



2nd Annual Heritage Summit



November 17, 10:00 – 12:00 (Online)

Program



Welcome

(Jody Robinson, QAHN President)

Introduction from Moderator

(Rod MacLeod)

QAHN Update

(Matthew Farfan, Executive Director)

Open Discussion

Evolving Narratives, Changing Perspectives

Canadians bring a wide variety of experiences to heritage and historical narratives. Ensuring that we approach and recognize history from different perspectives affords us a better sense of how history works. How can we include the perspectives of Indigenous nations, racialized groups, people of diverse religious backgrounds, and the LGBTQ+ community in our work to make for a richer appreciation of our past - and our present? How have you and your organization taken up this challenge? What are some of the impacts it has had?

AI: Friend or Foe

There is no question that Artificial Intelligence is bringing revolutionary change to our lives, including the practice of history and heritage. New ways to facilitate historical research with AI are rapidly increasing. Many have embraced these opportunities, while others do not feel fully informed as to the extent of what is “out there” nor entirely at ease with the technology. Some are fearful, concerned for AI’s reliability, its environmental consequences, the effects it might have on employment, and the ethical issues it raises. Has AI changed the way you and your organization conduct research, create content, engage with the public, and employ staff? If not, is the result of insufficient comfort with AI, or is it a deliberate choice?



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Youth: Getting them, keeping them

It is almost a cliché among heritage organizations that getting young people involved is an uphill battle. Yet, there is plenty of evidence that young people are very interested in local history and eager to take part in preserving heritage; what they are less keen on is the committee work and detailed reporting long associated with publicly funded organizations, as well as the sense that seasoned volunteers always know best. While acknowledging that bureaucracy inevitably goes with the territory for heritage organizations, we might do well to consider the youth “problem” from young people’s point of view. What have been your experiences with this sort of out-of-the-box thinking? What can be learned from meeting the youth where they are?

Government, Heritage and the English-Speaking Community

Applying and reporting to government funders is a core aspect of running a heritage group, with the added challenge for English-speaking organizations of having to deal with levels of bureaucracy that can seem unsympathetic to the needs of the linguistic minority. By the time this Heritage Summit takes place there may well be a different party in power in Quebec, with a different attitude towards Anglophone heritage than in the recent past. What do you envisage as the greatest political challenges ahead for those seeking to promote Anglophone heritage, and what are likely the best tactics for coping with such challenges?

Next steps: Follow-up to the Heritage Summit (Rod MacLeod)

