



JUNE 2015  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

## Invitation to participate

The Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site has begun the process of reviewing its management plan. To this end, I invite you to participate in this reflection by sharing your viewpoint and your suggestions as part of the public consultation period to be held from June 22 to July 13, 2015.

The purpose of this consultation is to allow the municipality, partners, community stakeholders, residents and Canadians to be involved in decision-making regarding the management of the national historic site.

The management plan is the official document that will guide management of the historic site for the next ten years (2015-2025). It provides orientation for protecting cultural and natural resources, visitor experiences, extension, and public education.

This document proposes three key strategies, objectives and targets specific to the site, as well as elements to consider in updating the vision.

Join the Parks Canada team in developing a common vision and continuing to protect this national historic site, while promoting the discovery of this unique site.

**Carole Loiselle**  
Directrice  
Unité de gestion de La Mauricie et de l'Ouest du Québec

### *Mandate of Parks Canada*

*On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations.*

## Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site

The Louis S. St. Laurent property was designated a national historic site in 1974.

The reasons for designation of the Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site, set forth in the 2001 commemorative integrity statement, read as follows:

- The property commemorates Louis S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada.
- The property commemorates the social history of the Eastern Town-ships.

In this case, commemorative site corresponds to the national historic site, meaning that the entire property, home and store-warehouse are recognized as heritage buildings by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office.

The former Prime Minister's grave is located in the cemetery in Compton, near the historic site. Under the National Program for the Grave Sites of Canadian Prime Ministers, there is an information panel on the life and work of the Prime Minister.



### In short...

- The Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site is the only site in Parks Canada's network in the greater Eastern Townships tourism area. It is located on Louis S. St. Laurent Route (Route 147) in Compton, about 20 km southeast of the City of Sherbrooke.
- The site is open to the public from the end of June to the end of September. Visitors to the historic site can learn about the history of the site and the reason for its commemoration by visiting exhibits in the general store and the home. The visit is based on a multimedia presentation and an audioguide that present the significant stages in the life and career of Louis S. St. Laurent and the history of the East-ern Townships.
- The cooperative association "Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site's Companions" was created in May 2000. The organization offers services and activities to clients.
- A partnership agreement was reached with the municipality of Compton in 2014 to develop a series of four concerts for activities in the garden at the historic site.
- According to a survey conducted in 2009 as part of the Visitor Information Program, 99% of visitors enjoyed their visit.

## Main achievements since the adoption of the 2007 management plan

- Keeping the collection of artefacts and the heritage buildings in excellent condition through regular maintenance.
- Painting the buildings (house, store and warehouse) Installation of a video surveillance system in all buildings to increase the safety of visitors and to better protect the collection.
- Community involvement through special activities and cooperation with the Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site's Companions and the municipality of Compton.
- Development of new means of interpretation, including an audioguide, an Xplorers booklet, and the addition of family activities in the garden.
- Improved communication of the social history of the Eastern Townships through the audioguide.

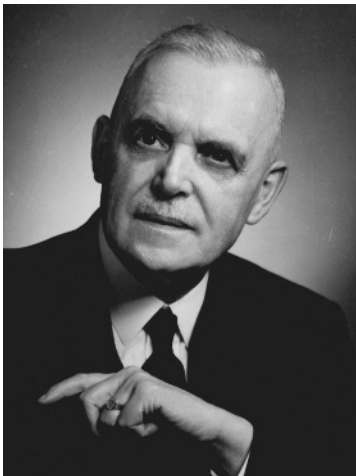
### *What is a management plan?*

*A management plan is a forward-looking document that provides a vision for a national park or national historic site at its future best and the strategies for getting there.*

*The new management plan for the Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site will guide decisions and actions in protecting, pre-senting and operating the national historic site.*

## Main issues

- The decrease in the number of visitors to the Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site is the main issue. There were 7,767 visitors in 2014.
- The cultural landscape of the site is ageing. Several trees were cut or pruned, while others are at the end of their life.



## The proposed management approach

The management plan proposes a management approach that aims to integrate the three elements of Parks Canada's mandate, i.e. resource protection, public education and visitor experience, in order to contribute to Parks Canada's efforts to carry out its vision and achieve its objectives.

