National Trust for Canada | Fiducie nationale du Canada

Request for Proposals

Consulting Professional Services

Date of Issue: February 2026
Organization: National Trust for Canada
Project Timeline: Project to be completed by 31 March 2026
Submission Deadline: February 19, 2026 11:59 pm PST

RFP Title: Canadian Register of Historic Places New Models Options Analysis

1.   Invitation and Submission Instructions

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is an invitation by the National Trust for Canada for the provision of an Options Analysis of New Models for the Canadian Register of Historic Places (HistoricPlaces.ca - The Canadian Register).

The National Trust wishes to contract the services of a consultant to conduct an analysis of potential models for the future structure, functionality and management of the Canadian Register of Historic Places (a database and related website historicplaces.ca). The final report will make recommendations for the technical, functional and management design of a new tool providing searchable on-line access to information about historic places in Canada.

Created in 1973, the National Trust for Canada is the leading national charity dedicated to the conservation and promotion of Canada's historic sites. The Trust believes that heritage places are a catalyst for sustainable, livable, lovable communities. The National Trust is interested in advancing solutions that ensure that the functionality of the Canadian Register remains accessible to Canadians.

Any **questions** about this RFP should be directed to:
     nationaltrust@nationaltrustcanada.ca
     Attn: CHRP New Models

RFP Timetable

Issue Date of RFP	February 12, 2026
Deadline for Submissions	February 19, 2026
Anticipated Final Ranking	February 20, 2026
Anticipated Execution of Agreement	February 23, 2026
Project completion	March 31, 2026

The RFP timetable is tentative and may be changed by the National Trust.

Submissions
Proponents must submit by email to: nationaltrust@nationaltrustcanada.ca

The subject line of the submission email must contain the RFP title and the name of the proponent. Attached documents should be in .pdf, .docx or .doc format. Email submissions with links to cloud-based storage systems (for example, Dropbox, Google Drive) will not be accepted.

The National Trust will acknowledge receipt of submissions. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 24 hours, please contact us.

The National Trust will accept submissions in either English or French.

Proponents will bear all costs associated with or incurred in the preparation and presentation of their submission.

2.   Evaluation
The National Trust will conduct the evaluation of submissions. The evaluation process will include:
> (1) confirm Mandatory Requirements (Section 7) are met;
> (2) evaluation against the Assessment Criteria (Section 8);
> (3) scoring of price; and
> (4) selected proponents may be invited to an interview about their proposal and/or reference checks.

Following the evaluation, the National Trust will enter into negotiations to conclude a written agreement with the selected proponent. Other proponents will be notified once an agreement is signed.

Evaluation of submissions will be by a committee established by the National Trust.

3.   RFP Details

1. Background and Context
Historic places are a central component of Canada's identity, speaking to our unique and varied histories and contributing to the health and vitality of communities today.

The Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP) and associated website, *historicplaces.ca*, play a critical role in supporting heritage places management, by providing a single interface for information about designated historic places across the country and making it accessible to all Canadians. In addition to raising the Canadian public's awareness of their heritage places, it has become an indispensable tool for public, private, and NGO organizations and firms in the stewardship of important resources. Over time, changes in technology, security standards, and organizational needs have reduced the Register's maintainability.

The Register was the result of a collaboration between the federal, provincial and territorial governments. The data in the system remains the property of those governments and one of the principal challenges in considering a future tool is how data or information will be shared and stored.

This RFP seeks a structured exploration of potential governance and technical models that could ensure continuity of the existing functionality of the CRHP. It includes an assessment of needs, risks, accountability structures, funding strategies, opportunities, and potential technology solutions. The goal is not immediate redevelopment of the CRHP, but rather to evaluate how a future tool could operate, including considerations around data ownership and governance and on-going management.

2. Project Objectives

The goal of the project is to gather the information required to support decision-making by providing a thorough analysis of options for a tool comparable to the CRHP, an online directory of historic places in Canada recognized for their heritage value by federal, provincial, territorial or municipal authorities. The project will provide a thorough analysis of governance options for how such a tool could be managed, including management outside of government.

The project will use an open methodology. The process will be transparent and collaborative, including stakeholders, authorities and technical experts. It will engage with Canadian developers to seek innovative technology solutions.

The primary objectives of this project are to:
- Document key features of the CRHP and its website architecture and functionality
- Understand current use and desirable enhancements, including alternative governance and management approaches
- Explore viable redevelopment options, including technology stacks, architectures, APIs and delivery approaches (including hosting)
- Estimate high-level costs, benefits, timelines, and risks for development and on-going operation of each option
- Provide clear recommendations to support an informed decision on next steps

3. Scope of Work

In Scope
- Document critical functionality of the existing database
- Document critical functionality of the current website
- Stakeholder and user consultation (e.g. workshops, interviews, or surveys)
- Analysis of non-functional requirements (security, scalability, compliance, maintainability, accessibility)
- Market and technology scan of suitable platforms, tools, and approaches
- Development of options and comparative analysis
- Preparation of a final report with recommendations

Out of Scope
- Detailed system design or development
- Development of data or documentation standards
- Data migration or website redevelopment activities
- Procurement or vendor contracting beyond high-level evaluation

4. Approach and Methodology

Phase 1: Discovery and Assessment
- Review current system functions, architecture and dependencies, including issues around data hosting
- Define key stakeholders and necessary partners, including data owners (federal, provincial and territorial governments)

Phase 2: Stakeholder and User Engagement
- Engage key stakeholders to capture views on functionality and desired improvements
- Engage data owners and other relevant stakeholders on data sharing and governance models
- Define functional and non-functional requirements and assessment criteria

Phase 3: Options Analysis
- Engage the developer community to explore possible technical solutions
- Identify and assess potential redevelopment approaches (e.g. rebuild, replatform, modernize, or hybrid; potential solutions like Arches, Driftscape, CDT; use of APIs)
- Evaluate options against criteria such as cost, risk, scalability, user experience, and sustainability
- Identify and assess data sharing and governance models

Phase 4: Recommendations and Roadmap
- Identify a preferred option (or shortlist of options) based on criteria
- Provide high-level implementation roadmap and indicative timeline for the preferred option(s)
- Outline estimated costs, benefits, and key risks

5. Deliverables
The project will produce the following key deliverables:
- Current state assessment summary
- Stakeholder and user needs analysis
- Options analysis and comparison matrix
- High-level cost, timeline, and risk estimates for each option
- Final report with recommendations

6. Available Information
The selected proponent will be provided with a map of the data fields in the CRHP. They will also be provided with lists of stakeholders and data owners, and support in communicating with them.

7. Mandatory Requirements
The proponent must provide one contact person, including name, phone, mailing and email addresses. The proponent should include their company website (if any).

The submission must include a proposal (not to exceed 10 pages, excluding CVs or biographies and any supporting documents) outlining how you would fulfill the requirements. It must include a timeline and budget. It must demonstrate how the proposal addresses the rated criteria.

The proposed fee for this project will not exceed **$140,000**, including consultants fees, expenses and taxes.

8. Assessment Criteria
The submission will be assessed against the following expectations:
- Proponent profile: Overview of company and any partnerships relevant to the proposal. Evidence that the proponent has the capacity and qualifications to deliver the project.
- Experience: Description of up to three similar projects delivered by the proponent.
- Project design: Detailed description of the steps to be taken and timeline for delivery (in light of March 31 end date)
- Team and resources: Describe the proposed team structure and roles, and how this will support effective delivery of the project (CVs or biographies of team members are not counted in the 10 page proposal limit)
- Pricing.
- Any creative alternative or opportunities that would enhance the project.