



TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (REDP)

COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION 2013-14

TR'ONDËK-KLONDIKE World Heritage Feasibility Project

Project Management Report – February 20, 2014

The Project Management Committee members met informally several times since the last report, and formally to discuss the following:

Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) Study

Chair of the OUV Working Group Doug Olynyk re-wrote the first draft OUV Statement and responses to Criteria ii), iv), v), vi) and viii) based on the results of OUV Workshop #2.

The OUV Statement (Draft #2) was sent immediately to the Ottawa International Programs staff, and copied to the Project Management Committee.

A teleconference meeting with our colleagues in Ottawa took place on Feb. 14th and carried over to Feb. 17th. The Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage project was represented by: Debbie Nagano, Doug Olynyk and Project Management Committee members Lee Whalen, Paula Hassard and Rebecca Jansen (who is acting for Barb Hogan). Ottawa International Programs advisors included John Pinkerton, Rebecca Kennedy and Genevieve Charrois.

In addition to detailed written comments on the draft document, the Ottawa team emphasized that while they have some questions and suggestions on the best way to present the project, they still believe it is a good candidate for World Heritage inscription and continues to belong on the Canadian Tentative List. They noted that their advice takes into account their experience with previous nominations, as well observation of larger patterns with nominations globally.

During the discussion, the advisors recommended we 'triage' and move elements around so they are more clearly represented, and to focus on choosing the right criteria:

Criteria ii)

Clarification on Criteria ii) revealed that the 'interchange of values' has to result in something new, with tangible evidence, and is not a good fit for land claims and co-management of the land. It is also specific to developments in technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design, and cannot be interpreted as liberally as we expected.

Criteria iv) and v)

The initial advice was to tell the gold mining story in Criteria iv) and First Nations story in Criteria v). Later in the discussion it was emphasized that Criteria v) refers to an environment heavily altered by man, and may be the best place to incorporate the mining landscape. There was discussion that 'juxtaposition of different land-uses' might fit.

Criteria iii)

Another suggestion was to look at Criteria iii) 'to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or has disappeared.' This is the direction that is being explored for the revision of the Pimachiowan Aki aboriginal landscape nomination. It emphasizes a cultural tradition as opposed to land-use. The challenge is how to do this within the World Heritage Convention, and much will be learned from this process over the next two years.

Criteria viii)

This criteria is for natural sites, so if we include the paleontological story it would get us into a mixed site situation, which is more complex (e.g., must pass muster with 2 different groups – one natural and one cultural). It would also require a large proportion of the oldest or most significant sites, which may not already be in protected areas.

Boundaries

The advisors emphasized that we will be judged by whether the boundaries contain all the attributes necessary to express the OUV, and if there are any attributes of major significance that are outside the boundaries the integrity will be in question. They asked for an overview of the representative sites; Doug described the main historic sites and Lee gave a broad overview of FN archaeological sites and places of continuing traditional use. Some questions were raised about the extent of the Tintina Trench in relation to the geographic area related to Criteria viii).

Next steps

In conclusion, the overall sense from Ottawa was that there are 3 stories here (or one story with well-known chapters) i.e., life before, during and after the gold rush, the gold rush and the geological paleontological theme, and that they would have the most confidence in the gold rush story.

In a de-briefing session afterwards, Doug, Lee and Paula debated next steps. We thought that a case could be made for the theme of 'life before during and after the last of the great nineteenth century gold rushes' – a balanced story using the gold rush as the hook. It was decided to drop criteria ii) and incorporate some of that information into Criteria v). As our wordsmith, Doug will work on Draft 3 of the OUV Statement and responses to criteria iv), v) and vi).

Criteria viii) will be included as a suggestion for possible inclusion at a future date, but for now it will not be reflected in the boundaries and OUV. Doug's report will also recommend consideration of Criteria iii) at a later date. At this time we do not have

time to investigate this theme, and it may be more useful to wait to see how it is applied with Pimachiowan Aki.

Economic Impact Study:

Mark Wickham received a revised proposal to update the Economic Impact Study from Lions Gate Consulting. At our request, the revision expanded on non-tourism economic impacts and opportunities. Mark said it would provide 'more of a descriptive element around case study examples and pathways, rather than present value quantitative analysis'.

Project Management Committee members Barb Hogan and Paula Hassard met briefly by phone on January 28 to review the proposal. Barb's comments related to tourism, which has seen a recovery to near 2007 levels - and the need to reflect trends and update statistics to the 2012 survey. She would like to see more information on the potential impact of a TKWHS on the whole Yukon, as well as a description of the type of current and future visitor to Dawson based on the Visitor Explorer Quotient e.g., those interested in learning. She noted that the interim impact study focused mostly on national historic sites and environmental aspects, and thought it should also recognize Yukon investment in Forty Mile and grant assistance to heritage sites in and outside town for contributing to economic activity for the past 25 years. She provided some possible contacts in tourism who could speak to the big picture and cost-benefit to both Yukon and Canada.

The contractor responded that the assessment is basically confined to the Yukon, as they do not have the resources to run Stats Canada's input-output models that would reflect the national impacts of increased visitation.

Community Engagement

- **TH Communications:** Paula prepared a project update for the TH February and March newsletters.
- **Tr'ondëk-Klondike Extraordinaire Night** (*adapted from March newsletter article*)
A fast-paced slide show was held in the Oddfellows ballroom on Feb. 6th to a full and appreciative crowd. Presenters were asked, "What does Tr'ondëk-Klondike mean to you?" The purpose was to get people talking about different perspectives on our shared history, and how we want the world to see us. It was a fascinating potluck of ideas!

Kylie Van Every and Kim Joseph explained the meaning of the word Tr'ondëk, and that the river has always been a highway for the First Nations. Lulu Keating followed with a humorous take on being a Newcomer and her gradual awareness of the community beyond what the tourists see. Jen Laliberté gave us a whirlwind tour of maps, borders and boundaries and how the First Nations are linked by family ties and the land in spite of dotted lines on a map. Karen

Mackay took us off the beaten path to explore historic trails and rickety cabins, pretending she was trying to find housing! And respected Elder Peggy Kormendy and Debbie Nagano were a real hit, giving us a peek at their trapping way of life, showing pictures of beaver camp and their winter trap-line, the furs, as well as finished handmade hats and mitts and footwear. Debbie explained that trapping is not for everyone.

After the music concert, Molly MacDonald talked about how Klondike is viewed from Outside, showing pictures of Klondike images in popular culture from gold rush days up to Klondike bars and current TV shows. Veronica Verkley explored some silly misconceptions people have in 'What's Really Going on Here?' and Trina Buhler made convincing case for why we should preserve historic buildings in Dawson. Lastly David Neufeld talked about "A Century of Conversation between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and locals".

The evening was thought provoking, funny and insightful and we are getting lots of great comments. As Wayne Potoroka mentioned, the community's exploration of what is important about our place is the real prize.

Warm thanks to all the presenters, helpers and volunteers!

Paula plans to use some of the video and audio recordings on the website, social media and radio.

- **Klondike Sun:** A huge thanks go out to Advisory Committee member and journalist Dan Davidson for his ongoing coverage of the World Heritage Project. The last of his three-part series was published in the previous issue of the Klondike Sun.
- **Ken Coates 'Precious Lands' talk at Myth and Medium:**
The World Heritage Project is sponsoring a presentation by historian Ken Coates on 'Precious Lands: Territory, Resources and Values in the Klondike River Valley' at the Cultural Centre at 7 pm on Tuesday, February 25th. Below is the abstract of his talk:

"The junction of the Yukon and Klondike Rivers is one of the most famous and, in material terms, richest pieces of land in world history. The importance of this territory extends far beyond its value as a source of gold. Crucial to the lives of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the region has a deep ecological and cultural value. Because of the Klondike Gold Rush, the land is of great heritage importance for the world. This talk explores how value, variously defined, is created and maintained in the area and how it is the convergence of Indigenous, historic, commercial and cultural interests that have given the land true global significance. "

I have also asked OUV Working Group Chair, Doug Olynyk to accompany Ken to take advantage of the opportunity to have Ken contribute to the OUV discussion. If members of the Advisory Committee are interested Paula can arrange an informal discussion group or lunch/dinner on Feb. 25th.

Revised Workplan - January to May, 2014¹

JANUARY 2014

Continuation of OUV work; value statement, authenticity, integrity, comparative analysis

Draft#2 OUV Statement and Responses to Criteria – Jan. 26th

Review of draft OUV by Ottawa International Programs specialists – Jan. 26 to Feb. 14

Can Nor application

Community Engagement – prepare for February events

FEBRUARY 2014

Comments re: draft OUV by Ottawa International Programs specialists – Feb. 17

Draft#3 OUV Statement and Responses to Criteria – by Feb. 19

Review of OUV draft by OUV Working Group professionals – Feb. 19-26

Contract for Website/Social media management – Feb. 17 to March 31

Contract for economic impact study update – Feb. 24 to March 20

Community Engagement – 'Tr'ondëk-Klondike Extraordinaire' night – Feb. 6

Historian Ken Coates speaker during 'Myth and Medium ' – Feb. 25

MARCH 2014

Final Draft OUV report – Feb. 27 to March 3

Review of Final Draft OUV report by Project Management Committee – March 4 to 5

Review of Final Draft OUV report by Advisory Committee – March 6 to 10

Consultation with TH and YG Lands/Environment Departments? – March 6 to 10

Final Revisions – March 11 to 12

Project Milestone - Completion of OUV, Determination of Authenticity & Integrity, Framework for Comparative Analysis – March 13

Final OUV Report submission/presentation to Advisory Committee – March 13

Project Milestone - Completion of Final Economic Impact Study – March 20

Analysis of economic and OUV study, report & recommendations – March 25 to April 30

Community Engagement – TH General Assembly presentation – March 1; website updates and social media

APRIL 2014

¹ Note that the Project Manager position was extended to the end of May, and that an addendum was made to Doug Olynyk's contract to match the adjusted dates.

Continuation of Analysis of economic, OUV study, report & recommendations
Advisory Committee meeting – suggest postpone to May
Presentation to Yukon Government officials – end of May?

Project Milestone-Completion of Analysis, Report & Recommendations -April 30th

MAY 2014

Presentation to Advisory Committee – suggest May 1
Presentation to TH Community – May 6
Presentation to Elders – May 7
Presentation to Chief and Council – May 8
Presentation to Mayor and Council – May 20
Presentation to Yukon Government politicians – end of May?

Community Engagement - Develop 'Yukon North of Ordinary' print advertising or article (June -Aug. 2014 edition); website updates and social media
Develop articles for local media, heritage & tourism publications/websites