

# EXPLORING THE PAST

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Besides being Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, 2017 also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of our first National Historic Site. But the government of Canada has also chosen national historic people and national historic events we need to know about. There are hundreds of these special places all over the country that show something important about our past. Provide your students with the attached map of Canada and tokens to mark each Canadian historic site, person and event studied. For a quick introduction you can read the article "Protecting the Past" on pages 18 - 19 in the Happy Birthday Canada issue of *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*.

Here are five national historic people, sites and events to get you started. The details provided are from Parks Canada's website. For more sites, people, and events you can also search the Directory of Federal Heritage Designations.

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## EMILY CARR

**Where:** 207 Government Street, Victoria, British Columbia

**Date of Designation:** May 5, 1950

**Life Date:** 1871 to 1945

**Importance:** Noted painter and writer

Artist and author Emily Carr was born here and lived most of her life in this neighbourhood of Victoria where she died. Her compelling canvases of the British Columbia landscape offer a unique vision of the forest and shore, while her documentation of Indian villages provides a valuable anthropological record. Lively accounts of Emily Carr's travels in the province are collected in "Klee Wyck", for which she won the Governor General's Award for non-fiction in 1941. Six other autobiographical works are memorable accounts of her world.

Emily Carr self-portrait, 1899  
© Library and Archives Canada / R11626, e006078795



## PITIKWAHANAPIWIYIN (POUNDMAKER)

**Where:** Cut Knife Hill, Saskatchewan

**Importance:** Plains Cree chief and spokesman, sought better treaty terms for Saskatchewan bands; Northwest Rebellion 1885

**Date of Designation:** October 23, 1967

**Life Date:** 1826 to 1886

Outstanding Cree chief and spokesman, he sought better treaty terms for the bands of this area. During the 1885 Rebellion he repulsed Lt. Col. Otter's attack on his reserve at Cut Knife but exercised restraint upon his followers. Imprisoned as a rebel, he died in Alberta after his early release.

Pitikwahanapiwiyyin (Poundmaker)

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## PERSONS CASE NATIONAL HISTORIC EVENT

**Where:** Edmonton, Alberta

**Designation Date:** June 1, 1997

**Dates of Significance:** 1929

**Importance:** Cleared the way for the appointment of women to the Senate; established that Canadian women were full persons, equal to men

Emily Murphy Park Emily Murphy Park Road  
NW, Edmonton, Alberta.

The Persons Case is a landmark legal decision in the struggle of Canadian women for equality. Although most women were given the right to vote in federal elections and to hold seats in the House of Commons in 1918, their eligibility for appointment to the Senate remained in question. When five Alberta women, Emily Murphy, Henrietta Muir Edwards, Louise McKinney, Nellie McClung and Irene Parlby, campaigned to have a woman named to the Senate, their request was denied on the grounds that women were not included among the "persons" eligible for Senate appointments under Section 24 of the British



*Persons Case © Library and Archives Canada / C-054523, n.d.*

North America Act (1867). This interpretation was upheld when the matter was referred to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1928. The women appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, at the time the highest court in the British Empire. On October 18, 1929, the Committee ruled that women were included under the term "persons" in Section 24 of the Act, and were thus eligible for appointment to the Senate of Canada.

## WRECKS OF HMS EREBUS AND HMS TERROR

**Where:** Queen Maud Gulf,  
King William Island, Nunavut

**Designation Date:** 1992

It is believed that the site is located somewhere in the Canadian Arctic, comprising the remains of two 19th-century three-masted, wooden vessels, HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. Led by Captain Sir John Franklin during an attempt to navigate and map a Northwest Passage through the Arctic, both vessels were eventually trapped and wrecked by pack ice.

### Heritage Value

Erebus and Terror site was designated a national historic site of Canada in 1992 because: of the ships' association with Franklin's last expeditions. In 1845, Captain Sir John Franklin sailed from the United Kingdom in search of a Northwest Passage through what is now the Canadian Arctic. He and his crew travelled aboard the 370-tonne HMS Erebus and the 340-tonne HMS Terror, each of which had been refitted and strengthened for polar service and contained equipment to conduct zoological, botanical, magnetic and geologic surveys. Originally designed as sail-powered naval mortar bomb vessels, these wooden ships were of extremely strong construction. For Franklin's expedition the vessels were fitted with iron sheathing at the bow and equipped with a 20-horsepower steam engine and a single screw propeller, capable of moving the ships at 4 knots. Other than a chance encounter with a whaling vessel in 1845, Franklin, his crew and his vessels were never seen again. There were several unsuccessful search and rescue operations; however, no news of the crew was discovered until fifteen years later. In 1859, Captain William Hobson of HMS Fox found a message in a cairn on King William Island.



