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THEMATIC

FRAMEWORK

Québec Bridge, Québec
The Longest Clear-Span
Cantilever Bridge in
the World

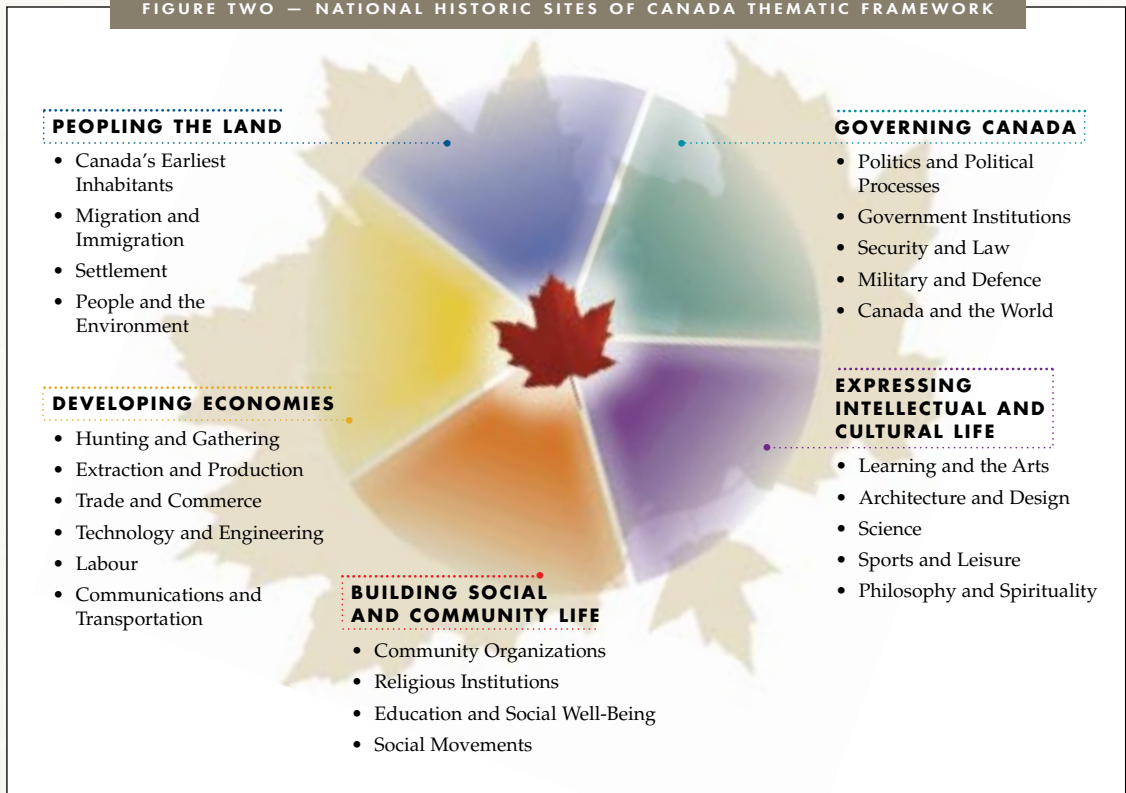
A thematic framework is a way to organize or define history to identify and place sites, persons and events in context. The thematic framework for National Historic Sites provides a comprehensive way of looking at Canadian history.

The new framework contained in this document builds on the 1981 themes, but is simpler in approach, responds to evolving concerns and interests, and reflects recent scholarship on the evolution of Canadian historiography.

THE THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

The thematic framework organizes Canadian history into five broad, inter-related themes, each of which has a number of sub-themes.

FIGURE TWO — NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES OF CANADA THEMATIC FRAMEWORK



PEOPLING THE LAND



The land now known as Canada has supported a human population for many thousands of years. The First Nations lived on the land and learned to adapt to its geography. Over time, they were joined by people from all parts of the globe and Canada's cultural mosaic began to take shape. This theme celebrates the imprints and expressions of these people as they shaped Canada. It is made up of four sub-themes.

