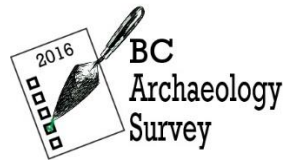


# BC CRM: A snapshot of industry opinions, 2016/2017

**Cultural Resource Management (CRM)** works to manage impacts to and learn from more than 50,000 known archaeological sites that represent over 14,000 years of human occupation. We do so on behalf of industry, under the regulatory guidance of the [Archaeology Branch](#) (Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations, MFLNRO), in compliance with the [Heritage Conservation Act](#) (HCA), and in cooperation with First Nations communities.



The **2016 BC Archaeology Survey** collected the opinions of more than 200 professionals in CRM and allied industries

on the challenges and prospects of heritage management in BC ([learn more and see all the results here](#)). The following is a general summary of the survey results.

## Major currents



1. There are debilitating, systemic problems with regulatory management
2. Public & corporate understanding of archaeology and heritage are low and lead to problems with protection and compliance
3. CRM industry wants and needs clear guidance on and support for consultation and shared decision-making with First Nations

## Biggest challenges



1. Poor understanding of archaeology and CRM by public & industry
2. Provincial regulatory system lacking resources to fulfill obligations
3. Heritage Conservation Act not adequately enforced
4. Insufficient role for First Nations in regulatory system
5. Insufficient care and respect for First Nations' cultural inheritance

## Primary reasons for challenges



- Chronic underfunding of the BC Archaeology Branch resulting in deficiencies in budgetary resources, staff, experience, and leadership
- Heritage management system fails to respect archaeology as an Indigenous inheritance and include Indigenous people in meaningful decision-making
- Lack of transparency, support and leadership from regulators

## Regulatory mandate?

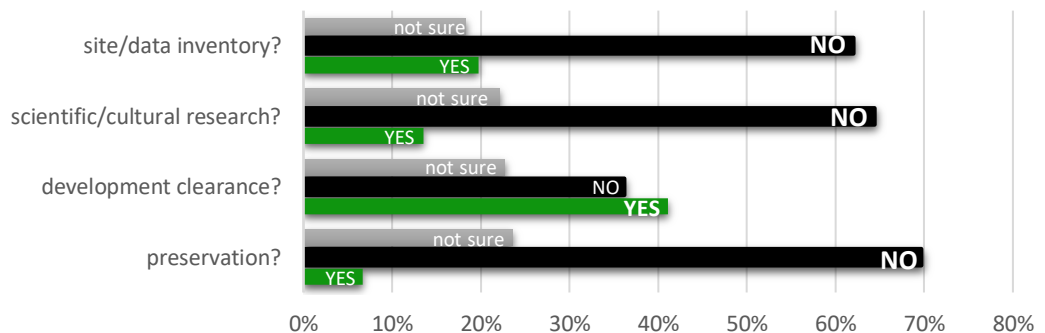


- The primary role of the Archaeology Branch should be
1. Managing sites for preservation (39%)
  2. Managing site and data Inventory (29%)
  3. Managing sites for cultural and scientific research (14%)
  4. Managing sites for development clearance (9%)

## Report Card:

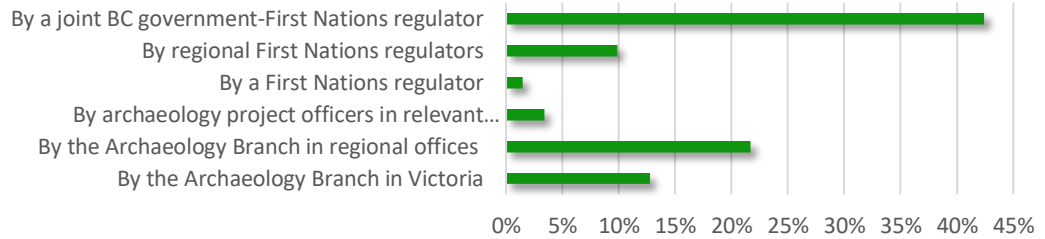
How do CRM professionals think the archaeology Branch is doing?

### Is the Archaeology Branch effectively managing sites for:



**The future:** How should regulatory archaeology be managed?

### Regulatory archaeology should be managed...



- Only 13% of respondents want to see the current system continue (management by the Archaeology Branch in Victoria)
- 53% of respondents would like to see a greater regulatory role for First Nations

**The Heritage Conservation Act:** biggest concerns



1. Lack of protection for intangible cultural heritage
  2. Lack of automatic protection for post-1846 heritage
  3. Characterization of Indigenous burial places as archaeological sites (giving authority for care to archaeologists not inheriting communities)
  4. Lack of decision-making power to First Nation inheritor communities
- 86.4% of respondents would support redrafting the HCA

**Costs**



- Costs of CRM archaeology should be subsidized for: homeowners (81%), small business (44%), First Nations on reserve (73%), big business (10%)
- Money could be generated by: fines for site damage, fees for HCA permits, resource tax, share of consumption tax, industry-level securities/legacy fund

**Involving Indigenous communities**



- 72% of respondents think provincial government should be implementing the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People](#) (UNDRIP) and the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's](#) (TRC) [Calls to Action](#) in heritage
- 62% think all parties (archaeologists, proponents, BC, First Nations) have a role in obtaining free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) for heritage work
- Only 2% of respondents believe the Archaeology Branch is very effective at consulting with First Nations on potential infringements to rights and FPIC.

But this can be improved:

- 63% think scope of consultation should be mutually negotiated to increase success
- 77% think engagement could be improved by the addition of dedicated Aboriginal engagement staff in the Branch

**In so many words:** a critical lack of capacity, resources and direction from the BC government has had an adverse effect on cultural heritage resources, on First Nations' interests, and on the businesses that strive to manage heritage responsibly. A poorly staffed, inefficient regulatory agency is not providing credible leadership or good business service, and is jeopardizing the province's ability to act as responsible stewards of our cultural heritage.

- **The BC Archaeology Branch needs** more money and more minds to operate at the speed of business and to fulfill BC's existing obligations to our cultural heritage and to Indigenous communities.
- **Heritage professionals need** more support and guidance in developing new kinds of relationships and processes for the equitable management of BC's irreplaceable heritage.
- **First Nations need** more direct and meaningful opportunities to exercise control over the research and management of their cultural inheritance.