

Step up
for
History



BCHF
BRITISH COLUMBIA
HISTORICAL FEDERATION

#stepupforhistory

April 11, 2017

Christy Clark, Leader of the BC Liberal Party
John Horgan, Leader of the BC New Democratic Party
Andrew Weaver, Leader of the BC Green Party

Dear Party Leaders,

I am President of the British Columbia Historical Federation — a federation of over 100 not-for-profit societies working to promote, preserve, and mark historical sites and cultural landscapes and share the wealth of stories and documents that sustain British Columbia's historical community. We also encourage historical research and stimulate public interest through our quarterly magazine, *British Columbia History*.

Since 1922 our members have worked hard, budgeted carefully, and brought the best of themselves to the communities they live in through operating museums and interpretive centres, tending historic sites, community halls, trails, and cemeteries; researching the stories that make community; and supporting community events that honour cultural diversity. Every day, our members engage with issues along the path to reconciliation. Their passion is our strength, and it lives equally in small communities throughout BC as in larger centres.

We believe that support of history and heritage — far beyond the splash of Canada 150 — needs to be part of the election dialogue, and part of ongoing conversations around the cabinet table.

In our *Step Up for History* Election 2017 campaign, we are challenging our members to do just that — step up to the mic for history, and ask that history be a conspicuous part of the pre-election debate. Candidates should look out for Federation members during public events and meetings in the election lead-up, and think hard about how they intend to support provincial history and the not-for-profit historical community in BC over the next four years.

Each of us knows well that history has profoundly shaped our province. We also know that the patterns of history and its habits of mind reach into all disciplines and pursuits in some way: art, science, education, medicine, law, agriculture, politics at every level, sport, and the list goes on.

Our collective stories and the power they unleash in communities must be vibrant parts of our province's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Jane Watt', written in a cursive style.

K. Jane Watt, PhD
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