Canada's Earliest Inhabitants

This sub-theme deals with ancient Aboriginal sites and includes archaeological sites that show evidence of Canada's earliest inhabitants. Commemorations include the *Port au Choix* burial and habitation site in Newfoundland and the Dorset sites — the *Sea Horse Gully Remains* in Churchill, Manitoba and the *Igloodik Island Archaeological Sites* in Nunavut.



Port aux Choix, Newfoundland
Pre-Contact Burial and Habitation Site

Migration and Immigration

Here, the focus is on the movement of peoples into and within Canada. A site such as *Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial* in Quebec, for example, commemorates the importance of immigration to Canada, the tragic events experienced at this site by many Irish immigrants, and the role the site played as the main quarantine station for the port of Québec. Other examples include events such as the *Yorkshire Immigration*, commemorating the 1772–1776 arrival of settlers in the Chignecto area of New Brunswick, and people such as *Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant)*, the Mohawk leader and British ally who led the Loyalist Mohawks to Canada and *Sir Clifford Sifton*, Canada's Minister of the Interior, whose aggressive immigration campaign attracted thousands of immigrants to the Canadian Prairies.



Yorkshire Immigration, Nova Scotia
Settlers Arrived in Chignecto Area
(1772–1776)



Sir Clifford Sifton
Promoter of Immigration to West



Igloodik Island Archaeological Sites
Archaeological Sequence,
2000BC–1000 AD

Settlement

Canada's culture has been shaped by the diversity of its settlers. This sub-theme considers their impact on Canada's landscape. Sites such as *Kitwanga Fort*, a Tsimshian village in British Columbia, *Stirling Agricultural Village* in Alberta, a distinctive Mormon dryland farming settlement pattern, and *L'Anse aux Meadows* in Newfoundland, the only authenticated Viking settlement in North America, illustrate the great variety in Canadian settlement and settlers.



Stirling Agricultural Village, Alberta
Mormon Settlement Pattern



Kitwanga Fort, British Columbia
Tsimshian Village

L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland
Only Authenticated Viking Settlement in North America



Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario
Canada's First Provincial Park (1893)



Archibald Belaney
(Grey Owl)
Writer and Conservationist

People and the Natural Environment

The relationship between human activity and the natural environment is recognized through the commemoration of places such as *Algonquin Provincial Park* in Ontario, Canada's first provincial park, and *Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills* in the Northwest Territories, a landscape associated with the history, culture and traditions of the Sahtu Dene; people such as writer, conservationist and lecturer *Archibald Belaney (Grey Owl)*; and events such as the *Preservation of the Plains Bison*, which celebrates the purchase of bison and their distribution throughout the Canadian national parks in Western Canada.



Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills, Northwest Territories
Birch Bark Canoe Remains, Interrelationship Between Landscape, Oral Histories, Graves and Cultural Resources.



Preservation of the Plain Bison
Distributed Throughout National Parks

DEVELOPING ECONOMIES

From the earliest hunters and gatherers to today's post-industrial workers, Canadians have worked in a wide variety of ways to sustain themselves. This theme looks at the historical legacies of early subsistence economies; commercial pursuits in fishing, farming, forestry and mining; services industries and manufacturing processes.

Hunting and Gathering

Canada's earliest inhabitants hunted, gathered, fished, farmed, quarried and traded for survival. This sub-theme addresses the economic history of these early communities. Commemorations related to this include *Old Women's Buffalo Jump* and *Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump* World Heritage Site in Alberta, remarkable examples of Aboriginal bison drives, and *Fall Caribou Crossing* in Nunavut, a hunting area crucial to Inuit survival.

Extraction and Production

From early European fishing and whaling to the exploitation of Canadian hydro-electric power, harnessing natural resources

has played a crucial role in Canada's economic development. This sub-theme addresses the development of Canada's primary pursuits (farming, fishing, forestry, mining), service industries, and secondary manufacturing processes as well as changing forms of energy used to supplement human labour. Commemorations include

the *Motherwell Homestead* in Saskatchewan, lumber magnate *Ezra Butler Eddy* in Hull, Quebec, and *Skookum Jim "Keish" Mason*, one of the discoverers of the first major gold fields in the Yukon Territory.