The management plans are reviewed every 10 years and take into account comments and participation from partners, stakeholders and the public, to ensure that the plan remains relevant and effective. The planning program for the Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site began with an assessment of the condition of the site, which identified key issues to be addressed when developing the new plan. The management plan will be submitted to the Minister of the Environment for approval. The approved plan will be available on the historic site's website.

### Key Strategy 1 Tie the historic site to regional tourism demand

This strategy aims to increase opportunities for third parties to use the site to hold events and activities, and to emphasize the development of experience opportunities for visitors to the historic site. Efforts will be made to integrate the site more into regional tourism offer, particularly through its involvement in various tourism routes in the region. These initiatives will succeed by being part of tourism promotion strategies in the region and by promoting the mobilization of stake-holders and partners and activities at the historic site.

Parks Canada wants the Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site to be an important element in the regional tourism dynamic by maintaining, or increasing, its privileged ties to builders in the regional tourism industry.

#### Objective 1.1: Increase the number of visitors to the historic site

**Target:** Increase the number of visitors by 20% by 2025

#### Objective 1.2: Diversity experience opportunities for visitors

**Target:** The historic site will host two varied events or visitor experiences offered in cooperation with community partners

#### Objective 1.3: Continue the integration of the historic site into the dynamic of regional tourism development

**Target:** The historic site will take part each year in the local or regional promotional strategy.

**Target:** The historic site is included in the annual visit route for local tourism groups.

### Key Strategy 2 Louis S. St. Laurent in the network of gravesites of Canadian Prime Ministers

The National Program for the Grave Sites of Canadian Prime Ministers ensures the conservation and promotion of the grave sites of these individuals whose public careers have had a profound impact on the history of the country. Louis S. St. Laurent asserted Canada's

increasing international role after the war, welcomed Newfoundland into Confederation, and oversaw the adoption of new social and industrial policies.

Louis S. St. Laurent passed away on July 25, 1973 in Quebec and was buried in the Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin cemetery near the historic site. A commemorative panel is installed there.

In 2017, the country will mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian Confederation. On that occasion, the Government of Canada will encourage Canadians to commemorate events, celebrate achievements, and honour people who contributed to shape the Canada of today.

#### Objective 2.1: Link Louis S. St. Laurent to the commemoration of Canadian prime ministers and the commemorations of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation

Include the achievements of Prime Minister St. Laurent in the national commemorations of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation (2017).

#### Objective 2.2: Establish a link between the national historic site and the gravesite

**Target:** In 2017, the Prime Minister's grave site will be included in the visit route at the national historic site.

### Key Strategy 3 Preserve cultural resources for an authentic visitor experience

This strategy consists of Continuing efforts to conserve cultural resources at the site in order to keep it in excellent condition and offer an authentic visitor experience.

#### Objective 3.1: Protect and maintain cultural and natural resources in good condition

**Target:** By 2025, replace trees that are at the end of their life and that make up the cultural landscape of the historic site.

**Target:** Maintain the buildings and collection in excellent condition.

## A New Vision

The vision is a future projection of what the historic site should be. It describes, over a ten-year period, the desired status of the cultural resources and elements related to visitor experience, external relations, and cooperation with stakeholders and local officials.



***Vision of Parks Canada***  
*Canada's treasured natural and historic places will be a living legacy, connecting hearts and minds to a stronger, deeper understanding of the very essence of Canada.*

## Vision 2025 – Some proposals

- Located in the heart of village activities in Compton and regional events
- A site that hosts events in cooperation with the community
- A significant element in the route for discovering regional tourism offerings
- Increased number of visitors, particularly through the holding of private and public events
- A recognized site that is important to residents due to its authenticity and the excellent condition of the buildings and collection, as well as its beautiful landscaping.
- An unavoidable place where visitors can discover and appreciate Louis S. St. Laurent's contribution as Prime Minister to the development of Canada.

## What do you think?

This document summarizes and presents the site, its issues, a management approach, key strategies, objectives and measurable targets. We now want to hear from you! This is an opportunity to contribute to the reflection and develop the new management plan together for the Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site. Your knowledge of the area, your experiences at the historical site, and how you see its future are important to us.

