



July 22, 2025

**RE: Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project – Update and Phase 3 Engagement Opportunities (Summer-Fall 2025)**

I am pleased to provide an update on the Heritage Conservation Act Transformation Project (HCATP) and invite local governments to participate in engagement on proposed legislative changes.

**Background**

The HCATP aims to reform the *Heritage Conservation Act* (HCA) to ensure it is consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and improve its administration to the benefit of all people in B.C.

The Joint Working Group on First Nations Heritage Conservation (JWGFNHC), which includes members appointed by the First Nations Leadership Council and the B.C. Provincial government, has been leading the transformation process as well as coordinating broad engagement with First Nations, local governments and stakeholders to date. We would like to thank those who attended and provided [valuable input](#) in Phases 1 and 2 of engagement (2022 and 2023).

**Project Update**

In early 2025, the JWGFNHC prepared a submission for the B.C. Provincial government to seek direction on the scope and timing of potential legislative amendments to the HCA, informed by feedback heard in previous phases of engagement.

Based on the direction received, the HCATP is now proceeding into Phase 3 of the project: developing proposed legislative amendments for B.C. Provincial government direction in late fall 2025 with a target to introduce new legislation in spring 2026. Additional project information is available on the public-facing HCATP website:

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/heritageconservationact/>

## **Engagement Opportunities**

Engagement during this phase of the project will seek input on how the policy intentions informed by previous engagement will be implemented through legislative and regulatory changes.

### ***Dedicated Local Government Engagement Session***

An engagement session focused on local governments is planned for August 12, 2025. This session will provide an opportunity for meaningful discussion on proposed amendments.

**Please sign up for this session at the following registration link:**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Registration Link</b>
<b>August 12, 2025 9am-12pm Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)</b>	<a href="https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7f2d0c52-2b48-4cf9-89e5-5cda86551549@6fdb5200-3d0d-4a8a-b036-d3685e359adc">https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/7f2d0c52-2b48-4cf9-89e5-5cda86551549@6fdb5200-3d0d-4a8a-b036-d3685e359adc</a>

### ***Additional sessions***

Two broad engagement sessions for stakeholders are planned between August and September. If you are unable to attend the session on August 12, 2025, specific to local governments, you are welcome to attend either of these sessions. Please be advised that these sessions are designed for all stakeholders.

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Registration Link</b>
<b>August 20, 2025 9am-12pm PDT</b>	<a href="https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/081f6176-bfac-4278-bf67-95db3834debe@6fdb5200-3d0d-4a8a-b036-d3685e359adc">https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/081f6176-bfac-4278-bf67-95db3834debe@6fdb5200-3d0d-4a8a-b036-d3685e359adc</a>
<b>September 17, 2025 1pm-4pm PDT</b>	<a href="https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/de414d42-9114-4edf-bee6-5515f9c12fa1@6fdb5200-3d0d-4a8a-b036-d3685e359adc">https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/de414d42-9114-4edf-bee6-5515f9c12fa1@6fdb5200-3d0d-4a8a-b036-d3685e359adc</a>

An information package will be sent out to registrants in advance of the sessions.

Some organizations may host additional engagement sessions (e.g., Business Council of British Columbia), so please look for these invitations if you are a member. We welcome local governments to attend any of the above referenced engagement sessions.

### ***Written Feedback***

Written input on the project is also welcomed throughout this process. Please direct written feedback, before October 1, to [EngageHCA@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EngageHCA@gov.bc.ca).

### ***Next Steps Following Engagement***

Following consultation and cooperation with First Nations, engagement with local governments, stakeholders and the public this summer, a submission of proposed legislative amendments to the HCA will be prepared.

### **Closing Comments**

We look forward to these important discussions in the upcoming sessions. If you have any questions regarding the project and/or upcoming engagement, please send an email to [EngageHCA@gov.bc.ca](mailto:EngageHCA@gov.bc.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, loopy script that appears to read 'Jillian'.

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Jillian Rousselle  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Forest Resiliency and Archaeology  
Ministry of Forests