

# Appendix K – Letters of Support

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# THE CITY OF DAWSON

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December 21, 2016

Tr'ondëk-Klondike is an exceptional place. The story of what happened here—and continues happening here—is worth sharing with the world and committing for all time to human memory.

On behalf of the residents of our community, City of Dawson Council is delighted to support the nomination of Tr'ondëk-Klondike as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The municipality recognizes the importance of celebrating our history and living heritage, while allowing our cultural landscape to evolve. World Heritage Site designation will sustain our long-term goals for a healthy community and contribute to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of Dawson City and the Yukon. As well, communicating the significance of this place and the lessons it has for humanity is an obligation we take seriously.

We will continue supporting the protection, preservation, and promotion of this incomparable area and its unique values through responsible management of municipal infrastructure and cultural resources. Should Tr'ondëk-Klondike be inscribed on the World Heritage List, the City of Dawson is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities on the proposed Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site Stewardship Board.

The partnerships built between local and regional organizations in preparation of the Nomination Proposal will serve our community well in the years to come. We were brought together by our shared belief in Tr'ondëk-Klondike's Outstanding Universal Value and thankful for the efforts that articulated our shared legacy.

Sincerely,

Mayor Wayne Potoroka



## Dawson City Chamber of Commerce

December 12, 2016

Now that the process of getting the nomination package for the Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage proposal is nearly complete, it is a good time to reiterate the position of the Dawson City Chamber of Commerce with regard to this project.

The chamber has had representatives on the advisory committee behind this proposal since its inception and has been pleased to see the incredible progress that has been made since the project shifted into high gear in 2013.

In its current iteration the package supports the notion that the statement of universal value justifying the nomination reflects understanding of the long heritage of the Hän people in this region as well as the world recognition that came to the area with the Klondike Gold Rush between 1896 and 1898. That the two quite different cultural threads have been woven together over the last 120 years is remarkable. That mining still exists as a thriving economic pillar at the same time as the Hän culture is experiencing a renaissance is also remarkable.

That this nomination seeks to support all of this is encapsulated by the very title Tr'ondëk-Klondike, as the first word, in the Hän language, is the very linguistic source of the second word.

A UNESCO designation will unify community pride in hosting and safeguarding one of the world's special places. One of our economic pillars is tourism, and this status will help to sustain the existing visitor traffic while also attracting another kind of visitor. Tourism provides jobs and business opportunities here, and a stronger economy will have positive social, cultural, and economic benefits for Dawson and for the rest of the Yukon.

The Dawson City Chamber of Commerce continues to support this existing and worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Coralee Rudachyk  
General Manager  
Dawson City Chamber of Commerce

Dan Davidson  
Chamber Representative  
Tr'ondëk-Klondike Advisory Committee

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# DAWSON CITY MUSEUM

Box 303, Dawson City, Yukon Y0B 1G0 • Telephone: 867-993-5291 • Fax: 867-993-5839

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December 9, 2016

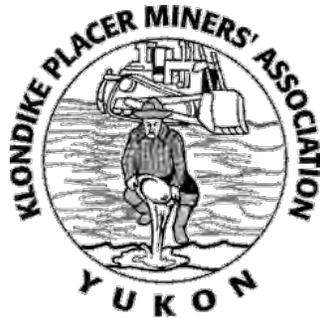
The Dawson City Museum is delighted to support the nomination for Tr'ondëk-Klondike's inscription on the World Heritage List. It is a unique cultural landscape that tells a story of universal importance for visitors and residents alike.

In recent years, the Museum has worked closely with our community partners to create inclusive exhibits and an accessible public museum. Generous feedback from members of the community, including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders, has helped refresh the Museum's approach to Klondike history. A new and improved floor plan provides the Museum with more opportunities to display collections and expand storytelling to include personal experiences from all Klondike communities and cultures, from before and after the beginning of the 20th century. We are working hard to ensure that the Museum is a responsible steward and ambassador of local heritage for present and future generations.

Should Tr'ondëk-Klondike be inscribed on the World Heritage List, the Dawson City Museum is committed to participating on the Stewardship Board. We will continue to support the protection, preservation, and promotion of this exceptional place and its unique values through the Museum's collections, exhibits, and interpretation. We also look forward to working in partnership with other local organizations, via the Stewardship Board, to showcase the unique values of Tr'ondëk-Klondike in new and exciting ways.

Sincerely,

Alex Somerville  
Executive Director



For over a century, generations of placer miners have worked the land surrounding Dawson City Yukon, providing for their families, contributing to their community and inspiring imaginations across the globe. For over a hundred centuries, the ancestors of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people have hunted and gathered in these same hills and valleys, practicing their traditions, passing their elders' wisdom to their descendants and sharing their knowledge of this land that we all call home. For those who have seen it - to paraphrase poet Robert Service - one would trade it for no land on earth. This land is Tr'ondëk-Klondike.

