

## **Archaeological digs on private land**

- We are not party to the contract between the property owner and the consultant they hire nor do we control the rates charged.
- The property owner is responsible for the costs of required archaeological studies although the Archaeology branch of the Ministry, will work with the property owner to see if the impacts can be reduced thus reducing the amount of archaeological work required.
- In many cases archaeological sites are our only link to our past.
- The Heritage Conservation Act of British Columbia is the legislation that allows for the protection and conservation of archaeological sites.
- Archaeological information is available through the on-line Remote Access to Archaeological Data (RAAD) website, which is open to, among other parties, local governments and consulting archaeologists. People wishing to research properties for development are advised to make those enquiries either through a local government, professional archaeologists or using the on-line data request form.
- If Provincial records show the property may contain an archaeological site, people should hire a qualified archaeologist to confirm the site location and next steps. The property owner is responsible for the costs of required archaeological studies although the Archaeology branch of the ministry, will work with the property owner to see if the impacts can be reduced thus reducing the amount of archaeological work required.
- Archaeological sites, like mineral deposits, arable land, forests, fish and wildlife, are an important part of the environment. In many cases, they are our only link to our past. The Heritage Conservation Act of British Columbia is the legislation that allows for the protection and conservation of archaeological sites.

### **Putting archaeological information from the heritage registry on land titles.**

- The Province has examined the challenge of placing archaeological information on land title and found that this idea would not be effective approach because:
  - The information the ministry has does not cover all possible sites that may exist in the province, so the absence of a notation on title would not guarantee the absence of archaeological value requiring protection.
  - There are limitations in compiling this information since much of it is still on paper maps and has not been digitized, and may not be detailed enough to correlate with modern subdivision plans.