Trade and Commerce

Here the focus is on the commercial exchange of goods and services. One of Canada's earliest economic ventures, the fur trade, has been commemorated at a number of sites, including the Hudson's Bay Company post *Fort St. James* in British Columbia and the *Fur Trade at Lachine*, a Montréal depot for the North West Company. *Timothy Eaton*, founder of the Eaton's department store in 1869, and *Enos Collins*, a privateer and entrepreneur who played an important role in the development of Halifax, also have been commemorated.



Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Alberta
World Heritage Site — Aboriginal Bison Drive



Skookum Jim "Keish" Mason, Discoverer of First Major Yukon Gold Fields



Timothy Eaton
Founder of Famous Department Store (1869)



E.B. Eddy
Manufacturer of Matches, Pulp and Paper Products



Motherwell Homestead, Saskatchewan
1882 Farm of William Richard Motherwell



Chilkoot Trail, British Columbia/Yukon Territory
Transportation Route to Klondike Gold Fields

Canoe Routes of Canada
Transcontinental Routes of
Exploration and Trade



Communications and Transportation

The size and diversity of Canada's geography make it important to recognize achievements in the fields of communications and transportation. In the early years, the transcontinental *Canoe Routes of Canada* were used by both Aboriginal peoples and Europeans for transportation, exploration and trade. Other commemorations include the *Halifax Gazette* in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the first newspaper in British North America; *Inuksuk*, an Inuit complex of stone landmarks in Enuksok Point, Nunavut; and C.H. "Punch" Dickins, a pioneer of bush flying in Canada's North.



On-to-Ottawa Trek
Failure of Canada's Depression-Era
Relief Projects for Single Men



First Airplane Flying in Canada
Flight of the Silver Dart in 1909

Technology and Engineering

This sub-theme addresses Canada's transformation through the development and application of technological and engineering achievements, including works created for transportation, communication, technological and engineering developments, public works and bio-engineering. Examples include the *Québec Bridge*, Lt.-Col. John By, the military engineer responsible for the *Rideau Canal* in Ontario and the *Trans-Atlantic Wireless*, the first trans-Atlantic wireless message to England in 1902, transmitted from Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.



C.H. 'Punch' Dickins
Bush Pilot in North

Labour

This sub-theme looks at the role of wage labour and unpaid work, including labour performed in the home, in the expansion of the Canadian economy. Commemorations include the *Port Union Historic District* in Newfoundland, a town constructed and run by a union; the *Winnipeg General Strike*, a 1919 strike that led to the strengthening of the labour movement in Canada; and the *On-to-Ottawa Trek* during the Great Depression, an attempt to bring federal recognition to the plight of the unemployed.



Lt.-Col. John By
Military Engineer —
Built Rideau Canal



Inuksuk, Nunavut
Inuit Complex of
100 Stone Landscapes



Québec Bridge, Québec
The Longest Clear-Span Cantilever Bridge
in the World



William Lyon Mackenzie King
Longest Serving Prime Minister
of Canada



Martha Louise Black
Second Woman Elected as
Member of Parliament



Étienne-Paschal Taché House,
Quebec
Eclectic Home of
Father of Confederation

GOVERNING CANADA



From the origins of Canada's earliest peoples, through colonial government and Confederation, systems of government have evolved in Canada.

Politics and the Political Process

Sites, people and events notable in the political life of the land are included under this sub-theme. Examples include *William Lyon Mackenzie King*, Canada's longest-serving Prime Minister, *Martha Louise Black*, the second woman elected as a Member of Parliament, and the *Étienne-Paschal Taché House*, the home of a Father of Confederation in Montmagny, Quebec.

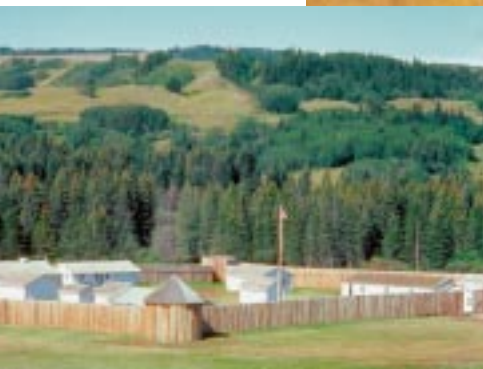
Government Institutions

The focus here is on government in various spheres, including legislatures, First Nations councils and government-sponsored services. Among the commemorations in this category are the *New Québec Customs House*, the *Chilliwack City Hall* in British Columbia and the *Central Emergency Government Headquarters*, referred to as the "Diefenbunker", a cold war bunker built in Carp, near Ottawa, to house the Canadian government in the event of nuclear war.

