

Yukon Territory to the administration of the respective territorial governments began in September 1970. In that year, four such transfers were completed, three in the Northwest Territories and one in the Yukon: land encompassing the city of Yellowknife (about 220 sq miles), the town of Inuvik (about 95 sq miles) and the communities of Rae-Frank Channel-Calzo (about 110 sq miles) in the Northwest Territories, and the city of Whitehorse (about 240 sq miles) in the Yukon Territory, a total of about 665 sq miles. Similar transfers will be completed during the next four years.

Information regarding provincial public lands may be obtained from the respective governments.

1.4.1 National historic parks and sites

The National Historic Parks and Sites of Canada commemorate the persons, places and events which have been declared to be of major significance in the historical development of Canada.

History. The passage of the Dominion Forest Reserves and Parks Act in 1911 was a significant milestone in the federal government's commemorative program. Prior to this date the government's involvement was through financial contributions to commemorative activities. This Act created within the Department of the Interior a Dominion Parks Board to administer national and historic parks. In 1917, Fort Anne at Annapolis Royal, NS, was transferred from the Department of the Militia and declared Canada's first national park of historic significance.

Upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of the Dominion Parks Board, a seven-member Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada was formed to advise the Minister on the matter of sites of national historical interest. The Board met for the first time at Ottawa on October 28, 1919.

The second national historic park was established in 1927 and by 1950 there were nine such parks, receiving over 150,000 visitors annually.

Part II of the National Parks Act of 1930 provided that the Governor in Council may set apart any land, the title to which is vested in Her Majesty as a national historic park to (a) commemorate a historic event of national importance, or (b) preserve any historic landmark, or any object of historic, prehistoric, or scientific interest of national importance, and may from time to time make any changes in the area to set apart that which he may consider expedient.

Until 1953 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada operated under Order in Council authority and no provision was made for Parliament's formal review of the Board's decisions. The Historic Sites and Monuments Act of 1953 provided the statutory base for the operation of the Board for the first time. The significant change brought about by the Act was the definition of the role of the Board as adviser to the Minister whose statutory responsibility it became to develop and implement a national program of commemorating historic sites. Further legislation was enacted in 1955 and 1959 to amend and broaden the scope of the original Act.

The Canadian Historic Sites Division, later renamed the National Historic Sites Service (NHSS), was created within the National and Historic Parks Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources in 1955 to develop, interpret, operate and maintain historic parks and sites and to act as secretariat for the Board.

Policy. A policy statement on national historic sites was tabled in the House of Commons in 1968 by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Among other things, the policy elaborated the criteria for the designation of national historic sites for the benefit of Parliament and the public.

For commemoration, a site or structure must be closely associated with a person, place or event of national historical importance, or it must illustrate the cultural, social, political, economic or military patterns of history or of a prehistoric people or archaeological discovery, or be valuable as an example of architecture.

The policy statement also included guidelines for the provision of visitor services, interpretative programs and the promotion of information to the public at large. Standards for