



Managing Our Heritage Resources Impact Assessment



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Managing Our Heritage Resources

Impact Assessment

Working Together.

The Heritage Resources Act (1986) provides for "Heritage Resource Impact Assessments." These studies are intended to reduce the risk of last-minute discovery, and possible destruction, of heritage resources and human remains at land development sites. The process is a public initiative, administered and facilitated by the Historic

Resources Branch, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship.

For years land developers have assessed the environmental and socio-economic effects of their projects. The Heritage Resources Act can require developers to conduct similar assessments for the effects on heritage resources.

A Success Story.

In 1984, an oil company planned to build a pipeline in southwestern Manitoba. When the Historic Resources Branch realized the project would involve land where archeological materials had been found in the past, it requested the company to conduct an "impact assessment" to evaluate the effects its project would have on the local community's heritage resources.

The archaeological consultant hired by the oil company to prepare the assessment learned that part of the pipeline would run

through a bison drive site. (Bison drives were a method used by Aboriginal people centuries ago to herd, corral and kill bison.) Not wanting to destroy this heritage resource, the company built that section of its pipeline about 30 metres away on unused road allowance. Through the cooperation of the oil company, the local municipality, the landowner, the consultant and the Historic Resources Branch, this valuable archaeological site was preserved.

What Are Heritage Resources?

Heritage resources are works of nature or human endeavor that have prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific or aesthetic value. These include artifacts such as arrowheads or paleontological objects such as fossils. Prehistoric or historic human occupation sites, historic landscapes, buildings or structures, and the exterior

portions of buildings or structures are also examples of heritage resources.

The Historic Resources Branch has prepared a pamphlet, "Heritage Objects," which discusses the subject in further detail.

Where Are Heritage Resources Most Likely to Be Found?

Except for buildings or structures, heritage resources are usually associated with certain kinds of landscapes. These include prominent hills or knolls, the ancient

shorelines (usually beach ridges) of glacial Lake Agassiz, deltas and eskers created by retreating glaciers, and lands located near water sources.

What Is a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment?

An impact assessment is a written evaluation of the effect that a proposed development project may have upon heritage resources or human remains at a site. The assessment outlines the project,

describes the cultural and natural context of the development, identifies the impact of the project, and recommends ways to avoid or lessen its impact on heritage resources or human remains.



Will I Be Required to Do an Impact Assessment?

Any work, activity, development or project that alters or disturbs the surface of the land is subject to review by Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship. The Department participates in a referral system whereby provincial and municipal agencies issuing permits or licences for development projects circulate the applications they receive for review and comment. Developers may also submit proposals directly to the Department.

Proposed projects are screened in terms of their locations, the types of landforms involved, the types and amount of ground disturbances to occur, previous land disturbances, nearness to known heritage resources or areas already examined, and proximity to sources of water. Those projects judged likely to affect heritage resources or human remains may be examined further and, if there is reason to believe that heritage resources or human remains may be damaged or destroyed by the project, the owner or lessee of the site may be required, via a written order under the Act, to apply

for a Heritage Permit authorizing the project. If the evaluation of the permit application confirms that heritage resources or human remains may be adversely affected by the proposed project, a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment will be required before the permit is issued.

As examples, the following types of projects may require an impact assessment:

1. Linear projects, including highways, roads, transmission lines and pipelines;
2. Extractive projects, including mining, quarrying and land filling;
3. Impoundment projects, including dams, reservoirs and tailing ponds;
4. Intensive land-use projects, including industrial, residential, commercial, recreational and agricultural sites and land reclamation work.

Throughout Canada, wherever heritage resource impact assessment procedures have been introduced, over 90% of all projects proceed without the need for further assessment after the initial screening.

Heritage Sites.

Under The Heritage Resources Act, the Minister may designate any site in the province containing a significant heritage resource as a "Heritage Site". Such designation must follow a prescribed process, but once a Notice of Intent has been issued or a site designated, any activity on the Heritage Site must be authorized by a Heritage Permit, which is obtained before

the activity begins. If it appears that the proposed project will adversely affect the site, a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment may be required before the Heritage Permit is issued.

Further information about Heritage Sites can be found in the pamphlet, "Designating Heritage Sites in Manitoba", published by the Historic Resources Branch.



How Do I Do an Impact Assessment?

If a developer is required to conduct an impact assessment, a qualified archaeologist or other heritage resource consultant should be engaged to carry out the necessary research and field work, and to prepare the required written report which will be

