

All archaeological heritage Sites of a Special Nature in Saskatchewan are afforded explicit protection under s.64 of *The Heritage Property Act*.

Any person who destroys, desecrates or defaces any pictograph, petroglyph, archaeological burial, boulder effigy,

medicine wheel, or other Site of a Special Nature is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine and/or imprisonment. All contraventions should be reported to the local RCMP detachment or to the provincial Heritage office at 1-306-787-2817, or by e-mail at info@cyr.gov.sk.ca.

Pictograph Churchill River



Herschel Petroglyph



Saskatchewan
Culture, Youth
and Recreation



Archaeological Heritage

Sites of a Special Nature

Saskatchewan's *Heritage Property Act* defines rock paintings and carvings, medicine wheels, boulder effigies and other ancient boulder monuments as archaeological heritage "Sites of a Special Nature." These fragile and unique sites are a reflection of First Nations' past, and a vital link to the continuing spirituality, cultural traditions, and heritage of First Nations today.

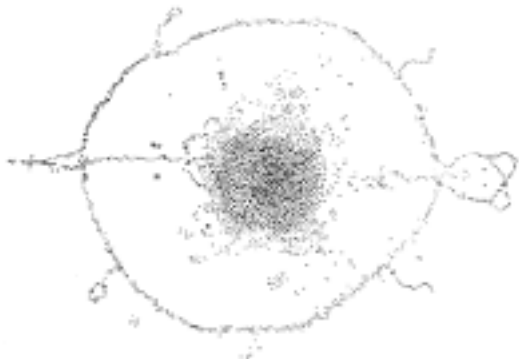
Bison Effigy near Big Beaver



Many of these sacred places are still used for ceremonial, religious and other traditional purposes. They also have exceptional educational and scientific value – a rich cultural legacy of the past to be preserved and protected for the benefit of all peoples.

Often, these sites are prominent, well-known landmarks and receive frequent local visitation. Some have even gained worldwide recognition and attention. It is imperative, therefore, that all visits to these culturally sensitive locations be conducted with care and respect for First Nations culture and tradition.

Minton Turtle Effigy



The Province and the First Nations of Saskatchewan request that those visiting Sites of a Special Nature follow these protocols:

- **Regardless of your cultural or religious affiliation, approach sacred First Nations heritage sites with a spirit of humility and prayer. Conduct yourself in the same respectful manner as you would in any place of worship.**
- **Respect the cultures and customs of the First Nations of Saskatchewan.**
- **It is customary to leave an offering of loose tobacco. Tobacco is a sacred plant, given to First Nations by the Creator, and widely used in prayer to the Creator, the ancestors, the earth and the universe. This offering is best left at the periphery of the site.**
- **All visitors must be alcohol and drug free when entering sacred sites.**

- **To First Nations, women are held in high regard for bringing life into the world. A common custom among First Nations is that women in their menses cycle do not enter sacred sites. First Nations believe that the female body undergoes a natural purification at this time, whereas males have to attend other ceremonials such as the sweat lodge in order to attain similar purification.**
- **Visitors must keep the site area clean. Other than tobacco offerings, no waste or other materials should be left behind.**
- **Visitors must not walk on or deface any rock feature, displace stones, damage local vegetation, or otherwise disturb the ground surface.**

Roy Rivers Medicine Wheel

