

Thematic Framework

The Contextual Study of Prince George’s development and evolution over time is an important component of the development of a long-term plan for the City. By understanding the qualities of life, events, people, and periods of development, growth, and change that make the city what it is today, decision makers can have a better understanding of what the community values and why those places should be conserved. Developing a contextual understanding of the city comprises more than simply identifying historic places. First, a thematic framework must be identified in order to create a basis of understanding of the significant aspects of the city’s history that the community values.

A thematic framework is a way to organize or define history to identify and place sites, persons and events in context¹. The thematic framework which guided the Context Study process for Prince George was developed from the Parks Canada model which was first established in 1981. The Parks Canada process identifies five key areas of relevance into which all places of historic significance can be categorized. These five themes are:

- Peopling the Land
- Developing Economies
- Governing Canada
- Building Social and Community Life
- Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life

These themes have been adapted below to create a thematic framework tailored to Prince George.

It is important to understand that themes must be relevant to all people, places, and times in a community’s evolution. For example, hunting may be a subtheme

¹ <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/docs/r/system-reseau/sec2.aspx>

related to Developing Economies for Prince George. While different groups may value hunting for different reasons, and have hunted in different ways at different times, it is a common thread that has always been relevant to the people who live (and have lived) in this place. A true theme will resonate with all periods of a community’s history, and with all of the inhabitants of that community over time.

The thematic framework specific to Prince George that was used to guide the context study process is as follows:

Peopling the Land

The land now known as Prince George has an extensive history of human inhabitation. First, the Lheidli T’enneh people lived on the land and learned to adapt to its geography. Over time, they were joined by people from all parts of the globe and the modern city began to take shape. This theme celebrates the imprints and expressions of these people as they shaped the Prince George community. Important subthemes to consider under this theme are migration and immigration, settlement, and the relationship between people and the environment.

Developing Economies

From the earliest hunters and gatherers to today's post-industrial workers, Prince Georgians have worked in a wide variety of ways to sustain themselves. This theme looks at the historical legacies of early subsistence economies; commercial pursuits in fishing, farming, forestry and mining; services industries and manufacturing processes. This theme must also consider how Prince George’s economy is continuing to evolve today. Subthemes for this subject area include hunting and gathering, extraction and production, trade and

commerce, technology and engineering, labour, and communications and transportation.

Governing the Region

From the origins of Prince George’s earliest peoples, through post-contact settlement and regional development, systems of government have been an important part of Prince George’s evolution. Consideration of subthemes such as politics and political processes, government institutions, security and law, military and defence, and Prince George’s relationship to British Columbia, Canada, and the world should be integral to the development of heritage values associated with this theme.

Building Social and Community Life

Prince Georgians have established a variety of social groups, clubs and organizations to enrich community life and assist those in need. This theme focuses on the great variety of these social constructs - temporary and long-lasting, formal and informal, independent and allied with the government. Included in this theme are community organizations, religious institutions, education and social well-being, and social movements.

Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life

This theme addresses Prince George’s intellectual and cultural wealth and includes commemorations of Prince Georgians’ intellectual pursuits, artistic expression and athletic achievement. These qualities are also found in subthemes such as learning and the arts, architecture and design, science, sports and leisure, and philosophy and spirituality.



Figure 8: Mr. PG standing outside of the Chamber of Commerce office. Mr. PG is a local icon that many consider an important historic place.

Heritage Theme Statements

Below are statements that reflect the responses to the theme questions received during the workshop in October. All of the workshop input for each question was analyzed to develop statements summarizing the heritage values related to each theme. (Specific workshop responses – and their ranking – for each theme can be found in Appendix C). The purpose of these statements is to create general understanding about what the community values in terms of the community's traditions and history for each theme. As a whole, these statements reflect the overarching heritage values of Prince George. They illustrate that this is a community with a strong sense of spontaneity and entrepreneurship, built on hard work and a strong sense of connection to the land and water. They also reflect that these characteristics and qualities of life have been relevant to all people, places, and times of the community's evolution – from the earliest habitation of the Lheidli T'enneh in the area to now.

These context statements directly reflect what was stated by workshop participants in October. The statements have been developed using only the statements found in Appendix C). Each theme statement also includes the contribution to each of the workshop questions that received the highest ranking from the group (in large print quotes). These statements are not intended to be a survey of Prince George's history; while they are reflective of the key points in history that shaped the community, they are more focused on answering the question of "why does the community value its history in each of these five theme areas?" These context statements provide a strong framework for beginning to identify historic places, and to be able to understand why individual historic places are valued by the community. From these context statements the City can move towards implementing a heritage conservation planning program that meets the community's values.



Figure 9: This word-cloud illustrates the 100 most frequently mentioned words in the theme statement development activity. Larger words were used most frequently.

Peopling the Land

“Access to arts, culture, education, recreation facilities, and programs.”

~ workshop participant

The existence of people in what is now the Prince George area is due to the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser Rivers, and the ability of this geographic feature to support habitation. The convergence of these rivers is the traditional gathering place for the Lheidli T’enneh First Nations – literally “the people from the confluence of the two rivers”. The location of their habitation here reflects the significance of connection to land and water. This spot was ideal for transportation; the joining of the rivers was well suited to river crossings. The importance of the waterways has translated through all stages of the development of the community. The significance of the river as the earliest travel route through this transportation corridor is strong. The rivers of Prince George provided the physical access and connection needed for the people and supplies that laid the foundations for the early communities that evolved into today’s modern city. The relationship between land and water in Prince George is tangible, with residents feeling a strong sense of connection to the impact that the waterways have on the natural landscape surrounding the city. Prince George is a river community, and has been since the first people gathered in this place.

The location of Prince George approximately 100 kilometres from the geographic centre of British Columbia is also important to local heritage. The

city is central in a literal sense; it is located at the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser Rivers, the intersection of major provincial highways, and major east-west and north-south railways come through here. The city is therefore an administrative and transportation node for a very large area of the province. Since its earliest days as a group of communities such as South- and Central Fort George, this area has been a natural social, service, and supply centre for the north. Prince George is and has traditionally been a natural stopping place for travellers to take on supplies. The heritage of the city’s role of being the primary supply centre for the region has led to references of Prince George as BC’s “northern capital”. Prince George is a regional leader for commerce, administration, culture, health and education, and a representative city for the



Figure 10: First Nations Persons in a Dugout Canoe; British Colonist Advertisement c. 1910 (inset).

success of these sectors in northern BC.

Connections to land and water have had strong influence in bringing people to Prince George since the earliest days of the community. There is a deep-seated belief here that the land offers people positive opportunities which support sustainable and quality lifestyles. The theme of arriving in Prince George to start a new life is something that has been consistent over the years. It is a spirit of entrepreneurship that brings people here. Whether seeking an opportunity to own land, start a business, find employment, or pursue higher education, people have been drawn to all that this place has to offer. There is a strong feeling that Prince George offers something for everyone. The idea that people could come to this area and realize their dreams was as relevant in the 1800s as it is today; they are just as likely to stay in the city once they fall in love with the land, water, and sense of community that is so prevalent here. The opportunities for Prince George continue to evolve as the community changes and grows over time. Shifts in community values now place as much importance on social and cultural opportunities as access to financial and material opportunities once had in the developmental stages of the city.

While many people come to Prince George to seek out an economic or career opportunity, there are also many people who value the sense of community that comes from having well-established family ties in the city. The community of Prince George has evolved to include multi-generational families of Prince Georgians. People who were born and raised in the city stay because their children and grandchildren are here, reflecting the strong values which illustrate that the city is, and always has been a great place to raise a family.



Figure 11: Northern Hardware is important to Prince George's heritage. Places like this illustrate how heritage values, and historic places, evolve over time.



Figure 12: Prince George “Six Mile” Mary. 1914.

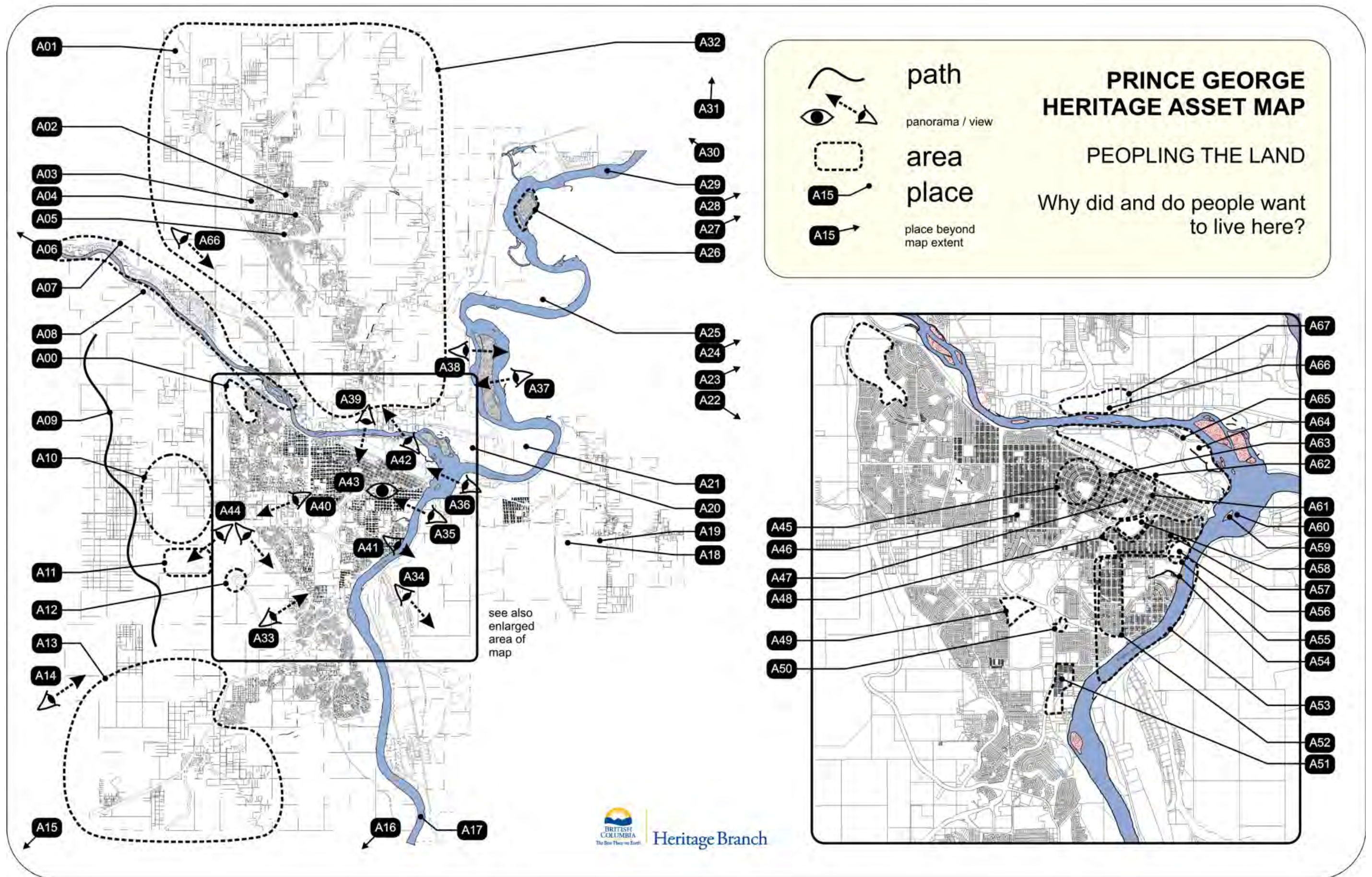
A	0 Moore's Meadow Park
A	1 Ferguson Lake Nature Reserve
A	2 Hart Pioneer Centre
A	3 Hart Community Centre
A	4 Nechako Branch, Prince George Public Library (Hart area)
A	5 Hart Ski Hill
A	6 Nechako River transportation
A	7 Residential area of the Nechako
A	8 Otway Nordic Ski Centre
A	9 Cranbrook Hill Greenway
A	10 Agricultural lands on Cranbrook Hill
A	11 Forests for the World and Shane Lake
A	12 University of Northern British Columbia
A	13 Suburban / rural
	Connaught Hill Park / yellow stairs and Bob Harkins Branch Prince George Public
A	14 Library
A	15 Baldy Hughes Dew Line 35 km
A	16 Rapids (Fort George Canyon)
A	17 Fraser River transportation
A	18 Experimental Farm
A	19 Blackburn Park and House
A	20 Pulp mill
A	21 Pulp mill
A	22 Sons of Norway Lodge Lodge
A	23 Mount George and other mountains
A	24 Tabor Lake
A	25 Pulp mill
A	26 Hunting area
A	27 Local ski hills (Purden, Tabor)
A	28 Ancient forest - cedars
A	29 Fraser River transportation
A	30 Huble Homestead Historic Site
A	31 Giscome Portage Trail / Lheidli
A	32 Suburban / rural
A	33 View of valley and Rockies from Tyner Boulevard
A	34 View of Mt. George and other mountains
A	35 L C Gunn Point city view
A	36 View
A	37 View
A	38 View
A	39 MacMillan Creek Regional Park - city view
A	40 View of Cranbrook Hill
A	41 View of cut banks from South Fort George
A	42 Sandblast cut banks (view)
A	43 View of entire city from Connaught Hill Park
A	44 Views
A	45 "The Crescents" residential area
A	46 Community Arts Council
A	47 Art Gallery
A	48 Millar Addition residential area
A	49 Pine Centre Mall

A	51 Memorial Park Cemetery
A	52 Veterans Land Administration post-war settlement
A	53 South Fort George and Fur Trade
A	54 Hudson's Bay Land Enhancement Area
A	55 Fort George Park / traditional burial site / museum / narrow gauge rail
A	56 The Exploration Place
A	57 Francophone Community Centre
A	58 Views from Connaught Hill
A	59 Goat Island
A	60 CNR Railway Bridge
A	61 Downtown northern urban hotels
A	62 Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum
A	63 PGNFC (previous government building, courthouse)
A	64 Cottonwood Island Park
A	65 Heritage River Trail System
A	66 View of eskers

PRINCE GEORGE HERITAGE ASSET MAP

PEOPLING THE LAND

Why did and do people want
to live here?



Developing Economies

“One of the few communities in Western Canada of its size that can offer affordable living and quality lifestyles – so we need the economy to keep going to sustain this quality.”

~ workshop participant



Figure 13: (clockwise from left) Beehive burner, Planer Row (now River Road), 1962; Prince George Airport, “elevation 2230”, 1984; Two Rivers Gallery.

The earliest economic activity of this area has strong connections to the natural geography of the land and water connection. For the Lheidli T’enneh people, this place was a natural location for the trade associated with traditional gathering and assembly activities. This tradition of benefitting from the resources provided by the land carried on as waves of newcomers came to the area.

While the fur trade played a role in the earliest permanent settlement near the confluence of the rivers, the economic drivers of the development of the city over time turned toward natural resource-based industry in the early days of non-native settlement here. Agriculture also played a role in drawing more people to the area in the earliest days of the settlements of South and Central Fort George. However, the continuum of economic activity over time has changed to see eras of growth through industries such as mining, forestry, pulp, and transportation forming the modern city of Prince George. It was the industrial nature of the economy in the mid 20th century that made Prince George the fastest growing community in Canada in the 1950s, ‘60s, and ‘70s, and the second largest city in BC in 1981. Big industry has shaped and sustained the social and economic development of Prince George for decades; it has impacted the self image of the community and shaped external perspectives of the city. The characterization of the natural resource-dependent economy and industry in Prince George is a very important aspect of the developmental heritage of the city. It has consistently influenced the type of people that come here to work and live. It is industry that supports and sustains the high quality of life that is valued so dearly here. Without the major economic engines of businesses such as the Canadian National Railway, pulp and paper mills, saw mills and entrepreneurial pioneers of all eras Prince George would not be the community that it is today.

Prince George is a natural transportation hub. Beginning with the earliest days of transportation via the waterways, a theme of being a major intersection of transportation routes and modes is important as part of the community's development over time. The timeline of transportation evolution from "rivers to rails to roads", "horses to cars", and "eagles to air" is evident in the community. Prince George is noted for its rivers, bridges, roads, rails, and air transportation facilities. The history of transportation infrastructure development – and its connection to economic development – comprises a significant part of the story of the community's evolution. Construction of railroads, highways, and airports were formative activities leading to significant changes contributing to establishing Prince George's role as a residential, commercial, industrial, and administrative centre.

While industry and transportation play key roles in Prince George's history and development patterns over time, a desire to diversify and explore other opportunities for economic generation are developing as the next phase of the economic continuum of the city. The community was built by people wanting to make a living, and believing that hard work would pay off. The entrepreneurial spirit that founded Prince George has always served the city well, and is leading the community towards the arts, culture, and a variety of commercial endeavours as valid resources driving a new economic outlook. It is this entrepreneurship that resulted in the foundation of UNBC, and brought the Medical School to the university. The presence of the school makes a significant contribution to the economic life of the city.

Prince George is one of the few communities in Western Canada of its size that can offer affordable living *and* quality lifestyles. Land, housing, and the general cost of living are affordable, encouraging people to live and stay here. The affordability of this area allows citizens to have opportunities, such as access to nature and outdoor activities, which are considered luxuries in other communities of comparable size.



Figure 14: The Croft Hotel (formerly the Corning - see inset), is recognized by many Prince Georgians as an important historic place. It represents a significant part of the city's twentieth century development.



Figure 15: S.S. BC Express on its way from Quesnel to Prince George.

