



## 1. Statement of Policy

The Government of the Northwest Territories supports and encourages, in harmony with community heritage programs and other agencies, the preservation, portrayal and promotion of the heritage of the Northwest Territories. Specifically, the Government of the Northwest Territories will:

- (1) provide for a museum operation at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre which will collect, preserve, document, study, exhibit and circulate artifacts, specimens and works of art significant to the heritage of the Northwest Territories;
- (2) promote the preservation and documentation of archaeological, heritage and cultural sites significant to the Northwest Territories;
- (3) promote the research, identification, documentation and protection of buildings and structures significant to the heritage of the Northwest Territories;
- (4) encourage and support community-based initiatives to preserve, portray and promote the heritage of the Northwest Territories; and
- (5) provide professional advice and services to not-for-profit, community-based societies, organizations and governments which share, in part or in whole, the objectives of preserving, portraying and promoting the heritage of the Northwest Territories

## 2. Principles

The Government of the Northwest Territories will adhere to the following principles when implementing this Policy:

- (1) The heritage of the Northwest Territories should be researched, documented, preserved and interpreted for the benefit of all the people of the Northwest Territories.
- (2) The people of the Northwest Territories should be encouraged to enjoy and participate in the preservation, portrayal and promotion of their heritage and that of their neighbours.



- (3) The initiative for community-based heritage programs should rest with the community.
- (4) Traditional knowledge, professional heritage expertise and modern technology should be used to preserve, portray and promote the heritage of the Northwest Territories.
- (5) The heritage initiatives of organizations, communities and government should be co-ordinated so that the people of the Northwest Territories receive the maximum benefits from these activities.
- (6) The people of the Northwest Territories should have access to training and professional expertise in the heritage field.
- (7) Certain items might be judged so significant that, other considerations notwithstanding, they should be preserved indefinitely on behalf of all the people of the Northwest Territories.

### 3. Scope

This Policy applies to all employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories and to those individuals and organizations concerned with the heritage of the Northwest Territories.

### 4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Policy:

Archaeologists Permit - a permit authorizing archaeological investigations issued under the authority of the Northwest Territories Archaeological Sites Regulations, SOR/60-31, promulgated under the *Northwest Territories Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. N-27.

Collection - a group of items acquired and preserved by a museum or archives in accordance with a Collections Management Policy.



Collections Management Policy - a written statement, ratified by a facility's governing body, which establishes the goals of a facility's collection program, and explains how the collection will be managed in accordance with those goals. A Collections Management Policy also provides a public statement of professional standards regarding the care of collections.

Disposal - the process by which the Government of the Northwest Territories relinquishes title for, or destroys, an item removed from the Heritage Collections.

Heritage - any tangible or intangible product of human or natural history that has potential to have scientific, educational, aesthetic, cultural, or social meaning or value for present or future generations.

Heritage Collections - three collections managed by the Department, namely:

- (a) the Education Collection of objects and documents used for public and school programming;
- (b) the Permanent Collection of objects significant to the heritage of the Northwest Territories acquired for preservation; and
- (c) the Library Collection of published materials significant to the heritage of the Northwest Territories and heritage resource management;

but does not include the Northwest Territories Archives as established under the *Archives Act*.

Local Government - community-governing bodies incorporated under the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, the *Hamlets Act*, or the *Charter Communities Act*, designated governing bodies incorporated under the *Settlements Act*, band councils and tribal councils.

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre - the central multipurpose heritage facility operated by the Department.

Registered Heritage Centre - a community-based heritage facility which is included in the Registry of Heritage Centres.



Registry of Heritage Centres - a registry of community-based heritage facilities established and maintained in accordance with Section 6(11) of this Policy.

Repatriation - the restitution of culturally or historically significant objects to their place of origin.

Temporary Custody Agreement - an agreement, between the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and the owners of items significant to the heritage of the Northwest Territories, which provides for the Minister's temporary custody of those items.

## 5. Authority and Accountability

### (1) General

This Policy is issued under the authority of the Executive Council. The authority to make exceptions and approve revisions to this Policy rests with the Executive Council. Authority and accountability is further defined as follows:

#### (a) Minister

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (the Minister) is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this Policy.

#### (b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (the Deputy Minister) is accountable to the Minister and responsible to the Minister for the administration of this Policy.

(2) Specific

(a) Minister

The Minister may:

- (i) review, on appeal, any decision made under this Policy;
- (ii) assist organizations with their attempts to repatriate objects to the Northwest Territories;
- (iii) approve Temporary Custody Agreements;
- (iv) establish the Registry of Heritage Centres;
- (v) approve a facility's inclusion in, and removal from, the Registry of Heritage Centres; and
- (vi) advise the Commissioner on the issuing of Archaeologists Permits.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister (or designate) will:

- (i) advise the Minister on the approval of Temporary Custody Agreements;
- (ii) approve the incorporation of objects into the Permanent Collection;
- (iii) approve loans either to or from the Permanent Collection; and
- (iv) advise the Minister on the issuing of Archaeologists Permits.



