

Affairs and National Resources to develop, interpret, operate and maintain historic parks and sites and to act as the Board's secretariat.

Policy

In 1968, for the first time, a policy statement on national historic sites was tabled in the House of Commons by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Among other things, the statement elaborated the criteria for the designation of national historic sites for the benefit of Parliament and the public.

For commemoration, a site or structure must be closely associated with a person, place or event of national historic importance, must illustrate the cultural, social, political, economic or military patterns of history, a prehistoric people or an archaeological discovery, or must be valuable as an example of an architectural style.

The policy statement also included guidelines for the provision of visitor services, interpretative programs and the promotion of information for the public. Standards for the preservation, restoration and reconstruction of structures were established, stressing the authenticity of materials, furnishings and artifacts. The policy also recognized the need for a comprehensive plan to give full thematic and geographical representation and to establish a long-range program to facilitate the development of parks based on such themes as exploration and social, cultural, economic and prehistoric events.

Advisers

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has 15 members — two representatives each from Ontario and Quebec, one from each of the eight other provinces, and one representative each from the National Museums of Canada, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Dominion Archivist (*ex officio*). An amendment to the Historic Sites and Monuments Act to include one representative from each of the territories was presented to Parliament in the autumn of 1976.

In advising the minister on the commemoration of places, persons and events of national historical importance, the Board may recommend that sites, buildings and other structures be developed as national historic parks or sites. Events may also be commemorated by