
SECTION A

Description of the Heritage Fairs Program

The Heritage Fair is a multi-media education program developed to increase awareness and interest in Canadian history. The Heritage Fair actively involves Canada's young people, schools, businesses and community organizations in a contemporary celebration of Canada's shared traditions and history.

The primary focus of the Fair is to encourage students to use the medium of their choice to tell stories and share information about Canadian people, events, buildings and places, and to provide a venue for students to present the results of their efforts to the community at large. Students in grades 4-9 are eligible to participate.

All projects must be based upon historical research and be created by the student. Teachers and parents are encouraged to help the student without assuming ownership of the project.

Heritage Fair Dates For 2005: May 5th to 8th

Many local schools and divisions will hold Fairs prior to that date to feed into the Regional Heritage Fairs. In Saskatchewan, the following sites will host regional heritage fairs: Saskatoon, Regina, Humboldt, Moose Jaw and Meadow Lake.

The objective of the Fair is not to win, but rather to **gain knowledge** of a particular aspect of Canadian history and to **share** it with our fellow Canadians.

Goals and Objectives

- To heighten awareness of Canadian heritage.
- To celebrate Canada's cultural diversity.
- To promote and publicize the variety and uniqueness of our heritage.
- To create an exciting learning environment for students of history.
- To encourage individuals and communities to celebrate their part in Canada's history.

The History of the Canadian Heritage Fairs Program

The Heritage Fair Program was initiated in 1993 by Charles R. Bronfman, who has made the cause of raising awareness of Canada's history his own. Historica also sponsors student-centred learning resources for kindergarten to grade 12.

Saskatchewan Heritage Fairs Vision

The Saskatchewan Heritage Fairs is part of a national initiative that involves over 965 communities who host Regional Heritage Fairs simultaneously in May. In 1997, Saskatchewan's first Regional Heritage Fair was held in Saskatoon. Regina joined the Fair project in 1998. In recent years, the Fairs has expanded to include outlying areas of Saskatchewan in keeping with its vision of ensuring equal opportunity for participation by every single student in every single school.

Management and Coordination

Historica provides human, technical, and financial resources towards the Heritage Fairs in Saskatchewan and is the primary source of funding for the National Heritage Fair.

Saskatchewan Learning will promote the Heritage Fairs in the schools throughout the province by facilitating the dissemination of information regarding the program directly to schools.

Teachers and extracurricular facilitators in social studies, language arts, math, science, technical studies, music and art have a unique opportunity to bring out the best in their students.

Community Involvement

The Saskatchewan Heritage Fairs Program is designed as an opportunity for schools, communities, government agencies and heritage/cultural organizations to work together. Local organizing structures may involve Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, historical societies, museums, libraries, school boards, government agencies, and many volunteers.

Educators are invited to oversee the organization of the school's participation and to ensure that students derive maximum educational benefit from their involvement in the program. It is intended that the Heritage Fairs be community-based, with organizing partners providing support for the schools. An Organizing Committee composed of representatives from the community may include the municipal government, entrepreneurs and heritage groups as well as school representatives' assist in organizing the Fair at the local level.

Local businesses, government agencies, service and social clubs, museums and heritage/historical groups can be invited to participate as exhibitors at the Fair, and to serve as resource centres for students in the research and completion of their projects. They can also assist with fundraising and contributions of goods and services in kind.

The Heritage Fair is open to the general public. The Fair encourages attendance by youth and seniors organizations through the local press and media.

National Heritage Fair

The culmination of the Regional Heritage Fairs in each province is the National Heritage Fair, which is held each year in mid-July. A judging panel at the Regional Heritage Fair level selects fifteen students from each province. **One student per project will attend the National Heritage Fair.** The National Heritage Fair is solely sponsored by Historica.

The Heritage Press E-Zine is an online magazine that focuses on National Heritage Fair week. Heritage fair alumni publish their stories on various events carried out during the week through the Internet site.

Table One: Past National Fairs

Year	Location
1997	Kingston, Ontario
1998	St. Boniface, Manitoba
1999	Edmonton, Alberta
2000	Ottawa-Hull, Ontario/Quebec
2001	Kamloops, British Columbia
2002	St. John's, Newfoundland
2003	Sudbury, Ontario
2004	Montreal, Quebec
2005	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
2006	Halifax, Nova Scotia