

# Barkerville

A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

September 17, 2024

Mayor and Council of the City of Prince George  
Chair and Directors of the Regional District of Fraser Fort George

I am writing to you as the City of Prince George and Regional District of Fraser Fort George nominee on the Barkerville Heritage Trust (BHT). As you know BHT was established in 2004 and officially took over the responsibility of managing Barkerville on April 1, 2005 under a Heritage Site Management Agreement (HSMA) with the Province of BC. Cottonwood House was added later as an additional heritage site.

The combined Barkerville/Cottonwood HSMA expires on March 31, 2025 and the Province has decided to put the contract out for bid under an open procurement process to commence later this fall. While BHT doesn't expect there to be many competing bids for this service, we are asking the stakeholder communities and organizations that founded BHT to provide us with a letter of support for our renewal bid.

BHT believes that it has a proven track record in heritage conservation, unique authentic historic interpretation, education and tourism attraction. In the past few years BHT has broadened its scope to embrace additional community engagement through Truth and Reconciliation and cultural diversity and enrichment programming.

BHT has also been successful in managing significant environmental and financial challenges in the past four years (including the Antler Creek fire this summer) and are confident that our proposal will demonstrate that BHT has a clear vision and a financially sustainable plan to ensure that Barkerville remains a world class heritage site in Canada.

I have attached a letter of support template for your convenience.  
Thank you for your continued support,

Sincerely,

 *Kirk Gable*

Kirk Gable  
Director

*We live and work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the  
Dakelh and Secwepemc Peoples*  
**BARKERVILLE HERITAGE TRUST**  
Barkerville Historic Town and Park and Cottonwood House Historic Site



**Barkerville Historic Town**

Box 19, Barkerville, British Columbia V0K 1B0 Canada • [www.barkerville.ca](http://www.barkerville.ca) • 1-888-994-3332

CHARITABLE REG. NO. 86376 6234 RR0001

[Your Organization's Letterhead]

[Date]

The Barkerville Heritage Trust  
Box 19 - 14301 Highway 26 East  
Barkerville, BC V0K 1B0

**Re: Barkerville Procurement Process – Letter of support**

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of [*Your Organization's Name*], please accept this letter of support for the Barkerville Heritage Trust's bid for management and operation of Barkerville Historic Town and Cottonwood Historic Site. We believe that the Trust is uniquely positioned to manage this significant heritage site and uphold its legacy for future generations.

Here are some key reasons why we support the BHT's bid: [*Feel free to choose a few that fit your mandate, or add your own instead*]

- **Proven Track Record:** For over 20 years, the BHT has demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving and promoting Barkerville's rich history. Their experience and expertise in heritage management make them exceptionally qualified for this role.
- **Heritage Conservation:** The BHT has long been a leader in the protection and conservation of heritage property in BC, whose experienced staff work to conserve some of BC's most important cultural and natural resources.
- **Historic Interpretation:** Barkerville's award winning living history interpretation offers a unique educational and entertainment experience for visitors of all ages.
- **Truth and Reconciliation:** The BHT has made Truth and Reconciliation a key element of programming in order to address the ongoing legacies of colonialism, showing commitment to building healing and mutually respectful relationships and encouraging dialogue about the historic and contemporary contributions of Indigenous people to Canadian Society.
- **Commitment to Education:** The BHT has a robust educational mandate, providing engaging programs and resources that enhance public understanding of Barkerville's historical and cultural significance. Their educational initiatives align with national and provincial goals for heritage education.
- **Community Engagement:** The BHT has a well-established network of local volunteers, stakeholders, and partners, and provides a spectacular a venue for community events and cultural celebrations.
- **Sustainability:** The BHT is dedicated to sustainable practices in both preservation and operations. Their approach includes environmental stewardship and financial sustainability, ensuring the long-term viability of the site.
- **Cultural Enrichment:** Under the BHT's stewardship, Barkerville has flourished as a vibrant cultural hub, offering visitors an immersive experience that reflects the multi-cultural history of

the region. Their continued leadership will ensure that this cultural treasure remains a dynamic and evolving part of our heritage landscape.

- **Diversity:** The BHT represents and shares the diverse cultural history of the region, including the experiences of early settlers, Indigenous peoples, and immigrant communities from around the globe.
- **Innovation and Vision:** The BHT has demonstrated innovation in their approach to managing historical sites, incorporating modern technologies and methodologies that enhance visitor experiences while respecting historical integrity.
- **Economic benefits:** Barkerville is the region's major tourism attraction, which supports local businesses and creates jobs. The economic activity generated by visitors contributes significantly to the surrounding communities and helps sustain the local economy.
- **Tourism Attraction:** As a major heritage tourism destination, Barkerville draws visitors from across the country and around the world. The BHT's continued operation helps maintain British Columbia's reputation as a destination rich in historical and cultural experiences.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** The BHT's preservation efforts include maintaining the natural landscape around the historic town, contributing to environmental conservation and sustainable tourism practices.

Supporting the Barkerville Heritage Trust's bid aligns with the broader objectives of preserving our national and provincial heritage. Your expertise, dedication, and vision make you the ideal stewards for Barkerville, ensuring that it continues to serve as an important educational and cultural resource.

We are confident that your leadership will contribute significantly to the preservation and enrichment of this historic site.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[Your Organization]

[Your Contact Information]