

THIS SPACE HERE

Yexyexéscen/Mt. Robson and Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Parks: examining 100 years of landscape change

MOUNTAIN LEGACY PROJECT

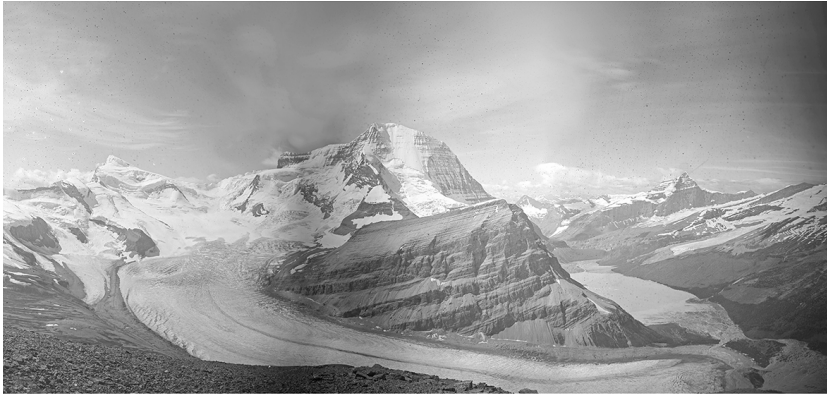


Figure 1: Panoramic view from Ptarmigan Peak #1: A.O. Wheeler, 1911. Image courtesy of Library and Archives Canada / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada (ecopy numbers e010933240 – e010933242).



Figure 2: Panoramic view from Ptarmigan Peak #1: MLP, 2011. Image courtesy of the Mountain Legacy Project, School of Environmental Studies, University of Victoria (mountainlegacy.ca).

INTRODUCING THE YEXYEXÉSCEN/MT. ROBSON AND
MT. ASSINIBOINE REPHOTOGRAPHY PROJECTMountain Legacy Project: mountainlegacy.ca

May 31, 2019

BACKGROUND

BASED AT THE University of Victoria's School of Environmental Studies, researchers with the Mountain Legacy Project (MLP) have spent the past 20 years using repeat photography to explore landscape change in the Canadian cordillera. Working with a vast systematic collection of historical mountain survey photographs – more than 120,000 are known to exist – MLP teams determine the photo locations, go to the same place, and accurately rephotograph the images. MLP researchers, drawn from sciences, humanities, arts, and environmental management, then find different ways to “let the photographs speak.” The same historic/modern pair will often tell different “stories,” depending on the questions asked and how they are framed. However, change – whether explicitly or implicitly climate driven – is common to most.

The complete collection of historic images numbers more than 120,000, with approximately 90,000 of those taken in British Columbia. The work of the MLP has concentrated to date on the Rocky Mountains in Alberta (from of a total of approximately 15,000 historic images). Through the [Living Lab Project](#) and earlier work with Parks Canada in Kootenay National Park, we have completed more than 1,000 images in BC. They can be seen on MLP's public-facing website explore.mountainlegacy.ca but are literally a drop in the bucket: about 1% of the total collection for the vast mountainous regions of BC.

To date only a handful of MLP repeats come from what are arguably Canada's most iconic Rocky Mountain areas – Mt. Robson Provincial Park and Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Park. MLP research teams have been on the ground in both parks repeating 24 images in Robson (2011, 2012) and 46 in Assiniboine (2010, 2017). Much more remains to be done – but before repeats can be taken the historic images need to be sourced, digitized, and correctly accessioned in to MLP's database and Explore website.

In 2018 BC Parks, through the [Living Lab for Climate Change](#) project, provided a grant to the Mountain Legacy Project to do just that – locate, digitize, and make available an additional 146 historic images in Mt. Robson Provincial Park and an additional 57 in Mt. Assiniboine.

Featuring interactive maps and image galleries, this website provides an overview of progress thus far. As well, it provides a sample of the type of landscape cover analysis these historic/modern image pairs can deliver via MLP's custom [Image Analysis Toolkit](#).

Source: <https://mountainlegacy.ca/project/research-in-bcs-mt-robson-and-mt-assiniboine-provincial-parks-a-bc-parks-living-lab-grant/>.