

## OPaC User Guide:

### Historic Resources Application Fee - Frequently Asked Questions

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#### **Which OPaC applicants are required to pay the fees?**

- The fee applies to proponents applying for *Historical Resources Act* requirements or approvals for commercial or industrial developments. It does not apply to research initiatives.

#### **How much are the fees?**

- Fees will be assessed for both initial (new) applications (\$500 per application) and amendments or supplemental applications (\$250 per application).

#### **How do you define a new application?**

- A new application refers to a request for *Historical Resources Act* approval or guidance in association with a project that has not previously been reviewed. This typically involves a new project, but could also be a change or addition to an existing project that was not submitted previously.

#### **How do you define an application amendment or a supplemental application?**

- An application amendment or supplemental applications refers to applications that detail changes in project footprint or activity and applications submitted in response to a previously issued requirement. In order to be submitted as an amendment, an application must include a valid 10-digit Historical Resource Management (HRM) project number.

#### **Where did the idea of a fee come from?**

- Assessment of a fee for reviewing Historic Resources applications has been considered for a number of years. The focus has been on a cost-recovery approach that would recoup some of the expenses incurred in regulating impacts to historic resources during the course of development.

#### **Why is Culture and Tourism bringing in a fee now? Do other ministries charge fees like this?**

- In order to address operational costs and maintain service standards, a fee will be assessed for each Historic Resources application. The application fees are similar to those charged by other departments and are revenue neutral, with all proceeds directed back into the program to help support the continued viability and efficiency of the *Historical Resource Act* approval system.

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#### **What types of activities will the fees support?**

- The regulatory system associated with *Historical Resources Act* approvals is designed to ensure that historic resources are carefully managed in the course of development.
- Under the provisions of the *Act*, ownership of two types of historic resources – archaeological artifacts and palaeontological specimens – is vested in the Crown, and the Government of Alberta has a particularly strong stewardship role with respect to this irreplaceable legacy.
- The Government requires consultation with Indigenous communities when development activities may impact their traditional use sites. The department works with both industry and Indigenous peoples to ensure that this commitment is fulfilled.

#### **How will the fees be used?**

- Funds will be used to maintain and improve IT infrastructure for the program, and temporarily bolster resourcing during periods of peak demand.

#### **How will you deal with major or complex projects?**

- Major or complex projects that stretch over several years, have significant geographical extent, and/or involve multiple Historic Resources applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine appropriate assessment of fees.