MESSAGE FROM HONOURABLE STAN HAGEN

Minister of Tourism, Sports and the Arts



On behalf of the provincial government, I'm pleased to welcome you to British Columbia. I hope you enjoy your time here, and that you are challenged and ultimately inspired by the topics presented during this conference, *Canada West to East: Teaching History in a Time of Change*. I'd like to thank the B.C Social Studies Teachers' Association for the hard work and dedication they have shown in organizing this national conference.

In 2008, B.C. will celebrate 150 years of shared history, rich cultural diversity and proud achievement since the founding of the Crown Colony of British Columbia in 1858. British Columbia has a fascinating story to tell – from the rich ancient culture of our First Nations, to our gold rush explorers and homesteaders, to our 21st-century achievers – and it is thanks to your passion and commitment as educators that our story is told well. I want to thank you for that.

This conference is an excellent opportunity for teachers, scholars and museum administrators to explore dynamic and innovative ways to engage our youth. The more our young people learn and understand the past, the better equipped they will be to lead the way into the future.

Sincerely,

Stan Hagen
B.C. Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts