



## TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (REDP)

### COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION 2013-14

#### Klondike UNESCO World Heritage Site Feasibility Assessment and Strategic Plan

#### *Project Manager's Report – June 11, 2013*

Hello everyone! This first month has been an exciting one. I have been working with the Regional Economic Development project manager Mark Wickham on fine-tuning the committee structures and processes, which were based on those used by the World Heritage site in Grand Pré Nova Scotia. A draft work plan, budget, communications strategy and committee terms of reference are now rolled up into the draft Strategic Plan. Mark has just finalized an economic impact study.

*In a nutshell, **the objectives** are to:*

- Explore the feasibility of the Klondike Region as a World Heritage site
- Bring the community together to recognize and celebrate our shared past, present and future

*And **the work plan** is:*

- Coordinate public engagement
- Complete a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) [including determination of authenticity, integrity and framework for global comparative analysis] - by Feb 28, 2014
- Complete a feasibility assessment of the SOUV and economic impact study - by March 31, 2014

I would like to thank Mark Wickham. Those of you who are new to the World Heritage Advisory committee may not realize that Mark's company took on the strategic planning for this project last March, at a critical point when 5 months of work had to be completed in 5 weeks. While juggling coordination of nine other projects, he and his colleague Evelyn Pollock saved the day. I would also like to thank the previous ad hoc Steering Committee for their dedication and vision in getting us to this point, and to all the partners whose support 'gives legs' to this next phase!

### **Getting established**

I had the opportunity to speak with and learn from the very knowledgeable Project Manager for Grand Pré World Heritage Site, Christophe Rivet, and study many on-line documents from this and other sites. I am also being immersed in a new workplace as a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) employee. Jackie and her Heritage team and other TH staff have been most helpful in orienting me, and I participated in the Staff Recognition and Development Day (May 10<sup>th</sup>), the Anniversary of the Umbrella Final Agreement (May 29<sup>th</sup>) and planning meetings for the next Moosehide Gathering. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May I moved into Madame Tremblay's small office on Third Avenue, next to Canada Post. I have copies of all the plans, a map of World Heritage sites around the world, and am starting to develop a resource library. If you have some questions or ideas, do stop in for a chat, or call 993-2429.

### **Project Management Committee**

The Project Management team - consisting of Barb Hogan (Manager, Historic Sites, Yukon Government), Gary Parker (Executive Director, Klondike Visitors Association) and Lee Whalen (Heritage Officer, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in) and myself – has met once formally on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and followed up with various phone calls and emails. Discussions have focussed on refining the operating budget, reducing the scope of the work plan, and planning for the 'Statement of Universal Values' Working Group.

### **Budget**

The total operating budget is \$68,500. About two-thirds of this will go towards travel and honoraria for a panel of experts (including elders and local experts) for two workshops (possibly in September and November) to develop a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value and other factors to meet UNESCO criteria. The remainder is largely for community engagement and advertising.

### **'Statement of Universal Values' (SOUV) Working Group**

Due to our extremely tight timeline, we decided to reduce the original scope. The Global Comparative Analysis (with other sites around the world) will just be a framework for future studies, and relevant graduate student papers can be added to the dossier if the project proceeds in the following year. We have a good preliminary list of suggested names, and the plan is to hire a Chair and task him/her with recruiting expertise e.g., anthropologists, historians, cultural landscape specialists, linguists etc. While this is underway, we will send out a general Call for Expression of Interest. I have begun the process of contacting and encouraging appropriate individuals identified by our local Heritage community.

Parks Canada International programs experts in Ottawa have also been contacted and are prepared to assist with this process in July.

### **Community Engagement**

As well as helping to finalize the Communications Strategy, key messages, and spokespersons the following, I accomplished the following:

- Developed a list of events/opportunities for engagement, proposing one key event in August (Open House at Tr'ochëk) and one in November (Symposium, Pecha Kucha)
- Obtained a quote for the re-launch/re-design of Klondike WHS website; wrote draft contract and justification
- Wrote an article introducing myself and the project in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in June 2013 newsletter
- Wrote draft Call for Expression of Interest for TH citizen representative on Advisory Committee
- Prepared a briefing note/resolution for Chief and Council re: approval of Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
- Wrote and sent requests for interest for non-TH individuals solicited as representatives on Advisory Committee
- Participated in two Regional Economic Development Plan Communications meetings (May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 3<sup>rd</sup>) resulting in draft communications plan specifically for engagement of TH audience (staff, leadership, community).
- Am working with Jackie and Lee to build internal TH support.

I really enjoyed being on the previous Steering Committee, and I sincerely hope the new Advisory Committee will continue to be as enthusiastic and committed to working together.

Thanks,

Paula

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