

Step up
for
History



BCHF
#stepupforhistory

September 1, 2018

Dear local government candidates,

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 council and regional government tables.

In our *Step Up for History* Election 2018 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
President, British Columbia Historical Federation
Box 448
Fort Langley BC
V1M 2R7

jane@bchistory
www.bchistory.ca