Establishment
of the North-West
Mounted Police



Fort Walsh, Saskatchewan
Early North-West
Mounted Police Post





Both images:
 Sydney World War II
 Coastal Defences, Nova Scotia
 Safe Port for World War II
 Convoy Assembly



Vimy Ridge, France
 Canada's Contribution and Sacrifice in the First World War



Emily Murphy
 First Woman Magistrate in
 British Commonwealth



Fort Lennox, Quebec
 Early 19th Century Fortifications



Tecumseh
 Shawnee Leader, War of 1812

Security and the Law

Legal systems, including traditional Aboriginal systems, judicial activities and law enforcement are highlighted under this sub-theme. Commemorations include *Emily Ferguson Murphy*, the first female magistrate in the British Empire, the *Establishment of the North-West Mounted Police*, and their post at *Fort Walsh*, Saskatchewan.

Military and Defence

Military organizations, activities, places and people associated with the defence of Canada are the focus of this sub-theme. Commemorations include the *Sydney World War II Coastal Defences* in Nova Scotia, the *Fortifications of Québec*, the *British Commonwealth Air Training Plan*, established to train

airmen during the Second World War, and *Tecumseh*, the Shawnee leader and organizer of the Western tribes' alliance with the British during the War of 1812.

Canada and the World

The official Canadian international presence and activities, including Canadian diplomacy, humanitarianism, peace building, trade and the exchange of intellectual and scientific information are celebrated here. Examples include the *Atlantic Charter*, the basis for the United Nations Charter, *Georges-Philias Vanier*, Canada's Ambassador to France (1959-1967) and Governor General, as well as *Vimy Ridge* in France, which speaks eloquently to Canada's coming of age during the First World War.



British Commonwealth
 Air Training Plan
 Schools to Train Airmen in World War II



Georges-Philias Vanier
 Governor General

BUILDING SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY LIFE



Canadians have established a variety of clubs and organizations to enrich community life and assist those in need. This theme focuses on the great variety of these social constructs — temporary and long-lasting, formal and informal, independent and allied with the government. There are four sub-themes.

Community Organization

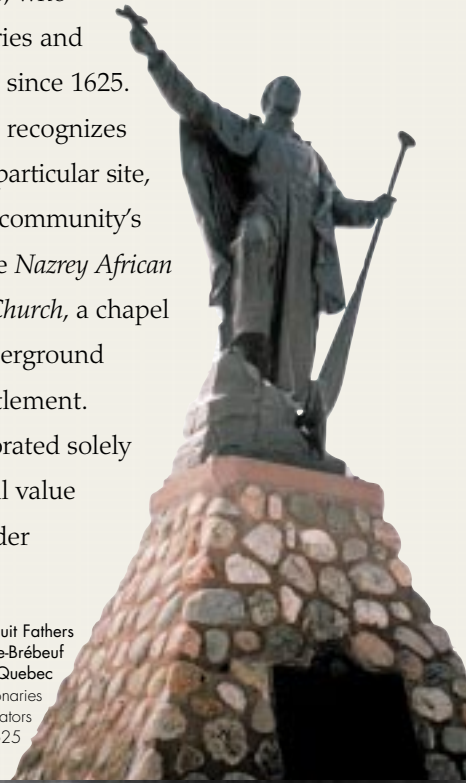
Communities sometimes established mutual benefit organizations. Examples include the *Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)*, which supported a greater role for women in employment, higher education and public service and the *Monument Lefebvre* in New Brunswick, a symbol of Acadian cultural revival.

and the *Jesuit Fathers*, who have been missionaries and educators in Canada since 1625. This sub-theme also recognizes the importance of a particular site, person or event to a community's culture, as seen at the *Nazrey African Methodist Episcopal Church*, a chapel associated with Underground Railroad refugee settlement. Churches commemorated solely for their architectural value are not included under this sub-theme.

