

February 12, 2026

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin
Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature
Government of Canada

The Honourable Wade Grant
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature

Dear Minister Dabrusin and Parliamentary Secretary Grant,

Re: Planned Decommissioning of the Canadian Register of Historic Places

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) is writing to express concern regarding the recent federal announcement that Parks Canada intends to retire the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP), the national searchable online database, with no plans for a replacement.

The CRHP has long served as Canada's central, publicly accessible, pan-jurisdictional database of formally recognized historic places, providing a common reference across federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal jurisdictions. The CRHP has been instrumental in informing heritage conservation decision-making, community planning, environmental assessments, research, and education. Discontinuing this platform without an equivalent successor risks fragmentation of heritage information and diminished capacity for coordinated conservation planning and the public's understanding of Canada's historic places and cultural landscapes.

The approximately 13,500 historic places listed on the Register collectively represent a broad and interconnected portrait of Canada's past, its heritage buildings and structures, its people, and its iconic landscapes and environments. The narratives contained within this national collection form part of our shared identity as Canadians and deserve a high-quality, cohesive system of protection, digital stewardship, and ongoing historical updating. Downloading or dispersing these responsibilities without a coordinated national framework risks undermining the integrity of this data and weakening the unique connections between these places and Canada's vast geography.

As landscape architects, the CSLA's members engage directly with the cultural and built environments of communities across Canada. Recognition of historic places, whether designed landscapes, parks, heritage districts, or culturally significant sites, is foundational to planning, design, stewardship, and responsible community development. And access to consistent, authoritative heritage information supports informed decision-making and long-term care of these places.

The CSLA respectfully urges the Government of Canada to:

1. Engage collaboratively with provincial, territorial, municipal, and heritage sector partners to develop a plan for a successor platform and retain continuity of a CRHP in the meantime.

2. Ensure that any transition includes a plan for long-term digital sustainability, open access, and support for professional and public use across disciplines.

The CSLA would welcome the opportunity to participate in dialogue and cross-sector collaboration toward a modern, sustainable solution that preserves the CRHP's purpose and utility for generations of professionals, communities, and Canadians.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Mills, APALA CSLA
President, CSLA



John Zvonar, OALA, FCSLA
Chair, CSLA Cultural Landscape Legacy Committee

About the CSLA

The Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) is a professional organization with landscape architect members, associate (or intern) members and landscape architecture student members. As the voice of the profession in Canada, the CSLA is an advocate for its members on issues such as urban design, urban renewal, sustainable development, climate change and cultural heritage. Since it was founded in 1934, the CSLA has increased awareness and appreciation

of landscape architecture and the vitality of the profession in Canada and throughout the world. The CSLA is dedicated to advancing the art, the science and the practice of landscape architecture.