



# Recent Initiatives Related to Integrating Sustainability and Heritage Conservation

Green Rehabilitation and Sustainability Forum

Cascadia Region Green Building Council+BC Heritage Branch  
Kelowna, BC, December 9, 2008

Susan M. Ross, OAQ, MRAIC, LEED AP

Senior Conservation Architect

Heritage Conservation Directorate



Public Works and  
Government Services  
Canada

Travaux publics et  
Services gouvernementaux  
Canada

Canada

# Overview

## PWGSC-Heritage Conservation Directorate:

- Sustainable Heritage Rating System
- Sustainable Heritage Guide
- Green Heritage Projects

## Parks Canada- Historic Places Initiative:

- Forum on Sustainable Heritage Conservation Initiatives
- Sustainable Historic Places: a Background Paper
- Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada- second edition

# Sustainable Heritage Rating System- 1

- Intended for use on PWGSC heritage properties
- Based on Green Globes Existing Buildings /Design
- Intended to be an online tool, links to related references such as *Standards and Guidelines*
- Collaboration with ECD Energy and Environment, PWGSC Environmental Services / Office for Greening Government and private sector consultants
- SHRS ‘Guidance Document’ available for consultation

## Sustainable Heritage Rating System- 2

### Scoring

20% (was 0%)	Heritage/Socio-cultural sustainability
5% (was 5%)	Environmental Management
8% (was 11.5%)	Site
28% (was 38%)	Energy
6.5% (was 8.5%)	Water
11.5% (was 10%)	Resources, Building materials+ Waste
6.5% (was 7%)	Emissions, Effluents + Other impacts
14.5% (was 20%)	Indoor environment
100%	Total

---

## Sustainable Heritage Rating System- 3

### Strategies:

- Integrated Design Process includes conservation specialists
- Identifying historic sustainability characteristics
- Understanding and documenting existing performance
- Using appropriate technologies
- Following principles of minimal intervention in maintenance, repair and adaptation
- Design durable upgrades or additions with a compatible service life

# Sustainable Heritage Guide

- For PWGSC property + project managers
- Based on lessons learned from the SHRS
- Challenge of providing guidance on rating systems
- Guidance for typical environmental objectives
- Documenting available references
- Draft document to be finalized in 2009

## **Green Heritage Projects: For ex. the Library of Parliament**

- Reusing the building materials and site
- Diverting CRD waste by 82% (15,000 cubic yards),
- Removal of toxic materials (lead and asbestos)
- Materials salvaging (copper) for new use
- Durable replacement materials
- Upgrading mechanical and lighting systems
- Improving temperature and RH controls
- Adding new thermal windows at each opening

# Forum on Sustainable Heritage Conservation Initiatives

Parks Canada Historic Places Branch led initiative

- One day meeting on February 27, 2008
- Participants:
  - Parks Canada, PWGSC, Heritage Canada, RAIC, Athena, CaGBC, NRCan, CMHC, Evergreen
- Scoping related initiatives:
  - research, projects, training, publications, policy, standards, etc

# Sustainable Historic Places: A Background Paper

Parks Canada Historic Places Branch led initiative

- Authored by Susan Ross and Andrew Powter, HCD-PWGSC, in Feb.2005
- Updated January 2008
- Available in English and French

# Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada

Parks Canada Historic Places Branch led initiative

Second edition, coordinated by HCD-PWGSC 2007-09,  
Planned publication in 2010

Includes integration of sustainability considerations:

- Throughout the conservation decision-making cycle
- Connecting common principles
- Addressing cultural landscapes, districts, ecosystems
- Fully integrating guidelines for energy efficiency and other sustainability based interventions



# Thank You!

Susan M. Ross, OAQ,  
MRAIC, LEED AP

Senior Conservation Architect  
Heritage Conservation  
Directorate- PWGSC  
Gatineau, Quebec

[susan.ross@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:susan.ross@pwgsc.gc.ca)

