



News Release *Communiqué*

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Government of Canada Supports the Preservation of Nordegg National Historic Site of Canada

Parks Canada announces contribution for conservation of highly threatened buildings

Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, December 21, 2011 – On behalf of the Honourable Peter Kent, Canada's Environment Minister and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Mr. Blake Richards, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose, today announced that the Government of Canada will be investing in the conservation of highly-threatened buildings at Nordegg National Historic Site.

"I am very pleased to announce this funding for Nordegg National Historic Site," said Mr. Richards. "With its various buildings, equipment and artifacts, the Nordegg mine site is truly a hidden cultural gem in the south-eastern slopes of the Rockies where visitors can learn the rich history of coal mining and production."

Nordegg Mine, located near Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, was a major coal producer for over 40 years. The mine, also known as Brazeau Collieries, employed the latest surface preparation techniques to produce coal and briquettes for railway and household use from 1911 to 1955. Nordegg was designated a national historic site in 2001 in recognition of its substantial role in the development of the coal industry in Alberta and British Columbia and because it is the best surviving example of a surface coal plant in the mountain region.

Through Parks Canada's National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program, the Government of Canada will be contributing up to \$62,500 for the conservation of highly threatened buildings within the industrial complex.

"One of our Government's major objectives is to inspire Canadians to develop strong and meaningful connections with Canada's national treasures," said Minister Kent. "Our national historic sites are vital to our history, our identity as Canadians, and our tourism industry. By investing in them and by building lasting relationships with the community groups that operate them, we ensure that they will continue to help support local economies and encourage more Canadians to explore and discover our national heritage."

"We are pleased with Parks Canada's support to the restoration and stabilization projects at the Nordegg National Historic Site," said Tom Clark, President of the Nordegg Historical Society. "The restoration of another of the Nordegg mine site's historically significant buildings ensures the preservation of our industrial heritage, allowing current and future generations to learn of its historical impact in Canada."

The Cost-Sharing Program reflects the Government of Canada's dedication to protect Canada's heritage through funding towards the conservation of national historic sites. In this centennial year, Parks Canada is pleased to continue its efforts to ensure that Canada's historic and natural heritage is protected for the enjoyment, education and appreciation of all Canadians, today and in the future.

For additional information, please see the accompanying backgrounder at www.parkscanada.gc.ca under **Media Room**.

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