

# We are storytellers, protecting cultural heritage

## Careers in Cultural Heritage at Parks Canada

There are dozens of unique and exciting careers at Parks Canada. While students may be familiar with some of the jobs in Parks Canada administered places, there are many other interesting jobs in cultural heritage to explore! Introduce students to the job titles below and see if they have an idea of what the job might entail. Then read the descriptions. Have a conversation with students about at which Parks Canada locations you might find these careers.

### 1. Built Heritage

#### **Built Heritage Experts**

Built Heritage experts at Parks Canada are responsible for making sure that historic buildings are maintained and repaired properly so they keep their historic character and last a long time. These architects, advisors and craftspersons work on all kinds of structures including stone fortifications, log cabins, historic homes, government buildings, and even lighthouses and cemeteries.

#### **Historical Craftspersons**

Historical craftspersons at Parks Canada do physical construction work on National Historic Sites and culturally important places from coast to coast to coast. They specialize in carpentry, masonry, and blacksmithing, and they use the old ways of working which we call "heritage trades." These craftspeople do hands-on work to maintain and conserve historic buildings so that they keep their historical value over time.

### 2. Archaeology

#### **Terrestrial Archaeologists**

Terrestrial archaeologists at Parks Canada are responsible for the management and protection of objects or places that can be found lying on top of the ground or buried in the earth. Often discovered during excavation projects, these archaeological resources allow us to understand the people who once inhabited the land.

#### **Underwater Archaeology**

Underwater archaeologists at Parks Canada explore archaeological sites found below the surface of oceans, rivers, and lakes. They carefully study artifacts, structures, and features to reconstruct and explain the lives of people in the past. In addition to shipwrecks, underwater archaeologists study submerged Indigenous sites and remains of historic structures such as wharves.

### 3. History Services

#### **Historians**

Historians at Parks Canada help tell the stories of places, persons, and events that are important to the history of Canada. Through historical research, they support the creation of the guided tours and exhibits at national historic sites so visitors can learn and understand the different stories of those important places.

### 4. Collections and Curatorial

#### **Collections Specialists**

Collections specialists at Parks Canada manage the collections of historical and archaeological objects. They help care for objects by safely packing them, organizing them, storing them, and sending them to sites for exhibits.

#### **Collection Curators**

Curators at Parks Canada research objects and design exhibits to help visitors learn about the history of Canada's national historic sites.

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### 5. Conservation and Conservation Sciences

#### **Preventive Conservator**

Preventive Conservators at Parks Canada advise on environmental conditions, lighting, security, object handling, and exhibit case materials to protect artifacts and reduce the speed of their degradation. Recommendations depend on material types and the chemical compositions of the artifacts or collections they are preserving.

#### **Conservation Scientists**

Conservation scientists specialized in material science and chemistry at Parks Canada use their expertise to test and identify artifact and sample compositions. Their analysis of the collected data tells stories about the provenience, age, creator, use, and purpose of the artifact.

#### **Artifact Reproduction Specialists**

Artifact reproductions specialists at Parks Canada reproduce historical and archaeological objects while they care for and preserve the original artifacts. Their work allows the public to have access to collections that could otherwise not travel or be handled due to their fragility. Their artifact reproductions can be used in exhibitions, interpretation activities, and for research purposes.

#### **Artifact Conservators**

Artifact conservators at Parks Canada treat artifacts such as paintings, sculpture, books, paper, textiles, furniture, metals, ceramics, and glass. Conservators describe the artifact's condition, write reports, stabilize, and recommend treatment, handling or storage for long-term preservation.

#### **Imaging Specialist**

Cultural Heritage imaging specialists at Parks Canada help us better understand artifacts by using specialty lighting and imaging methods – like 3D and x-rays! – to reveal hidden details. These specialists are professional photographers who work in a studio with powerful cameras and tools that make objects come to life in images, and create visual records that last forever.