## 6. Provisions

### (1) Permanent Collection

- (a) Items may be acquired for the Permanent Collection through gifts, donations, bequests, purchases and transfers from within the Government of the Northwest Territories.
- (b) Items will only be incorporated into the Permanent Collection if there are adequate facilities, resources and procedures to document, preserve, exhibit and interpret those items in accordance with the highest professional standards.

### (2) Temporary Custody

Items significant to the heritage of the Northwest Territories may be held on behalf of not-for-profit, community-based organizations concerned with the preservation, portrayal and promotion of the heritage of the Northwest Territories when:

- (a) there are adequate facilities and resources to document, preserve and store those items;
- (b) custody does not conflict with or prevent the care of the Heritage Collections; and
- (c) a Temporary Custody Agreement between the Minister and the owner is in force.

### (3) Preservation

A balance will be maintained between the need to document, research, exhibit, interpret and provide access to items in the Heritage Collections, and the need to preserve those items.

### (4) Loans

Items may, through loan agreements and for the purposes of exhibition, conservation, reproduction or research, be borrowed from or loaned to the Heritage Collections.

(5) Removal from Heritage Collections

An item no longer considered significant or appropriate to the Heritage Collections may be removed from the Heritage Collections and disposed of in accordance with the Collections Disposal Policy.

(6) Exhibits

Exhibits interpreting the heritage of the Northwest Territories and other topics will be designed, produced, displayed and circulated for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of the Northwest Territories.

(7) Interpretative Programs

Educational, school and public programs interpreting the heritage of the Northwest Territories will be developed and presented.

(8) Archaeology

- (a) Significant archaeological resources on Commissioner's Lands and Federal Lands will be identified, protected, preserved, documented and interpreted.
- (b) Responsibilities for archaeological resources in land claim areas are defined in Final Agreements and their implementation plans.
- (c) Due to their special nature, human skeletal remains will not be acquired for the Heritage Collections, nor will Archaeologists Permits be issued for excavation of human skeletons unless permission in writing has been granted by the appropriate local authority. Human remains which have been found and turned in to the Department will be returned, if possible, to their place of origin.

(9) Heritage Buildings and Structures

Buildings and structures significant to the heritage of the Northwest Territories will be identified, researched and documented.

(10) Advisory Services

Individuals and organizations active in community-based heritage programs in the Northwest Territories will be provided access to professional expertise and training in the heritage field.

(11) Registry of Heritage Centres

The Minister shall establish a Registry of Heritage Centres. All facilities included in the Registry shall be managed by a governing body which:

- (a) is a local government, a not-for-profit corporation, or a registered society in good standing under the *Societies Act*;
- (b) is dedicated to portraying the heritage of the Northwest Territories through the acquisition, preservation, documentation, study and exhibition of collections significant to the heritage of the Northwest Territories;
- (c) if a registered society, opens its membership to the general public;
- (d) if a registered society or not-for-profit corporation, has received, by motion of council, the local government's endorsement of its mandate and programming;
- (e) has legal custody of a collection or group of collections held in the public interest in accordance with an approved collections management policy;
- (f) owns or leases a permanent structure which houses the heritage facility and provides a safe and secure environment for its collections;
- (g) provides for a minimum of 300 public access hours each calendar year;



- (h) provides members of the general public with opportunities to become actively involved in the facility's management and programming; and
- (i) has provided, through charter, constitution, by-law or resolution, that upon dissolution of the governing body the collections owned by the governing body shall continue to be managed in the public interest.

Where a Registered Heritage Centre fails to comply with any of the requirements of this Policy, the Minister may immediately remove that facility from the Registry of Heritage Centres.

(12) Repatriation

- (a) The Minister's responsibility for repatriation in land claim areas is defined in Final Agreements and their implementation plans.
- (b) When entertaining a request to repatriate, the Minister may require assurances that objects will be preserved in accordance with accepted professional standards.
- (c) An item may be removed from the Heritage Collections for the purpose of repatriation provided that the item's removal would not violate any legal responsibilities set forth in gift agreements and Revenue Canada regulations, or the obligation to preserve significant items on behalf of all the people of the Northwest Territories.
- (d) Items removed from the Heritage Collections for the purpose of repatriation will be disposed of in accordance with the Collections Disposal Policy.

(13) Public Access

Maximum use of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre will be encouraged subject to:



- (a) operational requirements;
- (b) the extent that use of this facility remains consistent with this Policy; and
- (c) the extent that the preservation and security of the Heritage Collections are not compromised.

(14) Library Collection

Published materials, including books, periodicals, pamphlets, microfilm, microfiche, reprints, theses and dissertations, significant to the heritage of the Northwest Territories and to heritage resource management will be collected and incorporated into the Library Collection.

## 7. Prerogative of the Executive Council

Nothing in this Policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or take action respecting the preservation, portrayal and promotion of the heritage of the Northwest Territories outside the provisions of this Policy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large circular initial followed by several strokes.

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Premier and Chairman of the  
Executive Council