



For Immediate Release

Contextualizing St. Joseph's Mission Moves Forward with Boost from Heritage Legacy Fund

The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin is receiving a much-needed boost of \$2,500 to support its project *Contextualizing St. Joseph's Mission*, which will see the production of an exhibition in the museum that provides much needed context and information on the local residential school that operated in Williams Lake from 1890 until the 1980s. The funding comes through the Heritage Legacy Fund, the only provincial grant program that supports heritage conservation, awareness, planning and Indigenous partnership projects.

As part of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 2015 report, the museum hopes to develop an exhibition on the experiences of individuals who attended the St. Joseph's Mission. This project will consult with several local Indigenous organizations to tell the individual stories from the Cariboo Residential School, located at St. Joseph's Mission on traditional T'exelc land. The collected information will be displayed in the museum as part of its Indigenous history gallery,

"The Heritage Legacy Fund Committee was impressed by the diversity of heritage project applications this year," says Angie Bain, Heritage BC Director and Researcher with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. "Successful applicants have demonstrated the significant, innovative and meaningful ways that local communities, repositories and organizations are embracing reconciliation and working to protect, promote, and celebrate heritage on behalf of all British Columbians."

Since June 2005, the Heritage Legacy Fund has supported heritage conservation in British Columbia with \$1.8 million of project funding. The funds are made possible through a \$5 million endowment established in 2003 by the Province of British Columbia.

Heritage BC's Vice-Chair Lynda Lafleur says: "Every year many community heritage projects are received for consideration under the Heritage Legacy Fund. This year was no exception with a wide variety of excellent submissions from various regions of B.C. We appreciate the efforts of individuals, heritage organizations and local governments who choose to spend their time raising funds to preserve an important aspect of their local history."

"We needed this support to make the project viable" Joe Borsato, Museum Coordinator, said. "As a small museum in the British Columbian interior, it is difficult to raise funds and acquire the necessary financial support to make these projects viable – but we did and we are extremely pleased to be moving forward with this project. It will be absolutely necessary for (re)conciliation with Indigenous peoples" he added.

The 2018 grants were overseen by a jury of four members and supported by Heritage BC staff.

About the Heritage Legacy Fund

Since June 2005, the Heritage Legacy Fund has supported heritage conservation in British Columbia with \$1.8 million of project funding. The funds are made possible through a \$5 million endowment established in 2003 by the Province of British Columbia.

Applications are received from non-profits, local governments and First Nations, seeking funding to support all kinds of heritage work from building maintenance to large scale conservation, from signage to exhibitions. Funding for heritage planning projects was added in 2017, and in 2018 a new funding stream was created to support partnership projects between heritage organizations and Indigenous peoples.

Of the over 125 grants provided to date, projects have included life safety upgrades to the Lim Sai Hor Kow Mock Benevolent Society building in Vancouver, the creation of a digital heritage trail on Bowen Island, the revitalization of the Miner's Union Hall in Rossland and a BC Heritage Fairs online exhibit, to name a few.

About Heritage BC

Heritage BC is a charitable not-for-profit supporting heritage conservation across British Columbia through education, training and skills development, capacity building in heritage planning and funding through the Heritage Legacy Fund. We are passionate about building links between heritage conservation and tourism, economic and environmental sustainability, community pride and an appreciation of our common history.

The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin is a history museum in Williams Lake, British Columbia, just off Highway 97 on South Broadway Avenue. The museum has operated since 1967 and has been the home of the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame since 1998. It has grown to become a centre for heritage learning and research in the Cariboo Regional District, reflecting the diverse communities that have developed throughout the area.

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Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin

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