



# Reimagining Our Adventures: A New Vision for Scouts Canada's Camps

## The Case for Change

Throughout Scouts Canada's history, properties have played a crucial role in supporting Scouts' adventures, providing access to pristine wilderness and program infrastructure that wouldn't have been available otherwise.

Over the last century, Scouts Canada has acquired a large portfolio of properties spread across the country. These properties take all forms and functions; from Scout Camps, to wilderness reserves, from single-room Scout Halls to the National Headquarters, each property is unique in its purpose, location and how it was acquired.

Most of Scouts Canada's current portfolio was acquired during our peak membership years, in the 1950s, '60s and '70s. Since the late-1960s when membership in Scouts Canada peaked at over 350,000 members, participation in Scouting had been slowly declining until leveling out about 10 years ago.

Scouts Canada has undergone a significant evolution over the last 10 years to modernize our programs, volunteer-support capabilities and brand in order to make Scouting relevant to today's changing youth market. We now have the opportunity to help our property portfolio evolve to better meet the needs and realities of the next generation of Scouting in Canada.

Currently, Scouts Canada's property portfolio is in need of drastic updates to its infrastructure to meet modern safety requirements

and provide members with clean, functional facilities to conduct their programs. In addition, most properties are not financially viable and lack the capital needed to maintain their current infrastructure, let alone invest in the new facilities our members are looking for. Amplifying these problems are the large number of properties, many of which are underutilized or not utilized at all, and the fact that they are distributed across our very large country.

Through recent surveys of both Scouts and Scouters, we know that our properties are not living up to members' expectations. Although 85% of respondents indicated that they had used a Scouts Canada camp in the last year, they acknowledge that the properties do not offer basic services, are poorly maintained, offer little program support and are generally not up to the same standard as similar camps operated by other youth-serving organizations.

Put more plainly, members are using Scouts Canada's properties out of a sense of obligation, not because they feel those properties are best suited for their Sections' adventures. Clearly, we can and need to do better as an organization.