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DATE: October 10, 2023

Dear

The Association Heritage New Brunswick represents New Brunswick's museum and built heritage interests, province-wide. Its mission is to promote the conservation, preservation, interpretation and appreciation of New Brunswick's heritage resources in both Official Languages.

With the prospect of a provincial election in the coming months, we are seeking your views on what the next New Brunswick Government should do to preserve and promote this exceptional part of our culture and economy. We also want to offer you our support in initiatives that will maximize the opportunities our heritage resources offer to present and future New Brunswickers.

The last comprehensive study of the value of the province's heritage sector (2017) revealed some interesting facts.

1. The heritage sector has proven to be a significant contributor to New Brunswick's economy, providing employment to over 2000 individuals and generating over 23 million in revenue in 2017. Despite its importance, however, this sector continues to face challenges.
2. Our communities and visitors alike hold great appreciation for the valuable heritage resources, cultural landscapes, and historical buildings that constitute our cherished heritage. The sector received more than four million visitors in 2017, hosted over one thousand school visits, and had more than three billion online visits.
3. The greenest building is one that has been retrofitted, improving its sustainability and environmental impact. Studies have shown that it takes up to 80 years for a new "green" building to overcome the carbon impacts of its construction.
4. The museum, archives and heritage industries provide significant potential for advancing the mission of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities through initiatives such as programming and repatriation endeavors.

Heritage, indeed, is our collective memory, our beginnings, our present and a road map to our future. From it we learn of the contributions of our forbears in providing us with the progressive, inclusive and sustaining culture which so many of us enjoy. Our goal is to preserve what we have inherited and to increase these factors to ensure that all New Brunswickers irrespective of race, colour, creed, cultural heritage or language have access to the same levels of participation and enjoyment of our collective lifestyle. And perhaps central to all of this is the oft-mentioned New Brunswick Museum - the Province's potential crown upon which may be embedded these many Gems, the so-called Crown Jewels, shining brightly and heralding not only the Provinces Heritage, but also the commitment of its leaders and its citizens to documenting, learning from and creating a thriving future arising from its past experience.

To that end, we'd appreciate having you share with us your views on the following:

- 1) Because New Brunswick's rich cultural heritage is a major attraction for tourists, can you provide information on how your party plans to safeguard and preserve New Brunswick's significant and irreplaceable heritage sites and museums as well as pursue a firm schedule for opening a revitalized New Brunswick Museum.
- 2) Can you please share with us any initiatives your party has to enhance the number of skilled workers for heritage buildings? We would also like to inquire about your party's stance on retrofitting buildings as a potential solution to address New Brunswick's housing shortage and reduce carbon emissions.
- 3) How your party might support the heritage sector in its continued efforts toward awareness and reconciliation with First Nations, and with other long-standing cultural communities in our society.

All of these areas are of prime importance to AHNB, and we would like to offer our help in your determination to move forward in these areas.

If you would like to know more about AHNB and its roles, we invite you to visit our website <https://ahnb-apnb.ca/> or contact our Executive Director, Kellie Blue-McQuade at kellie.blue-mcquade@amnb.ca.

Thank you for taking the time to reply to our request. We appreciate your commitment to continuing to make New Brunswick a wonderful place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Gerry Gillcash, President

On behalf of the Executive and Board of Directors of the Association Heritage New Brunswick

P.S. For your convenience, a signed copy of this letter will be mailed to your office.