



August 30, 2023

RE: Invitation to upcoming sessions on the Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project (Fall 2023)

The Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation (JWG) is pleased to provide an update on the Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project (HCATP) and invite stakeholders to participate in virtual engagement sessions on proposed near-term policy changes.

Beginning in July 2022, First Nations and external stakeholders (industry, heritage and archaeological professionals, local/regional governments, construction and land developers, etc.) were invited to engage on the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) and its administration to identify priority areas for transformation. The outcomes of engagement have been captured in What We Heard Reports; the stakeholder report will be available shortly and accessible on the [HCATP website](#).

Informed by that feedback, a near-term suite of legislative, regulatory, policy and programmatic changes been co-developed through the JWG, with input from the Alliance of B.C. Modern Treaty Nations (ABCMTN). This work represents critical initial steps that lay a foundation for broader, long-term transformation of the HCA and its administration as envisioned in Action 4.35 of the Declaration Act Action Plan 2022-2027, which states that the Province will “work with First Nations to reform the *Heritage Conservation Act* to align with the UN Declaration, including shared decision-making and the protection of First Nations cultural, spiritual, and heritage sites and objects.”

Virtual Engagement Sessions

These two upcoming virtual stakeholder engagement sessions will provide an opportunity for meaningful discussion on the proposed suite of near-term legislative, regulatory, policy, and programmatic changes being proposed for Cabinet consideration and ultimately legislative introduction in Spring 2024.

Details are as follows:

Date	Time	TEAMS Registration Link
September 26, 2023	1:00-4:00pm PDT	September 26th Session Registration Link
September 28, 2023	1:00-4:00pm PDT	September 28th Session Registration Link

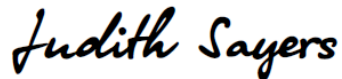
To register for the session that best works for your schedule, click the link above to receive a Microsoft Teams registration invitation and meeting link.

Materials to support the sessions are under development and will be provided in the coming weeks. In the meantime, supplementary documentation on the HCATP background and engagement to date are available on the [HCATP website](#).

Closing Comments

We appreciate you taking the time to engage on this important initiative and look forward to meeting with you. If you have any questions, concerns, or additional input regarding the HCATP, please send an email to EngageHCA@gov.bc.ca.

Sincerely,



Judith Sayers, JWG Co-Chair
President
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council



Michelle Porter (a/ADM) on behalf of:
Matt Austin, JWG Co-Chair
Assistant Deputy Minister
Integrated Resource Operations Division
Ministry of Forests