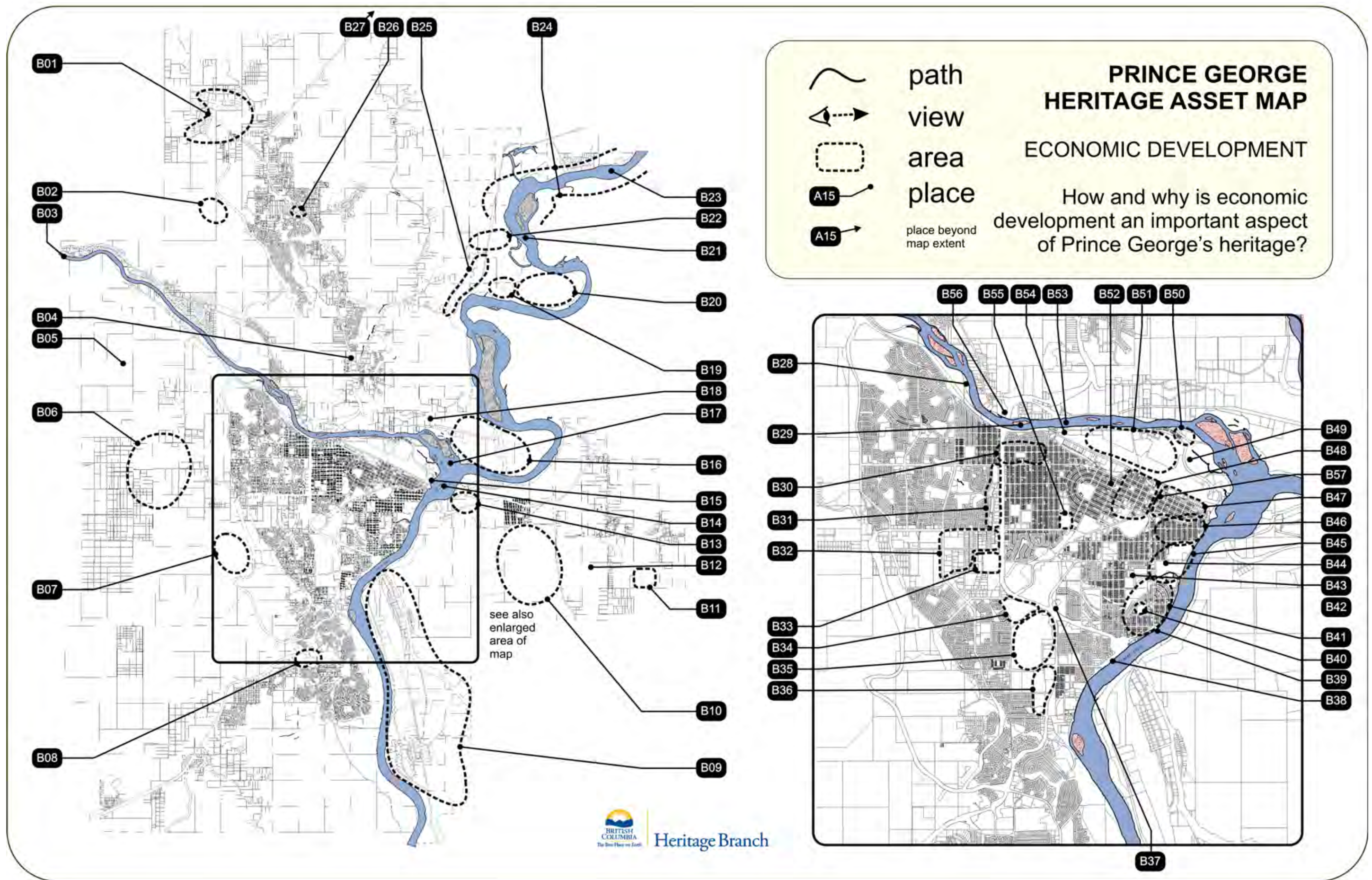
B 1	Home-based businesses
B 2	Foothills Landfill and Composting
B 3	Native weirs
B 4	Lheidli Tenneh Nation Logging
B 5	Prince George Community Forest
B 6	Agriculture on Cranbrook Hill
B 7	University of Northern British Columbia
B 8	Westgate Commercial Centre
B 9	BCR Industrial
B 10	Airport, logistics park
B 11	Old Dominion Experimental Farm
B 12	Agriculture
B 13	Prince George Corrections Centre
B 14	GTR Bridge 1913
B 15	Rail access to outlying communities
B 16	Pulp mill
B 17	River transportation / fishing / tourism
B 18	Refinery
B 19	Refinery
B 20	Pulp Mill - Canfor / Intercon
B 21	Northwood Bridge
B 22	Northwood Pulp Mill
B 23	Lheidli Tenneh Nation wier
B 24	Seymour Traditional Trapline
B 25	Vegetable farming
B 26	Austin Road Commercial
	Huble Homestead - a trading post on the Fraser connects over the ridge to Summit
B 27	Lake through the Giscome Portage
B 28	Bogue and Brown Sawmill
B 29	Nechako Crossing
B 30	Hammond Sub-division
B 31	Spruceland / Central Suburban mall
B 32	Carter Sub-division / military base (Carter Industrial Area)
B 33	CNC
B 34	Pine Centre Mall
B 35	Public recreation - golf course (8) around and in Prince George
B 36	Big box retail
B 37	Major highway crossroads
B 38	Steamboat ferry landing
B 40	Former sawmill
B 41	South Fort George - former townsite
	Communities: Shelley to Sinclair Mills and beyond. The railroad was the only way in and out for hundreds of people that worked there and did the logging and sawmills and did their shopping etc. in Prince George, a large input into the economy from the
B 42	20s
B 43	Urban garden / agriculture
B 44	REAPS Composting
B 45	Fort George Park - trading post village
B 46	Millar Expansion (added to Downtown 1912/13)
B 47	Queensway light industrial
B 48	Downtown - office / government services. Civic centre
B 49	Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum
B 50	Foley's Cache
B 51	Sawmills - wood products / CN yards

B 52	Native Friendship House
B 53	Archaeological site - Lheidli Tenneh
B 54	Cameron Street Bridge
B 55	Health services
B 56	Pacific Western Brewery
	Izowski and Rourke Store (near 3rd and George); Morrison's menswear (3rd and
B 57	George)

PRINCE GEORGE HERITAGE ASSET MAP

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

How and why is economic development an important aspect of Prince George's heritage?



Governing the Region

“Confluence of Rivers – natural gathering place for Lheidli T’enneh. Location enabled crossing of the rivers.”

~ workshop participant

Prince George has a long tradition of being the centre of government for the northern region of BC. Initially the Hudson’s Bay Company factor was the regulating authority, and then the first provincial government office and jail for the area were erected in 1911-1912. As a centre of government, Prince George continues to provide essential administrative and regulatory services to a large population of the province.

