

Provincial Historic Commemorations Board

Annual Report 2014-15



**Business, Tourism, Culture and
Rural Development**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As Chair of the board for the Provincial Historic Commemorations Board (PHCB), I am pleased to present its annual report for the fiscal year 2014-15. The annual report is submitted in accordance with the obligation as a category three entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, prepared under the direction of the board which is accountable for the actual results reported.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Françoise Enguehard", is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Françoise Enguehard
Chair

OVERVIEW

Background

Creation of the PHCB was identified as a commitment within the Provincial Government's cultural strategy *Creative Newfoundland and Labrador: The Blueprint for Development and Investment in Culture*.

The Historic Resources Act was amended to include commemorations of sites, events, people or cultural traditions in the province that are considered by the minister to be of historical or cultural significance and that are to be registered provincial cultural resources. The function of the PHCB is to advise the Minister of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development (BTCRD) regarding these nominations for designation under the guidelines of the Provincial Historic Commemorations Program (PHCP).

Legislation

The legislative authority for the PHCP resides in Section 17.(1) of the *Historic Resources Act*, where:

"The minister may declare a site, event, person or cultural tradition in the province that is considered by the minister to be of historical or cultural significance to be a registered provincial cultural resource".

Mandate

The mandate of the PHCB is to advise the Minister of BTCRD regarding commemorations under the Provincial Historic Commemorations Program. The Board also undertakes activities to promote the program and to educate Newfoundlanders and Labradorians about subjects that have been commemorated. This supports the wider mandate of the Department of BTCRD of promoting, protecting, and preserving the province's heritage. The Board's mandate supports goals identified in the Provincial Government's cultural strategy *Creative Newfoundland and Labrador: The Blueprint for Development and Investment in Culture*, namely to commemorate significant tangible and intangible cultural heritage resources.

Lines of Business

The Provincial Historic Commemorations Board has one line of business, reflective of its mandate, which is the promotion and administration of the PHCP. In serving this line of business, the Board:

- Reviews and evaluates nominations following the guidelines of the PHCP.
- Advises the Minister of BTCRD regarding provincial historic commemorations.
- Assists in promoting the PHCP and encouraging nominations from the general public.
- Provides advice on the administration of the PHCP (examples: provides advice regarding revisions to program criteria and guidelines as needed; provides advice regarding annual expenditures under the program; provides advice regarding the completion of legacy activities under the program; review promotional materials developed for the program).

Vision

The Vision of the PHCB is of a province whose citizens have a high level of appreciation and knowledge of the province's history and its cultural traditions.

Mission

The PHCB will operate the PHCP that maximizes public participation and that creates a high level of awareness of Newfoundland and Labrador's history and its cultural traditions. The Board operates under the mission of the Department of BTCRD.

By March 31, 2017, the Department of BTCRD will have stimulated economic, business, and tourism development to foster regional and provincial prosperity, while preserving and promoting culture and heritage throughout the province.

Specifically, the PHCB contributes to the mission of the Department of BTCRD by providing opportunities for enhanced participation by citizens engaged in developing and promoting heritage.

In addition to supporting the Department's Mission, the Board also supports a strong provincial cultural identity, and greater stewardship for and development of heritage resources as identified in the Province's Cultural Strategy.

Board of Directors

At the end of this reporting period, March 31, 2015 the board consisted of the following members:

Chairperson Françoise Enguehard, St. John's
 Vice Chair Terry Bishop-Stirling, St. John's

Members Robert Hobbs, Bishop's Falls
 Anita Best, Norris Point
 Patty Way, Happy Valley-Goose Bay
 Jerry Dick, Director of Heritage, Department of BTCRD

Financial Information

The program budget for the PHCP for 2014-15 was \$14,270. The program is funded through the Department of BTCRD and is not required to provide audited financial statements.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The following represents the PHCB's activities in support of the Provincial Government's strategic directions for fiscal year 2014-15. This is the first year of the 2014-17 planning cycle. Three objectives have been identified in PHCB 2014-17 Activity Plan, and these are reported on herein. The objective, measure and the indicators below will be reported annually for the three years of the Activity Plan (2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17).

