

PARKS CANADA



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Government of Canada Working to Preserve Halifax's Heritage and Commemorates Local Father of Confederation

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA--(Marketwire - June 4, 2010) - The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of the Environment and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, today announced that the Government of Canada is taking important steps to preserve Halifax's historical heritage by investing in infrastructure improvements at four important sites; St. Paul's Anglican Church, Old Burying Ground, Halifax Public Gardens and Memorial Tower National Historic Sites. In addition, Minister Prentice commemorated the national historic significance of John William Ritchie, who orchestrated Nova Scotia's smooth entry into Confederation on 1 July 1867.

"The Government of Canada has taken a leadership role in the protection and promotion of Canada's invaluable and irreplaceable historical heritage," said Minister Prentice. "This funding, provided as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan and of Parks Canada's Cost-Sharing Program, will ensure the preservation of some of Halifax's most treasured national historic sites and help foster a healthy local economy and thriving tourism industry."

"This important investment in four sites which left a mark on the history and development of the City of Halifax, shows the willingness of the Government of Canada to put in place the necessary means to enhance the heritage value of four historic places of our Country and to preserve them for future generations, said the Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence and Member of Parliament for Central Nova.

The Government of Canada will be contributing up to \$955,580 to support heritage conservation projects in Halifax such as St. Paul's Anglican Church, Old Burying Ground, Halifax Public Gardens and Memorial Tower National Historic Sites which represent significant periods in the history of Halifax.

"We are pleased the National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program is going to provide funding to these important National Historic Sites," said Mayor Peter Kelly, Halifax Regional Municipality. "This support will help us ensure these much-loved treasures are enjoyed by future generations."

The funding announcement was followed by a ceremony to unveil a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque commemorating John William Ritchie, one of the Fathers of Confederation, as a person of national historic significance.

John William Ritchie was a Nova Scotian delegate to the 1866 London Conference that not only finalized terms for Canadian union but made state recognition for Roman Catholic schools a provincial decision, removing a significant barrier to Maritime participation.

For additional information, please see the accompanying backgrounders at www.parkscanada.gc.ca under **Media Room**.

<http://twitter.com/JimPrentice>

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