; addressing conventional funding programs, grants, and advocacy efforts that privilege certain places/groups; heritage supporting Main Street legacy businesses.
- Heritage Sites and Museums – Innovative funding platforms or audience building strategies to sustain heritage places open to the public; strategies to fund the diversification of stories told at heritage places.
- Education and Training –Trades, Professionals, and Volunteers – Strategies for fostering the next generation of heritage workers/professionals/volunteers; systemic work to shift the current education, training, and accreditation programs from new construction to reuse and maintenance.
- Financing and Investment – Resolving barriers to reuse in tax systems, accounting practices, property management, real estate appraisal, or the insurance industry; creating innovative financial instruments to support heritage reuse.

PRESENTATION FORMATS:

- **Traditional Presentation (15 minutes)** – These presentations will use case studies and research results that offer broadly applicable insights, principles, or real solutions others can apply in their communities. What questions were raised by the case study or research and what lessons were learned?
- **Spark Presentation (7 minutes)** – Brief, effective, powerful. These “Pecha Kucha” inspired presentations raise heritage issues and offer lessons in dynamic sessions.
- **Lightning Talks (5 minutes)** – Dedicated space for students and emerging professionals (typically those in the heritage workforce for 5 years or less) only.
- **Traditional or Non-Traditional Conference Session (60-90 minutes)** – Propose an entire conference session, including non-traditional formats: four presentations and a moderator, roundtable, panel discussion, workshop, direct action, cultural performance, etc. Please identify proposed session leader(s), presenters, or resource people.

PLEASE INCLUDE WITH YOUR SUBMISSION:

- Title of presentation/session proposed, format, and a summary (450 words or less).
- Please include at least one “learning objective” for a presentation, or at least 2 for a session, that clearly articulate what attendees will learn as a result of attending. For

example: "Analyze and interpret a case study that examines how heritage conservation contributes to neighborhood revitalization and fights displacement".

- Which conference stream(s) your presentation/session aligns with.
- Your name, contact information, and short bio (150 words)
- Your student status, if applicable.

To encourage participation of community and other external partners (those working outside of the heritage sector) who will only attend their session, registration fees may be waived in consultation with the National Trust.

The National Trust will work with the presenter(s) and make efforts to find resources to support their participation. If you require an accommodation in order to participate in any part of this conference, or if you have suggestions on how we can improve accessibility, please let us know how we can support by sending an email to conference@nationaltrustcanada.ca

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Friday, April 21, 2023

Notification of acceptance of submissions will be made by late May 2023. Presenters of accepted abstracts will receive a discount on full conference registration. Student presenters will receive full conference registration at no cost.

All sessions and presentations at National Trust Conference 2023 may be live streamed, filmed, and images or video footage taken. To participate in the conference, presenters will need to agree to a speaker release allowing images and video footage to be webcast on the National Trust Conference 2023 website, displayed or archived on other National Trust/CAHP/IHC channels, or used in promotional materials.

To submit your proposal, or for more information: conference@nationaltrustcanada.ca
Tel.: 613-237-1066 x 227. Or visit www.nationaltrustcanada.ca