1. Commemoration Recommendations

The Board's main objective is to review commemoration nominations submitted by the public and to make recommendations to the Minister. This activity supports the Strategic Direction for the Department of BTCRD which is "Strengthening and Growing Our Culture" through preserving our tangible and intangible heritage, celebrating our creativity, and growing our cultural enterprises.

Objective

By March 31, 2015, the PHCB will have provided recommendations on commemorations to be designated at a ceremony to be held by October of that year.

Measure

Provided recommendations on commemorations.

Indicator

- i. Held semi-annual meetings to review nominations submitted by the public.

Activity

The PHCB met only once in 2014-15. This meeting occurred November 25, 2014 in the St. Lawrence Town Council Chambers to review the following nominations and research:

- Bait Act of 1888: Event of Provincial Significance
- Newfoundland Pony: Cultural Tradition
- 19th Century Outport Merchants: People of Significance

As only three nominations were received in the remainder of 2014-15, a meeting of the board was not required. Normally the board reviews five to six nominations. Due to the low number, these were held until June 2015.

Indicator

- ii. Recommended research to be commissioned to support commemorations recommendations.

Activity

In 2014-15 the board recommended the following research:

- Newfoundland Pony by David MacDonald
- 19th Century Outport Merchants by Gerald Penney & Associates
- The Miners of the St. Lawrence Fluorspar Mines by Paul Collins

Research was determined to be necessary based on board review of the application and the need for additional detail.

Indicator

- iii. Recommended commemorations to be announced at an annual event.

Activity

In 2014-15 the board recommended the following commemorations that were designated on November 26, 2014 at a ceremony held in St. Lawrence to commemorate:

- Mr. Charles Pearcey: Provincial Tradition Bearer. Nominated by Christina Smith, Outer Battery Neighbourhood Association
- Miners of the St. Lawrence Fluorspar Mines: Group of People with Provincial Significance. Nominated by Tracey Slaney and Laurella Stacey, St. Lawrence Historical Advisory Committee
- The Fishermen’s Protective Union: Organization of Provincial Significance Nominated by Edith Samson, Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Society
- The Badger Riot: Event of Provincial Significance. Nominated by the Town of Badger

2. Development of Legacy Activities

Following each commemoration, nominees can access funds through the PHCP to develop legacy activities to further raise awareness about the program and each commemoration. Execution of these legacy activities further supports the

Strategic Direction of the Department of BTCRD in “Strengthening and growing our culture”.

Objective

By March 31, 2015, the Provincial Historic Commemorations Board will have advised on the execution of legacy activities developed for each commemoration made that year.

Measure

Advised on execution of legacy activities.

Indicator

- i. Advice provided to designates developing legacy activities.

Activity

Advice was provided to designates developing Legacy activities undertaken by Mr. Charles Pearcy to enhance the experience for visitors at the Twine Store; and the St. Lawrence Historical Advisory Committee for educational activities in the local school

3. Promotion and Accessibility of the Program

As a citizen-driven program, it is the goal of the PHCB to ensure that all residents of the province can easily access information about the program, and that the process for nominating people, places, events, cultural traditions and tradition bearers of historic and cultural significance is straightforward and transparent.

Objective

By March 31, 2015, the Board will have promoted and made the Provincial Historic Commemorations Program more accessible.

Measure

Provincial Historic Commemorations Program promoted and made more accessible.

Indicator

- i. Program website maintained.

Activity

The commemorations.ca website has been updated with new designations.

Indicator

- ii. Program Facebook page maintained.

Activity

A Facebook page was developed, but due to a change in staff it was not initialized.

Indicator

- iii. Sectoral/special interest organizations contacted to raise awareness about the nomination process.

Activity

Awareness about the nomination process was raised in June 2014 with a presentation that was made to the Labrador Heritage Forum held in Nain. Notification of the February 2015 deadline for submissions was circulated through the membership of the Museum Association of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Association of Newfoundland and Labrador Archives.

Indicator

- iv. One commemorations ceremony held in a region outside of St. John's.

Activity

One commemorations ceremony was held on November 26, 2014 in St. Lawrence, on the Burin Peninsula.

Indicator

- v. Heritage Fair Award promoted and awarded.

Activity

The Heritage Fair Award, designed to encourage youth involvement and nominations to the commemorations program was promoted and awarded. At each regional fair the project that was judged most promising for a nomination received the Heritage Fair Award. Eight winners received a prize and information on how to make a nomination.