The message gave the locations of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror and stated that in 1846 the crews were preparing to over-winter while the ships were lodged in pack ice. There was also a message penned by the captain of Terror and dated 17 months later. He recorded that the ships had been stuck in the ice for a year-and-a-half, and that Franklin and several crew members had perished. The survivors were making for Back's Fish River, to the southeast, but were never heard from again. Captain Sir John Franklin was designated as a person of national historic significance in 1945 because of his explorations in the Canadian Arctic during the 19th century.

### Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that contribute to the heritage character of the site include: its location in the Canadian Arctic, in Queen Maud Gulf, Nunavut; any remains of the wooden construction of the vessels, the iron sheathing at the bow, the copper hull sheathing, and the 20-horsepower steam engine with a propeller drive; the integrity of any surviving or as yet unidentified archaeological remains which may be found within the site in their original placement and extent, including tools, personal effects, armaments and any other nautical paraphernalia.



## L'ANSE AUX MEADOWS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

**Where:** 11 kms north of Saint-Luniare, St. Anthony, Newfoundland and Labrador. **Designation Date:** 1975

Plaque is located in interpretive center 11 kms north of Saint-Luniare, Newfoundland and Labrador. Discovered in 1960, this is the first authenticated Norse site found in North America and could be Leif Ericsson's short-lived Vinland camp. Some time about AD 1000 Norse seafarers established a base here from which they explored southwards. The traces of bog iron found - the first known example of iron smelting in the new world - in conjunction with evidence of carpentry suggest that boat repair was an important activity. The distance from their homelands and conflict with Native people may have led the Norse to abandon the site.

### Description of Historic Place

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site of Canada comprises the archaeological remains of an early Viking settlement situated on the eastern shore of Epaves Bay, 1 km south of the village of L'Anse aux Meadows at the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula in Newfoundland. Parks Canada has erected a partial reconstruction of the habitation for purposes of public presentation.

