



# Membership Announcement

## Election 2023 Survey

### Alberta Election 2023: Museums and Heritage Survey

As part of our mission to lead, facilitate, and support museums in their vital role with communities the Alberta Museums Association (AMA), in collaboration with [Edmonton Heritage Council](#) and [Heritage Calgary](#), reached out to Alberta's two main political parties with an invitation to complete a short survey about their party's support for the museums and heritage sector. The Alberta New Democratic Party (Alberta NDP) responded, and their full unedited responses are included here. The United Conservative Party (UCP) has not yet responded. If they respond before the election date, an updated announcement will be sent out.

1. Albertans value heritage. Museums and heritage play an important role in promoting and celebrating Alberta's unique cultural identity. According to the 2021-22 Culture & Status of Women Online Survey of Albertans, 74% of Albertans feel that historical resources are important in contributing to the overall quality of life in Alberta, more than recreation facilities and organised sport. How does your party platform support Alberta's museums and heritage sector?

*Alberta NDP: [Last] week, we announced plans for Hometown Alberta, which is new funding to support museums, arts and cultural centres as well as community halls, legions, and sports complexes. This is over and above existing cultural grants the Alberta museums and heritage sector is already and will remain available for.*

2. The heritage sector employed nearly 5000 Albertans and generated \$270 million in revenue in 2017, but it faces barriers to recovery post-pandemic. How does your party platform plan to support the recovery and economic growth of the heritage sector through investment, incentives, or other means?

*Alberta NDP: Hometown Alberta would both replace and improve upon the current Community Facility Enhancement Program, by increasing grant funding by 50 per cent to \$75 million annually and adding a new \$100-million annual capital investment funding stream designed to advance local municipal construction projects through partnerships.*

*We would work with municipalities to identify opportunities where the provincial government can play a role in preserving heritage sites for public enjoyment.*

*We would also restore the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP), which provides government funding to organizations to allow them to hire young people across the province.*



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3. Alberta's unique cultural identity is a driver for investment from the television and film industry, as well as major draw for tourism. Our historic main streets and buildings, heritage resources, and cultural landscapes are integral to that unique cultural heritage. How will your party platform support the protection of significant and unique heritage places in Alberta?

*Alberta NDP: We want to work together to ensure the preservation of storytelling and work with heritage groups on innovative approaches to conservation and preservation, recognizing that you are the experts.*

*We know how important it is for governments to invest in local infrastructure. Municipalities have seen rising costs and suffered from UCP cuts to their funding over the past four years.*

*In addition to Hometown Alberta, we will bring forward Partners in Prosperity: we will pass legislation that ties funding for municipalities to provincial revenues. Municipal funding that grows with a growing economy would liberate cities, towns, and villages from relying on static property taxes. This will enable local governments to invest in historic main streets and buildings and protect Alberta's unique cultural heritage.*

4. Museums, archives, and heritage sites represent excellent opportunities for advancing truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities. If elected, how would your party support the museum and heritage sector in their ongoing reconciliation work?

*Alberta NDP: Reconciliation should be a priority for every government in Canada, and there is much more to be done. We cannot overstate the importance of Indigenous ownership of cultural resources and self-determination.*

*We will come to the table with the sector and with Indigenous people and governments to listen and understand how we can do more to support this ongoing work, as a provincial government and at the table with the federal government.*

5. What is your most memorable or remarkable experience of Alberta's heritage?

*Alberta NDP: We encourage you to pop by your local candidate's office to ask about their experience of Alberta heritage. From Royal Tyrrell and Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump to the Ukrainian Cultural Village, our team loves getting the chance to celebrate and share our province's unique history.*

The AMA encourages you to contact to your local candidates to discover how they see museums as contributors the social, educational, and cultural fabric of Alberta. Together, we can work to ensure that the concerns of the museum sector are front of mind for political parties and candidates, and support museums in their vital role within communities.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Forsyth, AMA Executive Director / CEO, at [jforsyth@museums.ab.ca](mailto:jforsyth@museums.ab.ca).