

SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

SITE C AND ARCHAEOLOGY

BC Hydro recognizes the importance of understanding, documenting and protecting the Peace Region's long history. Since 2009, BC Hydro has been conducting archaeological work in the region to understand the potential impacts of the Site C project.

Where archaeological effects are expected, BC Hydro is committed to measures that will mitigate the adverse effects of the project, in accordance with B.C. Archaeology Branch procedures.

As part BC Hydro's archaeological studies, surveys have been completed in the reservoir and dam site area, including more than 70,000 shovel tests.

The heritage impact assessment and the mitigation program have engaged several hundred local archaeological field assistants from Indigenous communities in the region. In addition, BC Hydro has consulted with local Indigenous groups, the public, local landowners, the Archaeology Branch, local governments, and local area museums about heritage.

BC Hydro's **Heritage Resources Management Plan** identifies planned mitigation measures, including identifying opportunities to avoid or reduce impacts to heritage sites where feasible, as well as the collection, documentation and long-term repository of artifacts, monitoring during construction and operations, and providing support to local museums for interpretive purposes.

BC Hydro's heritage studies have been the subject of extensive review under a three-year federal-provincial environmental assessment, which included public hearings as part of an independent Joint Review Panel process.

In its report, the Joint Review Panel stated that BC Hydro's data collection program was "best practice." It further stated that *"the Panel agrees with the general proposal of BC Hydro to mitigate potential effects to heritage resources, first by avoidance, then by effect reduction, and lastly, by artifact recovery, with compensation as needed"* (page 232).

BC Hydro's heritage studies are documented in the Site C Environmental Impact Statement.



A flake of stone — possibly indicative of tool manufacture and repair — discovered during one of BC Hydro's 70,000 sub-surface tests.

The Panel believes that conducting over 70,000 shovel tests and collecting two years of data constitute best practice.

- Joint Review Panel Report, pg. 231