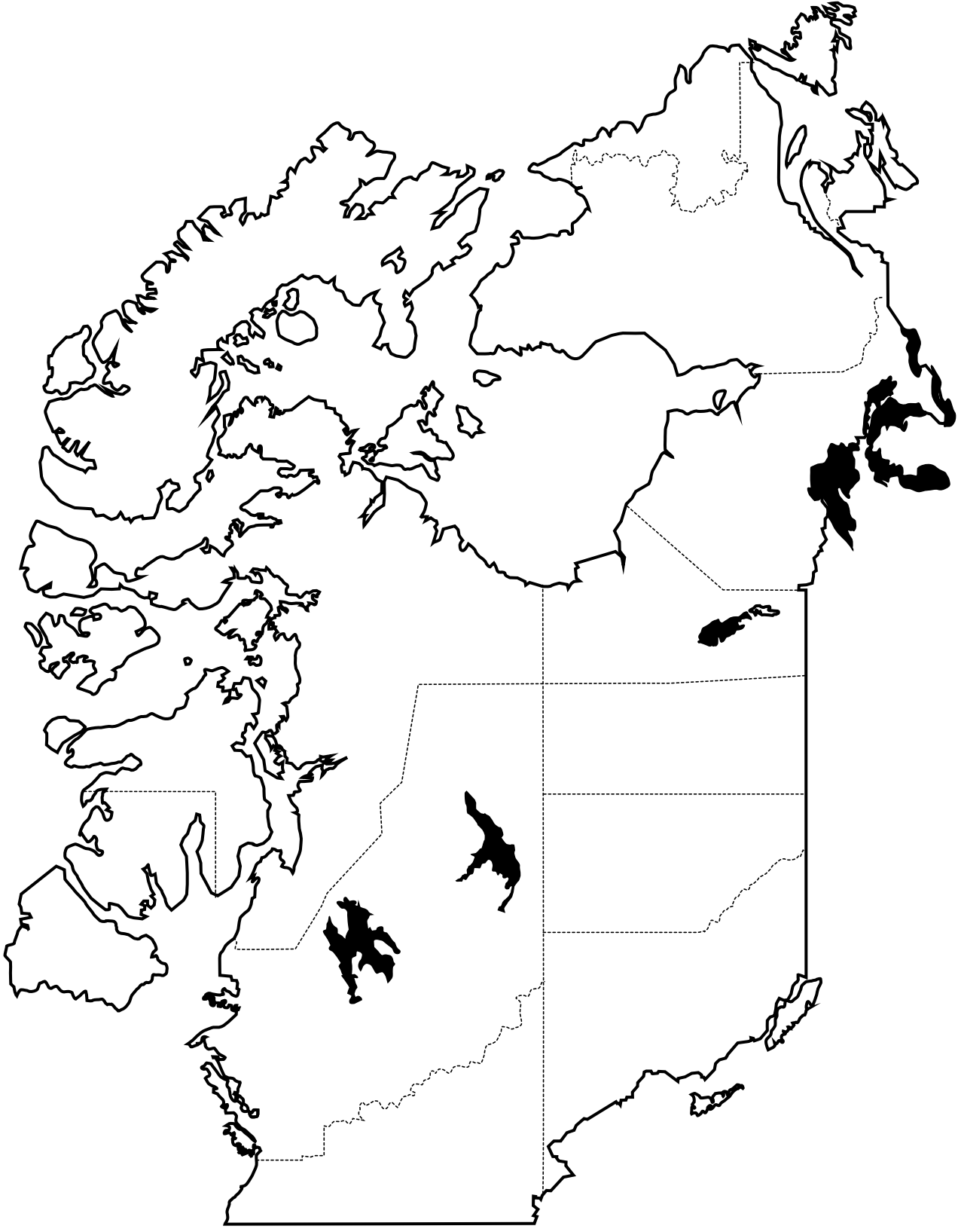
### Heritage Value

L'Anse aux Meadows was designated a national historic site of Canada in 1962 because it is the first known site established by Vikings in North America, and the earliest evidence of Europeans in Canada. The heritage value of the site lies in the archaeological evidence of early Viking presence in Canada. The location, surroundings and disposition of the site together with the nature of the remains it contains provide both an essential record

and legible description of Viking life on the site. In ca. 1000 AD, l'Anse aux Meadows was established as exploration base Leifsbuoir/ Straumfjord, popularly known as Leif Ericsson's short-lived Vinland camp. It has been conserved and interpreted as a national historic site of Canada.

### Character-Defining Elements

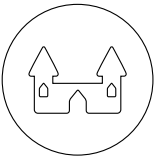
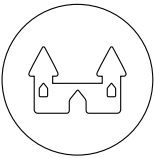
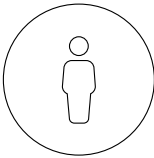
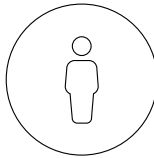


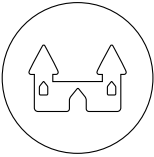
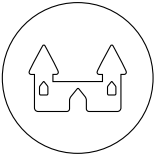
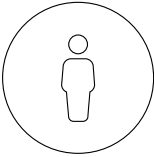
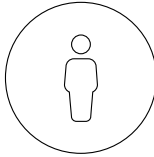


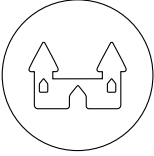
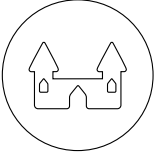

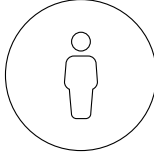


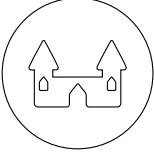
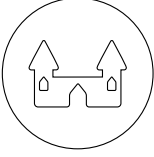
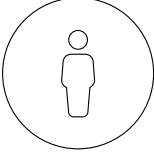
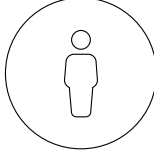


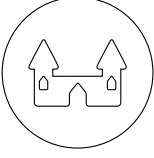
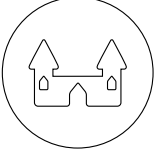
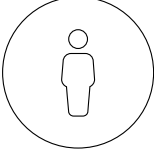
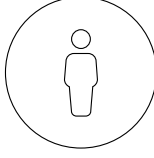


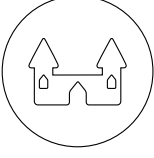
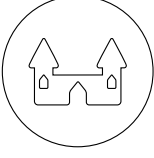
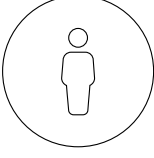
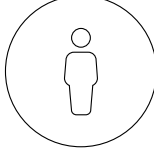


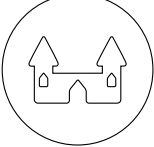
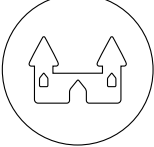
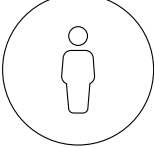
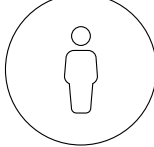


Key elements contributing to the heritage value include: location on the very northern edge of the Great Northern Peninsula on the Strait of Belle Isle; the siting on a narrow dry terrace back from the beach and bounded by sedge peat bogs; the layout of the site as three grouped complexes of eight separate building remains, associated structures and middens; the archaeological remains of sod walls and timber frames; archaeological evidence of specific functions including dwellings, an iron-making bloomery, refuse pits, and boat repair sites; presence of fresh water brook, bog iron ore; the spatial relationships between and among remains on the site; views to nearby surroundings (bogs, small brook, and harbour basin), neighbouring coves; views to landmarks marking the route from the site to the sea (Great Sacred Island, Flat Island, distinctive capes and knolls), viewplanes over the Strait of Belle Isle, the offshore islands, the Labrador coast.



**MAP OF CANADA**

# SITES, PEOPLE, AND EVENTS

Use these tokens to represent national historic sites, people, and events on the map of Canada.

SITES		PEOPLE		EVENTS	
					
					
					
					
					
					
					

# PARKS CANADA BEAVER

Use this generic token to represent any national historic sites, people and places.

