

# The Canadian Register of Historic Places

## THE ISSUE & OUR SOLUTION

### The Register

The Canadian Register of Historic Places (The Register) is Canada's only **pan-Canadian record of recognized historic places**, bringing together places recognized by federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal authorities.

For more than 20 years, it has provided public access to information on **13,500+ historic places** and is used by architects, planners, engineers, developers, educators, researchers, and Canadians.

### The Issue

The Register is now at risk, as its technology platform reaches end-of-life and the federal government has decided to step back from hosting and operating the system.

#### Without a transition plan, Canada risks:

- Losing public access to a national record of 13,500+ recognized historic places;
- Fragmenting nationally significant heritage data across jurisdictions and systems; and
- Losing a longstanding national reference point for understanding and managing Canada's historic places.

A national survey conducted in earlier this year found that over 70% of Register users identify it as an authoritative source they depend on, and that 70% of Canadians are very concerned about its long-term future.

### Our Proposed Solution

The National Trust for Canada, together with the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals and ICOMOS Canada, has proposed transferring stewardship of the Register to the National Trust for Canada.

The proposal is for a one-time federal endowment to support the transfer, stabilization, modernization, and long-term operation of the Register as arm's-length national cultural infrastructure.

### The future Register would provide:

- Sustainable, modern technology;
- Open data standards;
- Bilingual public access; and
- Meaningful Indigenous partnership in its ongoing development and stewardship.

The proposed approach would preserve the existing national record while establishing a sustainable, independent model for its continued operation, modernization, and public access.