Historically, Prince George’s role as an administrative centre made a major impact on the development of the city. Because of the presence of government, military, and regulatory institutions here the city has been well positioned to receive funding supporting major infrastructure for health, education and other social services.

Governance for the city and the region is seen as an activity integral to the well-being of the community. While the local city council and administration system are diverse, they are also approachable, interactive and caring as far as the community’s wellness is concerned. There is openness toward new ideas and community development. Decision makers in Prince George realize that dedication results in the creation of positive change. Elected representatives in this area understand that life is different “up north”; they embrace an approach

to governance that recognizes the unique qualities of Prince George. They provide a strong voice for northern BC, communicating that the regulatory and administrative needs of people here are different than those of people in other parts of the province.



Figure 16: Prince George City Hall; Prince George Courthouse (inset).



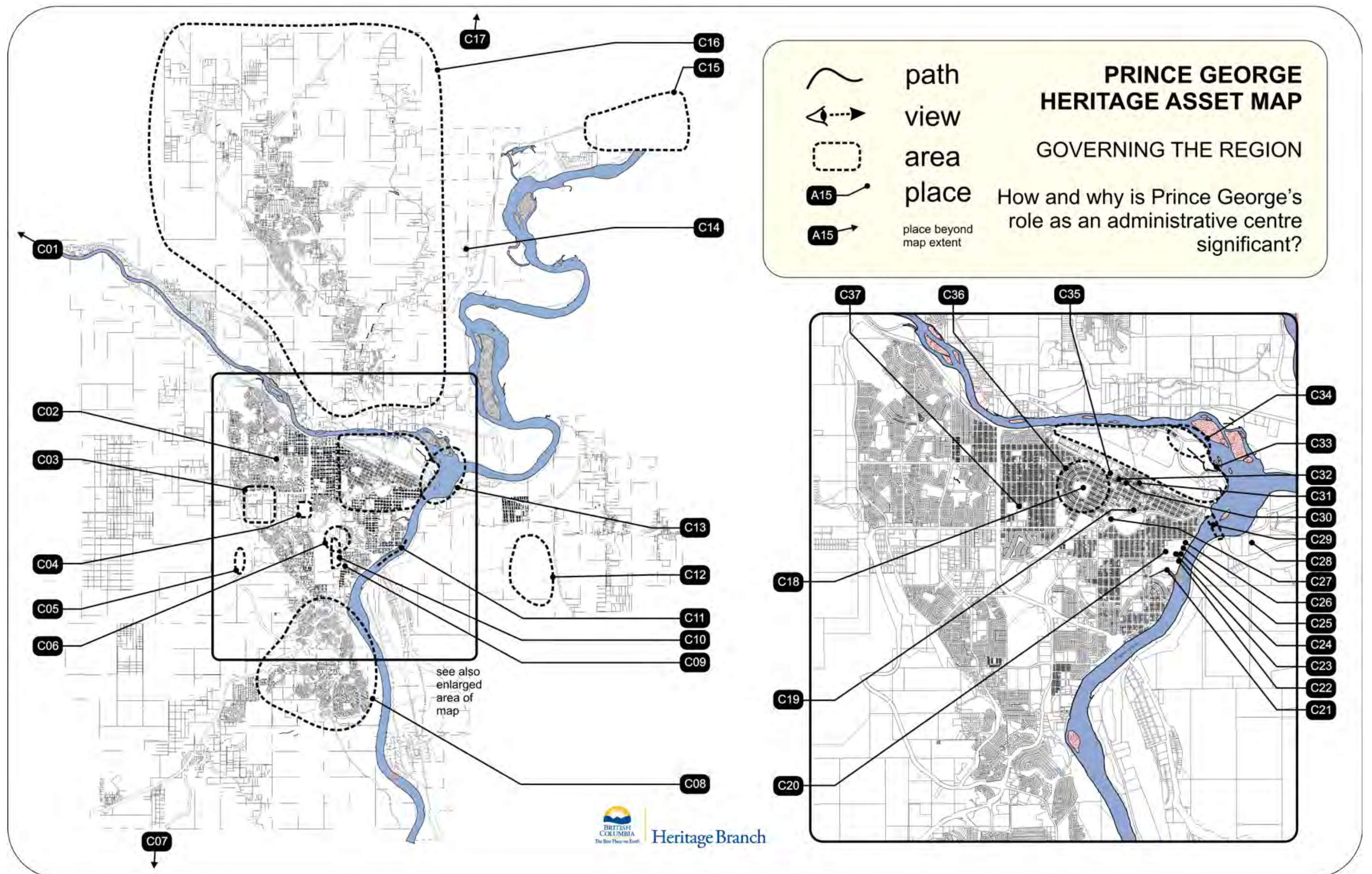
Figure 17: First Grand Jury in Prince George.

C	1	Indian Reservation 3
C	2	RCMP "E" District HQ
C	3	Former military base gunnery range
C	4	CNC
C	5	University of Northern British Columbia
C	6	Highway intersection
C	7	Baldie Hughes US military radar
C	8	Catholic diocese
C	9	School District 51 administrative offices
C	10	Second airport - military
C	11	Paddle wheelers' wharves
C	12	Airport
C	13	Confluence of rivers
C	14	Northwood corporate office (now CANFOR)
C	15	Lheidli Tenekeh band administration
C	16	Former Regional District (Rural Land Planning)
C	17	Giscome Portage Trail (Lheidli)
C	18	Duchess Park - former School District 51 administration
C	19	Veteran's Plaza at City Hall
C	20	The Exploration Place regional archives collections
		Mouth of Hudson's Bay Slough / old swimming hole / Floatplane airport mid-19
C	21	(unreadable)? / mail and other goods (unreadable) remote areas of northern BC
C	22	Fort George Hudson's Bay Post "trade centre" 1829 - 1915
C	23	First provincial government building 1911
C	24	Indian Reservation 1a 'cemetery'
C	25	Indian Reservation 1. Lheidli
C	26	Lheidli village
C	27	RCMP City Detachment
C	28	Regional corrections
C	29	CN Bridge
C	30	Old (unreadable) / old basement (unreadable) / old women's jail
C	31	New courthouse
C	32	Second government building / old unemployment / post office and courthouse
C	33	CN Yard
		Island Cache / Foley Welch and Stewart / railway construction administration /
C	34	Grand Trunk Pacific hospital
C	35	Native Friendship Centre (Old Courthouse)
C	36	Crescents 'city beautiful plan'
C	37	Current Hospital, regional. Northern Health Authority

PRINCE GEORGE
HERITAGE ASSET MAP

GOVERNING THE REGION

How and why is Prince George's
role as an administrative centre
significant?