Religious Institutions

The imprint of religion on Canadian life and society are the focus of this sub-theme. Commemorations include the *Grey Nuns' Convent* in St. Boniface, Manitoba, which acted as an early hospital and school,

Jesuit Fathers
Jean-de-Brébeuf
Statue, Quebec
Missionaries
and Educators
since 1625



Farmers' Bank of Rustico,
Prince Edward Island
One of First Cooperative Banks



Nazrey African Methodist
Episcopal Church, Ontario
Stone Chapel Associated with
Underground Railroad

Young Women's
Christian Association
(YWCA)
Supported an Enlarged Role
for Women in Employment



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, Ontario
Childhood Home of Activist and Organizer



Education and Social Well-Being

The organization and delivery of services such as education and health care within a community are recognized here. Commemorations include *Frontier College*, which provides education to isolated workers, *Rev. Adolphus Egerton Ryerson*, the Methodist minister who established the basis for school systems in Ontario, and the *Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead* in St. George, Ontario, childhood home of activist and organizer *Adelaide Hunter Hoodless*, who was active in founding Institutes of Household Sciences for Women.

Social Movements

Canadians have a long tradition of effecting social change through social movements spearheaded by voluntary associations. The impact and experiences of these movements are recognized through commemorations which address larger expressions of social action — cooperatives, temperance and other voluntary organizations.



Mary Ann Shadd
Newspaper Editor
and Spokesperson
for Underground
Railroad Community



Rev. Adolphus
Egerton Ryerson
Established Basis
for Public School
System in Ontario

Such commemorations include events such as the *Ten Acadian National Conventions* (1881–1937), which were instrumental in establishing and asserting the Acadian identity.



Frontier College
Provided Social Welfare and Education to Workers



Ernest Thompson Seton
Conservationist and
Wildlife Artist



Emily Carr House,
British Columbia
Birthplace of
Emily Carr

EXPRESSING INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL LIFE



This theme addresses Canada’s intellectual and cultural wealth and includes commemorations of Canadians’ intellectual pursuits, artistic expression and athletic achievement.

Learning and the Arts

This sub-theme recognizes Canadian accomplishments in a broad range of cultural endeavours, including the visual and performing arts, musical composition, the writing of fiction and non-fiction, as well as the pursuit of knowledge. Examples include famed author of the novels on the

Whiteoaks family at Jalna, *Mazo de la Roche*; *Emily Carr House* in Victoria, British Columbia, birthplace of writer and painter *Emily Carr*; and the *University of Ottawa-Université d’Ottawa*, Canada’s oldest bilingual educational institution.



University of Ottawa/
Université d’Ottawa, Ontario
Oldest Bilingual Educational
Institution in Canada



Peterborough Petroglyphs, Ontario
Algonkian Petroglyph Site



Halifax Public Gardens, Nova Scotia
Rare Surviving Victorian Garden



Winnipeg Exchange District, Manitoba
Centre of Grain and Wholesale Trade,
Finance and Manufacturing



Sir Frederick Banting
Co-Discoverer of Insulin



Churchill Rocket Research
Range, Manitoba
Upper Atmosphere Research Centre

Architecture and Design

Expressions and achievements in design and in the planned, built and landscaped environment are the focus here. Architectural achievements include the interior and exterior of buildings, groups of buildings, and rural as well as urban districts, both high-style and vernacular. Landscapes include planned gardens, parks and cemeteries, still-evolving areas, and “relict” sites that show evidence of past events. Commemorations include *All Souls Chapel* in Charlottetown, an outstanding High Victorian Gothic chapel with 18 exquisite mural paintings, the *Halifax Public Gardens*, a rare surviving Victorian garden, and Winnipeg’s *Exchange District*.

Science

This sub-theme celebrates Canadian contributions to the discovery and application of scientific concepts and methodology, including those in the physical, earth and biological sciences, as well as mathematics and medicine. Commemorations include *Sir Frederick G. Banting*, co-discoverer of insulin, the *Churchill Rocket Research Range* in Manitoba, an upper-atmosphere research station, and the *Palliser Expedition*, the first scientific exploration from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains.



