

Palaeontology is Our Heritage



A fossil fish discovered by volunteers.

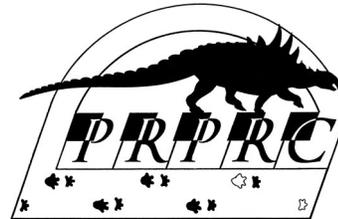
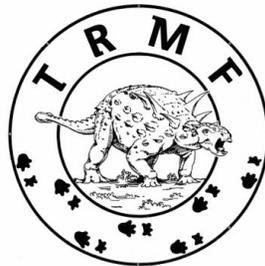
FOSSIL RESOURCES AT PALAEOLOGY SITES ARE THE HARD LINK TO OUR PLANET'S ANCIENT PAST. EVERYTHING WE ARE NOW IS BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO.

WE ARE THE STEWARDS OF THIS RESOURCE. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE FOSSILS ARE PRESERVED FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP.



A meat-eating dinosaur tooth discovered by volunteers.



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Code of Conduct for Visitors at Paleontology Sites



**PROCEDURES FOR
RESPONSIBLE PERSONAL
CONDUCT WHILE ENJOYING
YOUR VISIT TO
PALEONTOLOGY SITES**

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WHY PALEONTOLOGY SITES ARE IMPORTANT



Paleontology sites contain fossils, and fossils provide the only information paleontologists have to directly examine the animals, plants, and environmental conditions of the past.

Only a small percentage of organisms ever fossilize. Some fossils are common, but many are uncommon or rare.

Fossils may have survived thousands to millions of years underground, but fossils begin to deteriorate when exposed. We want to ensure that our activities when viewing these fascinating sites do not speed up their deterioration.

An example of vandalism at a local dinosaur footprint site.



WHEN VISITING FOSSIL SITES

There are many activities that common to tourists and visitors that seem harmless, but are actually damaging to fossils. Follow the procedures listed in this brochure and you will not inadvertently damage your fossil heritage.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Never attempt to remove any fossil from its rock layer. Fossils provide the most information when they are found in the context of their original rock, and can be accidentally damaged if removed improperly.
- If a fossil is found loose on the surface, leave it in place. Only move the fossil if it is in immediate danger of being damaged by natural or human-related actions. If you must move the fossil, keep track of where the fossil originated, and where it has moved.
- Do not disturb a fossil site with digging, climbing, or standing on a fossil or fossil layer. If with a guide, follow their instructions. Constant contact with fossils will damage them over time.
- Do not attempt to clean or remove any natural (e.g., plant or soil) or artificial (e.g., paint or plaster) materials from a fossil or fossil site. These activities must be performed by a trained paleontology technician.
- Do not attempt to make copies of a fossil using any materials such as rubbers or plasters. These activities cause irreparable damage to fossils.
- Never carve, write, or paint on ANY part of a fossil site. Not only does this permanently damage a fossil site, this is graffiti and you may face heavy fines. Nowadays it is easy to trace vandals.
- Do not leave garbage at fossil sites. This can attract both plants and animals that can damage and alter fossil sites.
- Remember that fossil found on Crown Lands are property of the Crown.
- Vertebrate fossils (bones and skeletons, teeth, footprints) range from uncommon to rare in B.C., and need the attention of a trained paleontologist.

HAVE YOU DISCOVERED A FOSSIL?

Congratulations! We know that you want to treat your fossil discovery responsibly. Follow these guidelines: when reporting your find to your local natural history museum:

- Do not move the fossil unless it is in danger of damage.
- Take several photos from many different angles. Try to take overlapping photos. Always include an object for scale in your photos, such as a tape measure, a coin, or a lens cap of a camera.
- Record the location of the find using a map or a GPS unit.
- Take pictures of the area surrounding the find, especially exposed rock layers.
- Report your find to your local natural history museum! Many important fossil discoveries are made by non-paleontologists!

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