Building Social and Community Life

*“Very easy to get involved. Low barriers.
Welcoming.”*

~ workshop participant

The people of Prince George are a living example of the qualities that have made the community the place it is today. A frontier attitude and spirit have persevered – residents of this place have always had to be resourceful, inventive, and open to new experiences. While the physical isolation of the community contributes to a sense of creativity and experimentation that takes place without external judgment, Prince George also benefits from the transient nature of its population over time. New people arriving to the city bring with them new ideas that inspire citizens to be adaptive and innovative. Prince Georgians are protective of their way of life, and the feeling that people can be anything they desire here. Often perceived as a “common person’s town”, Prince George values the fact that it was built, and continues to develop on the pioneering spirit of its citizens.

A sense of independence is an important quality of life in Prince George. Prince Georgians are physically and mentally independent in their approach to community development. Citizens are driven to support causes, and are unstoppable once a cause has been identified. The citizens of Prince George are passionate about making positive contributions to their community through helping others and volunteering. With a strong connection to the pioneering spirit that built the city, a sense of duty towards the community is also a strong quality of life here. It is a city where it is very easy to become involved in a

variety of activities, and for individuals to feel that their contributions are making a difference for their fellow Prince Georgians. Accustomed to welcoming newcomers seeking a new life, Prince George has developed its reputation of being open and inviting to people in need. With its beginnings in grassroots organizations established on principles of making community service accessible and easy, the volunteer community of Prince George is and always has been an integral part of community life and social programs.



Figure 18: A donor contributes to the March of Dimes campaign on George Street, 1955.

Prince Georgians feel strongly about the excellent quality of life that the city and community provide them. Prince Georgians appreciate the fact that they live in a city big enough to provide them with all the services and amenities they need, and which also maintains a small town feeling and sense of community. People are friendly, sharing, and welcoming, the community is safe, and it’s easy to get from place to place within the city. Prince George is big enough to

attract cultural events, great music, and theatre but small enough that crowds are small and intimate. The low density and sense of “elbow room” are important qualities that have survived even as the city has grown and developed over time. The parks, trails, and recreation services are excellent, and reflect the traditional connection with the outdoors that has always been an important part of the quality of life in this northern city. While the city has always been demographically young – with young families contributing to the supportive nature of the community – it is also a place where the senior population is very active and integral to community life. As an active community, Prince George is a centre for events, celebrations, and activities – many of which are free for participants. The city provides something for everyone in terms of employment, events, services, and opportunities that attract people to live and stay in the area.

The citizens of Prince George value their reputation as welcoming and friendly people. The evolution and growth of the city to be the largest northern city in the province has not eroded people’s ability to say hello to each other on the street, or their easy inclusion of newcomers to the city. Prince Georgians value the diversity of their community. The Lheidli T’enneh and Carrier people are an integral and important part of the community; their continued presence in Prince George is representative of the formative community that resulted in the present city. The coming together of peoples has been a quality of the city since the earliest non-native settlers arrived in the area, and this quality is carried on today. The community prides itself on its inclusivity, and the presence of a variety of ethnic and cultural groups such as French, Scandinavian, and British descendents. Multiculturalism is a real aspect of life in Prince George, which has a strong ability to embrace and accept new people into the fold in order to grow and diversify.



Figure 19: Prince George's downtown is designed on "City Beautiful" principles, an important character-defining element contributing to its heritage character.



Figure 20: Prince George. South Fort George hockey game.

