

A policy statement in 1968 specified that 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 statement included guidelines for the provision of visitor services, interpretative programs and information to the public. Standards were established for the preservation, restoration and reconstruction of structures which stressed authenticity in the materials used and in the furnishings and artifacts. The policy recognized the need for a comprehensive program to give full thematic and geographical representation and to establish a long-range planning program.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Act provides for a board of 15 members: two representatives each from Ontario and Quebec and one from each of the eight other provinces appointed by the Governor in Council, the Dominion Archivist, one representative from the National Museums of Canada and one from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as *ex officio* members. Proposed amendments to the act would provide for inclusion of members to represent the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The members are generally historians of distinction. The board may recommend that sites, buildings and other structures of national importance be developed as National Historic Parks or Historic Sites or that commemoration be carried out by the erection of plaques of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, or in exceptional circumstances, of distinctive monuments. Suggestions for the establishment of historic sites and parks come from many sources — the general public, members of Parliament, historical societies and other groups, department staff and board members themselves. Before a site is referred to the board for consideration, a background paper is prepared by the National Historic Parks and Sites Branch research staff. The board then determines the significance of the site and makes its recommendation, favourable or unfavourable, to the minister. After approval has been granted to a project, a development plan is prepared.

Since its establishment, the National Historic Parks and Sites Branch has been instrumental in the creation of some 80 national historic parks and major sites, over 53 operational, and in the commemoration with plaques of over 650 persons and events of national (as opposed to local or regional) significance. Negotiations are being conducted with certain provinces for the acquisition of other sites. The department has entered into 40 cost-sharing agreements with provincial and municipal governments and with incorporated non-profit societies for the acquisition and restoration of architecturally or historically significant buildings and structures on the understanding that the other party will pay the balance of the acquisition and restoration costs and will maintain the buildings in perpetuity. A number of monuments which commemorate people and events significant in the nation's history are maintained by the National Historic Parks and Sites Branch.

Full details on location and characteristics of national historic parks and sites may be obtained from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Another branch undertaking is the Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, begun in 1970 — a computerized program to survey, analyze and categorize old buildings in Canada. So far the exteriors of more than 165,000 buildings have been surveyed and almost all have been indexed; interiors of approximately 1,800 of these structures have been surveyed by the CIHB.

A step toward the preservation of the nation's historic resources was the establishment in 1972 of Heritage Canada, an independent corporation concerned with the conservation of buildings, sites and natural and scenic areas. It received an initial federal capital endowment of \$12 million and the interest on this fund is used to further its work. Heritage Canada enlists the support of the general public and of foundations and corporations; membership is open to anyone.