

The Alberta Legislature: A Cultural Landscape Analysis

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Legislature buildings in Canada are the sites of provincial government and their forms and landscapes are as varied as the provinces they represent. These variations are emblematic of the disparate identities of the provinces, and consequently, of their cultural landscapes. This research analyzed the cultural landscape of the Alberta legislature, to investigate the ways in which it represents settler colonialism and identity formation in Alberta. This analysis center on the visual and symbolic elements of the Alberta legislature's architecture, monuments and memorials, and interior décor I answered the question. Albertan identity is a product of settler colonialism but has evolved over time to be more inclusive towards the minorities now populating the prairies. However, the trappings and power structures of settler colonialism remain and this is emblematic in the enduring visual language of representation within the landscape of the legislature. Although the landscapes we live in do not deterministically control our actions, they do have subtle influence over our interactions and sense of identity as Albertan; Sir Winston Churchill said "We shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us." Awareness of the enduring influences of the inequities of the past and their permanence in our built landscapes is an important step towards moving forward and addressing them.

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