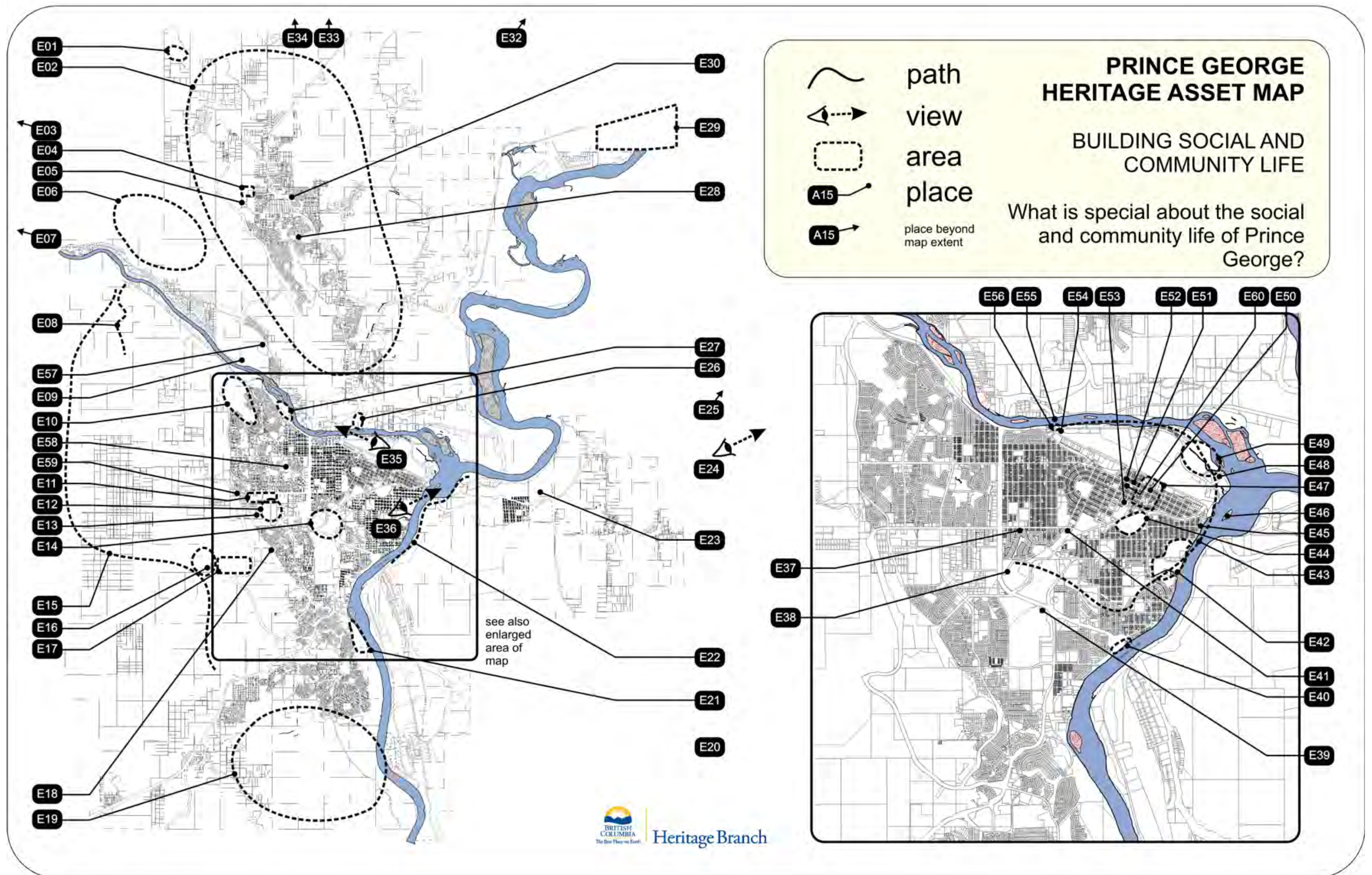
E	1	Ferguson Lake Nature Reserve - fishing within city limits / hiking / nature study
E	2	The Hart - small town feel in urban centre
E	3	Race track / drive-in theatre
E	4	Volunteer Park (baseball fields)
E	5	Hart Community Centre
E	6	Pidherny Mountain Bike Park
E	7	Clesbaoneecheck - Indian Reserve 3
E	8	Otway Ski Centre (outdoor recreation)
E	9	Riverside Park - informal water recreation area
E	10	Moore's Meadow Park (and unique microclimate)
E	11	Rotary soccer field and Prince George Aquatic Centre
E	12	Civic Centre
E	13	Exhibition Park, CN Centre, PG Aquatic Centre and soccer fields
E	14	Masich Stadium / YMCA / Carrie Jane Gray Park
E	15	Cranbrook Hill Greenway
E	16	Forests For The World
E	17	University of Northern British Columbia
E	18	Ginter's former homestead (and dog off-leash) Access to open space for recreation in College Heights, Cranbrook Hill / University
E	19	of Northern British Columbia, Hart and Blackburn
E	20	Heritage trees throughout the city
E	21	Fishing location
E	22	L C Gunn Trail
E	23	PGARA 'Hit to Pass'
E	24	Views of Tabor Mountain
E	25	Tabor Lake
E	26	"Sandblast" extreme sports
E	27	Wilson Park
E	28	Hart Highlands Ski Area
E	29	Khatan Lughul Indian Reserve 2 - Lheidli T'enneh Band site
E	30	Hart Pioneer Centre
E	31	not used
E	32	Huble Homestead
E	33	Powder King (Pine Pass)
E	34	Eskers Provincial Park; Ness Lake; Bear Lake - ski / hike
E	35	Viewlines to cutbanks
E	36	View of River at Fort George Park Community Arts Council Studio 2880 - Prince George Symphony Orchestra / old
E	37	Prince George Art Gallery
E	38	Vanier Hall
E	39	Prince George Playhouse
E	40	Archaeological site
E	41	St. Giles Presbyterian Church Fort George Park - gathering place / cemetery Indian Reserve 1a / Exploration Place
E	42	/ recreation / nature / river
E	43	Heritage River Trail System
E	44	Connaught Hill Park - recreation
E	45	Lheidli T'enneh Nation village life pre-Hudson Bay
E	46	Goat Island - '(unreadable) the River' / gathering place

E	47	Hotels and beer parlours including: 1201 First Avenue - National Hotel 1007 3rd - Central Hotel 1479 3rd - London Hotel 487 George - Prince George Hotel 171 George - Spruce Capital Hotel (originally Keller House) 160 Quebec St - Akron Hotel 197 Quebec St - Chee Duck Tong Society"
E	48	Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum
E	49	Cottonwood Island Park Farmers' Market (gathering place)
E	51	Northern Hardware
E	52	Books and Company - gathering place / music / social / fund raisers Civic Plaza / Civic Centre / Bob Harkins Branch - Prince George Public Library /
E	53	Two Rivers Gallery / Legion (cultural centre / social gathering place)
E	54	Lheidli T'enneh Nation village life pre-Hudson Bay
E	55	Cameron Bridge - Nechako Street crossing 1890 (?) - 1930
E	56	Lheidli T'enneh Nation archaeology site
E	57	Nechako Slo-Pitch Park
E	58	Rainbow Park
E	59	100 step ski hill
E	60	Specialty Avenue (4th Avenue between Dominion and Quebec)

PRINCE GEORGE
HERITAGE ASSET MAP

BUILDING SOCIAL AND
COMMUNITY LIFE

What is special about the social
and community life of Prince
George?



Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life

“Prince George is big enough to attract cultural events, great music, theatre but small enough that crowds are small and intimate. Costs are kept reasonable.”

~ workshop participant

Education in Prince George is an important part of community life and development. As much as the economy and industry, education has become a major drawing point for bringing people to the city; it is one of the primary reasons that people come and stay. Prince George’s position as a centre of higher education has its roots in the earliest days of permanent settlement. Education and schools of all levels were always a concern as the community developed. In the 1970s land was endowed for the use of a future university, which led to the development of the University of Northern British Columbia (opened in 1994).

The developing role of Prince George as a centre for post-secondary education is an important aspect of the evolving heritage of the city. The strong importance of local institutions like UNBC and the College of New Caledonia contribute to Prince George’s position as a leader among northern communities. This city is representative of the educational aspirations of a large area of the province; the service area for education is close to half of the province. Even the scope of education at these institutions is focused largely on northern rural issues, reinforcing the concept that people who are trained in the north stay in the north. The educational opportunities and institutions of Prince George make an

invaluable contribution to sustaining the social, cultural and economic life of the city. Furthermore, the influx of well-educated academics and professionals, along with approximately 4000 students associated with the university has a positive impact on social aspects of Prince George’s cultural life.

