

03 _ Live Purpose.

Take charge, take action, be seen.

We see heritage conservation not as destruction or isolation but as a powerful act to nurture communities through protection, preservation and rehabilitation, a deliberate stance against ignorance, indifference and erasure.

Our actions will reflect our heritage mindset, our economic, social, cultural and environmental priorities, and our mission to achieve advocacy and systemic changes by inspiring people to take purposeful action because they share our goals and see heritage as living and vital.

You, and we, can live heritage and take action by doing the following:

- Help make demolition and waste of heritage places the exception, not the norm!
- Help encourage the creation of affordable housing, using older buildings!
- Join our country-wide campaign for federal and provincial programs, tax breaks and funding to encourage the re-use of older buildings. We believe that incentives to encourage maintenance,

— Find out what is happening in your community! Join the mailing list of your local heritage society, architectural conservancy, or historical group. Or join the mailing list of the National Trust for Canada to find out what is happening nationally.

— Learn about the Indigenous peoples on whose traditional territory you live. Visit an Indigenous heritage site or attend a cultural event like a powwow or events for the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

— Find the heritage properties in your neighbourhood. The heritage list for most cities can be found on-line, or you can consult the [Canadian Register of Historic Places](#) and the [Directory of Federal Heritage Designations](#).

Because we recognize heritage is living all around us, as a powerful force, exerting influence and potential, we also recognize that we are, in some form or another, inescapably, living heritage. heritage can help us celebrate what it means to live *aware*, with *care*, and with *purpose*.

carbon-reducing retrofits, or conversions to affordable housing and other new uses will help keep existing buildings in active use, and therefore should be a priority of governments at all levels.

- Join our country-wide campaign to support capacity-building initiatives led by Indigenous peoples and by racialized and equity-deserving groups to save the places that tell their stories.
- Get involved to support the efforts of Indigenous peoples to restore the use of Indigenous place names in their area. Indigenous place names situate people within their environment and can be extremely powerful tools when it comes to teaching local heritage and culture.

— Let your city councillor know that you believe in reusing older buildings. Speak up against unwarranted demolitions. Insist that alternative uses, including use for social housing, be considered.

— Make your voice heard at the local, provincial/territorial and federal level. Let law-makers know that healthy communities need historic places.

— Volunteer at your local historic site or check out opportunities for training and employment in the sector.