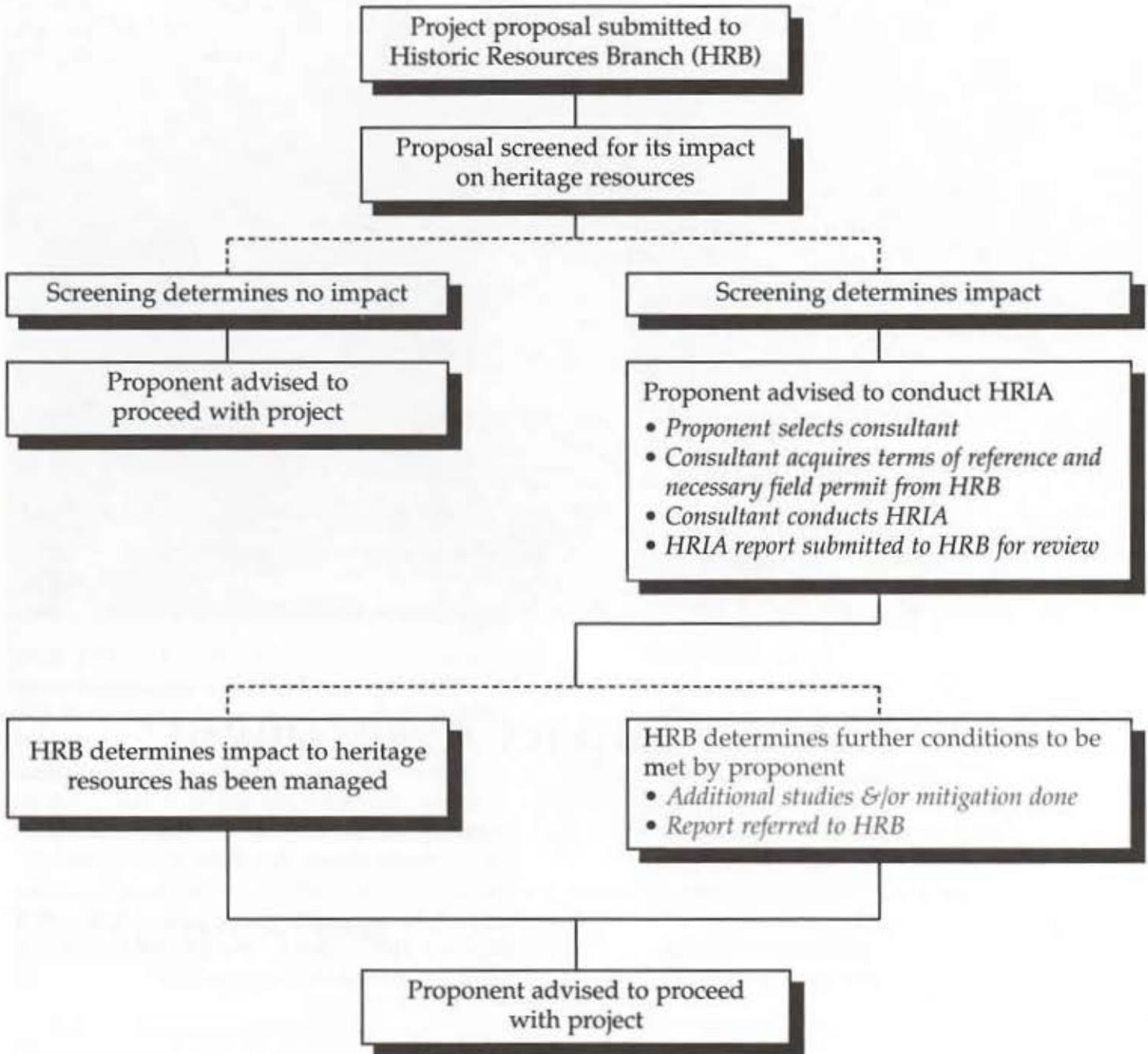
submitted to the Department for evaluation. The Historic Resources Branch has detailed guidelines for conducting Heritage Resource Impact Assessments and would be pleased to assist developers in making arrangements for these studies when required.

Is Impact Assessment Costly?

Experience has shown that budgeting up to 1% of the capital costs of a project is generally adequate for carrying out an

impact assessment and any measures that are needed to rescue or protect heritage resources.

Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) Process



Will the Project Be Delayed?

An "average" impact assessment takes from 5 - 20 days for planning and preparation, travel, field inspection and report writing. Larger projects, however, can require more time. In order to ensure that a developer is not burdened with paying for an impact assessment that is not needed, the Historic Resources Branch may conduct a preliminary field examination of the site. This "pre-impact assessment" determines if heritage resources or human remains are actually present at the site and provides an evaluation of them.

Presented below is a step-by-step description of the Heritage Resource Impact Assessment process from the time a proposal is received by the Historic Resources Branch until the impact assessment has been completed.

1. Project proposal is submitted to Branch by proponent or other permitting or licensing agency.
2. Proposal is screened for its potential to affect heritage resources or human remains.
 - 3a. If screening determines no impact, the proponent is advised to proceed with the project.
 - 3b. If screening determines impact is likely to occur, Branch staff may visit project site to conduct a preliminary field examination.
4. If heritage resources or human remains may be adversely affected, the proponent is advised that a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment will be necessary.
5. The proponent prepares terms of reference for the project, in consultation with the Branch, and selects a consultant who obtains the necessary heritage field permit.
6. The consultant conducts the Heritage Resource Impact Assessment.

7. The consultant submits the impact assessment report to the Branch for review.

8a. The Branch determines that impact to heritage resources or human remains has been managed and the proponent is advised to proceed with the project; or

8b. The Branch determines that further conditions must be met by the proponent.

9. Additional studies and/or mitigation are completed.

10. The resulting report is submitted to the Branch for review.

11. The proponent is advised to proceed with the project.

This pamphlet has been designed as an introduction to Sections 12 through 14 of Part II of The Heritage Resources Act, Protection of Sites. It is not intended as a substitute for the legislation, but should be used in conjunction with The Heritage Resources Act, which is available from:

Statutory Publications
Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship
Basement, 200 Vaughan Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1T5

More detailed information concerning heritage resource impact assessments or The Heritage Resources Act can be obtained from:

Historic Resources Branch
Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Citizenship
Main Floor, 213 Notre Dame Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1N3
Telephone: (204) 945-2118



**Our Heritage. Worth Keeping.
Worth Sharing.**