Prince Georgians value the various opportunities for lifelong learning that exist in their community. Whether in a formal or informal context, the ability to access educational resources of all levels contributes to the high quality of life evident here. As a self-proclaimed community of readers, citizens of Prince George seek prospects for enjoying educational experiences year round (even in the snow and cold of winter!). The willingness of Prince Georgians to continue to pursue activities that broaden their cultural perspectives is indicative of the innovation and creativity of this northern city.

Prince George is a city passionate about its arts and culture community. Citizens refuse to honour the notion that art is only made in the ‘big city’. There is strong evidence of unique and innovative arts activities here. There is a tradition of citizens making their own entertainment – singing, music, theatre, etc. The presence of independent artists supported by organizations such as the Two Rivers Gallery is a testament to the importance of this grassroots approach to arts and culture. Influenced by the symbiotic relationship between nature and industry, land and water, and people and places, Prince George has developed a culture that effectively integrates expressions of intellect, arts, and science. Evidence of this hybridization of the arts is strongly evident in institutions such as The Exploration Place and supported by organizations like the Community Arts Council. Access to the arts of all types is recognized as a significant contributing factor to the comfortable lifestyle and quality of living that Prince Georgians enjoy.

While Prince George values its artistic and cultural communities, it also holds a high regard for its athletic heritage. Having developed a reputation as a “sports town” that has made room for other endeavours, the community has developed on a strong sport and outdoor life. Prince Georgians understand that a connection to sports such as hockey, baseball, golf and outdoor recreation in all four seasons are excellent for community spirit. Sporting activities and athletic events are part of a legacy established from the early days of the community, and are manifested in a number of places designed specifically to maintain and sustain the active population. The presence of a large number of sporting organizations in Prince George is an important part of local history and heritage, as it ensures a consistent level of access to opportunities for recreation and sports. The high level of activity that people in Prince George enjoy year round is inspired and driven by the sense of connection that the community has with the climate and environment.

Connection to the natural environment is a fundamental part of life in Prince George. The roots of this connection lie with the Lheidli T’enneh people who lived here first. As their traditional hunting and gathering lands, they feel a strong bond to the native flora and fauna and geography of this place. Access to rivers, berry picking, fishing and hunting continues to be communicated as the primary reason for having lived a sustainable life in this place. The importance of this relationship with nature translated to the first non-native settlements in the area, and continues to be valued today. People who live in Prince George are passionate about the presence of wildlife such as moose, bears, deer, and beavers in and around the city. Trees, wildlife, rivers, open space, and access to nature not only support a variety of outdoor activities, they also contribute to a quality of life that is rarely found in other communities of this size in British Columbia. Prince Georgians also feel a strong sense of connection to the Fraser and Nechako Rivers, and the cutbanks that frame them. As a city in nature, Prince George demonstrates a reverence for nature, celebrating the unique qualities of all four seasons. Having received the title of “Spruce Capital” of the world, this is a city that is driven by nature socially, culturally, and economically.



Figure 21: (clockwise from top left) UNBC campus; The Ranch Hands Country and Western Band, 1973; The Prince George Junior-Senior High School girls' basketball team in the 1940s.; Three men fishing in a river, 1973.



Figure 22: Group portrait that includes Prince George chief Old Bill (with cross). c. 1900

D	1	Race track / drive-in theatre / quad and snowmobile trails
D	2	Indian Reserve 3: Nechako
D	3	Nechako Branch, Prince George Public Library (Hart area)
D	4	Lheidli Teneh Nation wier
D	5	Other public sculpture
D	6	Transportation sternwheelers - Hammond Dock
D	7	Transportation sternwheelers - Foley Walch dock
D	8	Exhibition Park and soccer fields / aquatics and horse facilities
D	9	Forests For The World
D	10	University of Northern British Columbia
D	11	not used
D	12	Cemetery Memorial Park
D	13	Airport
D	14	Cutbanks
D	15	Grand Trunk Pacific Railway bridge
D	16	Heritage River Trail System and Cottonwood Island Park
D	17	Confluence of rivers
D	18	Prince George Railway and Forestry Museum
D	19	Lheidli Teneh Nation wier (fishing)
D	20	Shelby Church
D	21	Huble Homestead - historic site / public events / school programs
D	22	not used
D	23	College of New Caledonia - Prince George Campus
D	24	Masich Place Stadium
D	25	Vanier Hall
D	26	Carrie Jane Gray Park and Prince George Family YMCA
D	27	Curling rink / Prince George Golf and Curling Club
D	28	Prince George Playhouse
D	29	Mr. PG
		Transportation sternwheelers - BC Spruce Company dock (probably First Nations
D	30	fishing sites too)
D	31	Terry Fox statue (he ran 17km from this place)
		Transportation sternwheelers - Fort George (unreadable) and Transport dock
D	32	(probably First Nations fishing sites too)
		Fort George Park; The Exploration Place; narrow guage railway; and first
D	33	schoolhouse
D	34	First brothel (City Hall)
D	35	Prince George historical walking tours
D	36	Lheidli cemetery
		Francophone Community Center - French College: Educacentre - Cultural events
D	37	and preschool - Le Cercle des Canadiens Francais
		Civic Plaza, Two Rivers Gallery / Bob Harkins Branch - Prince George Public Library
D	38	/ "Balance" public sculpture / Millenium Crest pole / Centennial Fountain and mural
D	39	Specialty Avenue
D	40	CBD - restaurants such as Outriggers etc. / chruches such as Knox
D	41	Hotels and beer parlours
D	42	Books and Company - author readings / workshops / gathering place for discussions
D	43	Native Friendship Centre / 'Rivers Pow Wow'
D	46	Brigette Moran statue
D	47	Lheidli cremation spot
D	48	Cameron Street Bridge
D	49	Central Fort George School Traditional Program
D	50	Community Arts Council - houses Guilds / Preschool etc.

PRINCE GEORGE HERITAGE ASSET MAP

EXPRESSING INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL LIFE

What is unique about Prince
George’s expressions of
intellectual and cultural life?

