



**Restore Confidence.
Rebuild BC.**

BC Heritage Sector – Election 2020 Survey Questions

COVID-19 Economic Impact

A recent survey of heritage organizations in British Columbia found that more than 1 in 3 fear they will never recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Globally, UNESCO found that 1 in 3 museums may close permanently due to COVID-19.

Do you agree that increased provincial funding is needed to preserve our communities' culture and heritage?

BC Liberals Response:

We are truly fortunate to live in a province with rich cultural diversity and heritages. It is one of our great strengths. Our museums and cultural institutions have carefully protected and promoted this rich heritage, but they have been profoundly and negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are fortunate in BC to count our cultural institutions as a major part of our tourism industry. That is why the BC Liberal platform includes strong protections for our tourism sector, including:

- Supporting workers in our cultural sectors, by protecting funding for arts and culture organizations forced to suspend operations as a result of COVID-19.
- Delivering emergency financing for BC businesses hardest hit by the pandemic, through a loan guarantee program for BC's more than 19,000 tourism and hospitality businesses.
- Implementing an aggressive agenda to rebuild and expand BC's tourism sector.
- Working with the tourism industry and municipal partners to support the development and growth of regional tourism hubs across BC.

Colonization and Racism

As British Columbians work to address the legacy of colonization and systemic racism, in what ways can the provincial government support heritage initiatives by Indigenous and racialized communities in BC?

BC Liberals Response:

We must work to eliminate systemic-racism in our institutions, and to ensure that the rights of all British Columbians are respected under the law. Our platform includes a commitment to ensure all government services are free of racism and prejudice, and require all government offices to follow anti-racism policies. Additionally, we will require every provincial employee to undertake cultural safety and humility training.

However, it is not enough to simply fight racism in our institutions, we must also promote cultural diversity. That is why, in addition to supporting arts and culture organizations forced to suspend operations due to COVID-19, our platform also features commitments to work with Indigenous peoples, to provide interpretation and education services in parks, and enhance cultural and environmental understanding.

Further, the BC Liberals are committed to addressing issues of economic and social inequality faced by Indigenous peoples. We must act boldly as a province in working with our First Nations and federal government partners to create new opportunities for Indigenous peoples.

Heritage and B.C.'s Economy

Do you agree that heritage plays an important role in contributing to BC's economy and vitality?

BC Liberals Response:

There is no doubt that heritage institutions are crucial to BC's economy and vitality. We are proud of the museums and cultural institutions that celebrate and promote our rich cultural diversity as a province. We cannot let COVID-19 damage the people of BC's ability to share their history, stories, and culture with the world.