### How to participate:

You can share your opinion in three ways:

- By participating in person at the public meeting on June 22, 2015 at the Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site

Or

- By emailing your comments to:  
daniel.beaudin@pc.gc.ca

Or

- By mail:

Public Consultations – Louis S. St. Laurent NHS  
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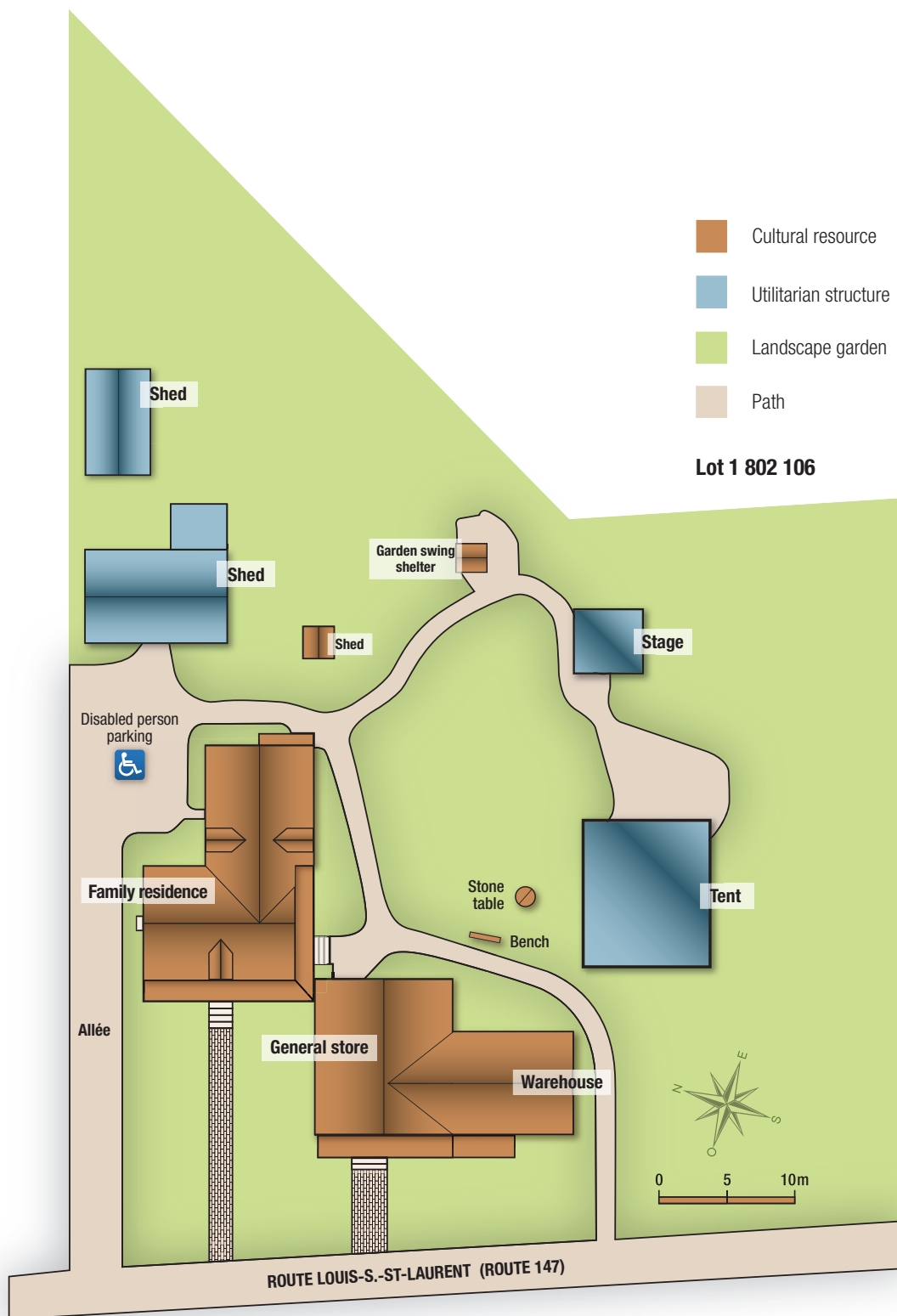
If you have any questions or if you would like more information on the public consultation, please contact us.

**Visit the Parks Canada website at  
[www.parcscanada.gc.ca/stlaurent](http://www.parcscanada.gc.ca/stlaurent)**

You have until July 13, 2015 to share your opinion, comments, or ideas, or to submit a presentation.

**Thank you for your important cooperation!**







# Louis S. St. Laurent National Historic Site

## LOCATION