Edward Hanlan
World Rowing Champion (1880–1884)

Sports and Leisure

Leisure activities and achievements in sport are commemorated here. Examples include sports icons such as the *Montréal Forum*, the *Edmonton Grads*, Canada’s championship women’s basketball team (1915–1940) and *Edward ‘Ned’ Hanlan*, a world rowing champion; and leisure facilities such as the *Outremont Theatre* in Montréal, a 1920s deluxe cinema in the art-deco style.

Philosophy and Spirituality

This sub-theme commemorates the expressions of philosophy, spirituality and remembrance in Canadian life. Examples include *Next of Kin Memorial Avenue*, the road of remembrance for World War I soldiers in Saskatoon, *Manitou Mounds* in Stratton, Ontario, a religious and ceremonial site for more than 2,000 years, and *Sharon Temple*, an exquisite building expressing the beliefs of the Davidite sect in Sharon, Ontario.



Next of Kin Memorial Avenue,
Saskatchewan
Commemorates
World War I Soldiers



Montréal
Forum,
Quebec
Associated
with Montréal
Canadiens



Outremont
Theatre,
Quebec
1920s
Art Deco
Cinema



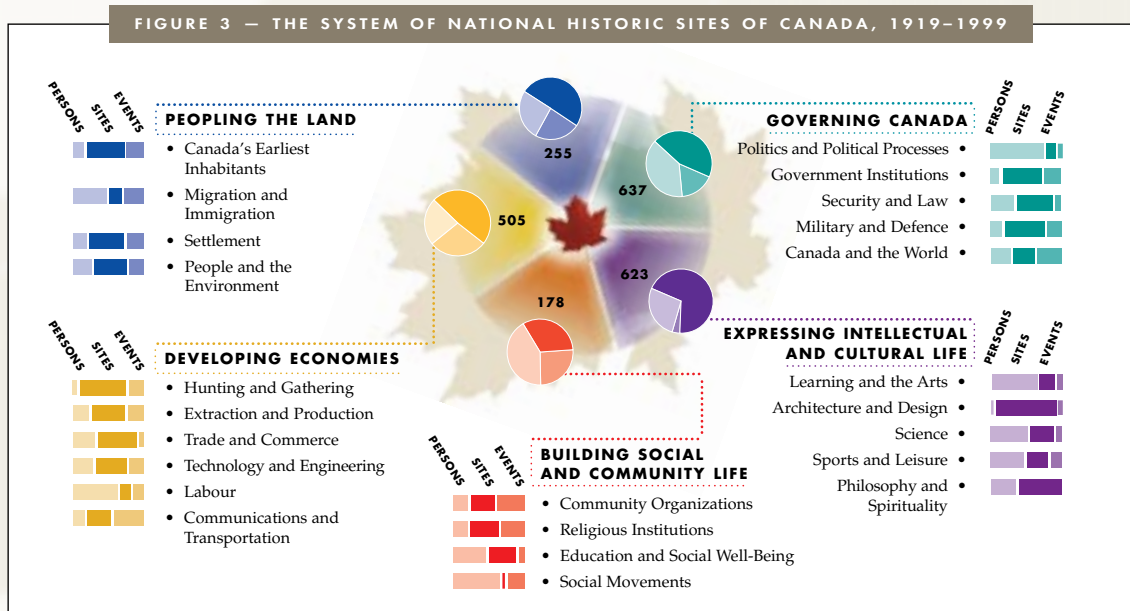
Sharon Temple, Ontario
Elegant 1825–1832
Temple of Davidite Sect



Manitou Mounds, Ontario
Religious and Ceremonial Site
for 2000 Years

USING THE THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

The revised thematic framework can be used as an analytical tool to assess the extent to which various themes and sub-themes are represented in the system of National Historic Sites of Canada. Assessment of the system in relation to the thematic framework assists in the identification of gaps, which are then subject to further review.



In undertaking this assessment, the commemorative intent, or reasons for national historic significance, are aligned against the thematic framework. If there is more than one reason for national historic significance, the site, person or event would be aligned against as many themes or sub-themes as appropriate.

Another way the thematic framework can be used as a planning tool is to help Parks Canada view the commemorations in the system through different 'lenses' or perspectives. In this way, Parks Canada can assess the extent to which the diversity of the Canadian population is reflected in the system.