The Klondike Placer Miners' Association (KPMA) believes this land, its history, and its ongoing relationship with its inhabitants is unrivaled anywhere in the world. Its ability to continue to evolve and provide for all its peoples is worthy of acknowledgement and preservation. The KPMA is proud to stand with other members of our community in supporting measures to recognize and protect ongoing responsible mining and exploration activities in Tr'ondëk-Klondike, and demonstrating this commitment to the world.

The KPMA would like to commend the Tr'ondëk-Klondike Project Management Committee for their extensive efforts towards protecting placer miners' rights to pursue their livelihoods and provide for their families and community in preparing the Tr'ondëk-Klondike nomination for potential inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We look forward to continuing our work with the committee and its successors throughout the nomination, screening and ultimately successful implementation of the project in order to ensure ongoing responsible placer mining and exploration activity may continue to inspire the world for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Jonas Smith  
Executive Director  
Klondike Placer Miners' Association



December 21, 2016

We enthusiastically submit this letter to confirm Klondike Visitors Association's (KVA) support for the *Tr'ondëk-Klondike* UNESCO World Heritage nomination.

Since the discovery of gold in 1896, the story of *Tr'ondëk-Klondike* has captivated the world. The authenticity of our cultural heritage is showcased in the ongoing story of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the Klondike Gold Rush and the community of Dawson City. UNESCO designation will not only strengthen and validate our community's pride in our shared story, but will assist in safeguarding the unique values of *Tr'ondëk-Klondike*.

Klondike Visitors Association's mandate is to increase the quality of life in our region through tourism initiatives. Designation of *Tr'ondëk-Klondike* will result in increased awareness, visitation and business opportunities for the tourism industry. As such, we fully endorse this project, as we believe it will positively impact our local economy and region as a whole.

Sincerely,

Paul Robitaille,  
Marketing and Events Manager



P. O. Box 390  
Dawson City, Yt  
Y0B 1G0

May 07, 2016

Klondike National Historic Sites are owned and managed by the Parks Canada Agency, and comprise 5 national historic sites located within the Klondike Region in central Yukon. Since the Klondike region was placed on Canada's tentative list for World Heritage nomination, Klondike NHS has been a strong supporter of this project.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) is responsible for reviewing and recommending the designation of Canada's nationally significant persons, places, and events. The importance and significance of the Klondike region to the history of Canada and the world is well illustrated by the fact that there are 20 HSMBC designations with plaques located within this region. This includes 10 National Historic Sites, of which 5 are owned and managed by Parks Canada and the remaining 5 are owned and managed by other community interests which include other levels of government (including First Nations), the private sector, and religious denominations. Dawson City is a community steeped in history, and as a community takes great pride in sharing the many stories that are a part of this history.

This community pride and commitment to preserving our history is most evident in the combined local effort to support the World Heritage nomination. All major organizations responsible for managing local heritage values, or with a vested interest in the historic themes related to this region have been actively involved in supporting and advancing this project. Community benefits are already evident with the strong and active project collaboration between governments at the First Nation, Territorial, Municipal and Federal levels. This is further strengthened by the active involvement of leading community organizations such as the Klondike Visitor's Association, Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, the broader heritage community, and participation of citizen representatives.

In my role as Superintendent I am pleased to note that this initiative has helped to solidify a common community vision and support for the protection and promotion of the history and the heritage of this community. Preparing the nomination has made us stronger as a community. A successful designation as a World Heritage Site will be instrumental in ensuring the long term preservation and presentation of our shared heritage.

Sincerely:

David Rohatensky  
Superintendent  
Klondike National Historic Sites of Canada





December 7, 2016

RE: World Heritage Nomination for Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Project

On behalf of the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon (TIAY), I am writing to express our support for the proposal nominating Tr'ondëk-Klondike as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We feel that World Heritage Site designation for Tr'ondëk-Klondike will support a diverse, sustainable economy in the Yukon, in addition to commemorating the region's unique cultural heritage from the Klondike Gold Rush until the present day. UNESCO status would spur economic development in the Yukon by encouraging investment and providing new opportunities for tourism businesses to harness international awareness of the region and bring more visitors to the territory.

The collaboration of various local and regional partners in preparation of the nomination proposal speaks to the cooperative spirit of Yukon communities: working together to tell our stories and to achieve growth and prosperity. It is a great pleasure to confirm our support for the Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site nomination.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Blake Rogers', is positioned below the 'Sincerely;' text.

Blake Rogers  
Executive Director

TOURISM INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE YUKON  
#3-1109 First Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 5G4  
Telephone: (867) 668-3331 Fax: (867) 667-7379  
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December 21, 2016

On behalf of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Council and Citizens, I am pleased to support the nomination of Tr'ondëk-Klondike for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

Tr'ondëk-Klondike is an exceptional cultural landscape worthy of international recognition and protection for generations to come. The co-existence of First Nations and newcomer peoples bound together by the Klondike Gold Rush continues to shape Tr'ondëk-Klondike. Although the discovery of gold transformed the landscape and forever changed the lives of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people, we continue to fish, hunt, trap, and harvest in the same cultural landscape where mining activity has endured. We are forward-thinking stewards of our home and its resources, and we play an essential role in the cultural fabric of the community of Dawson City. This cultural landscape is a place where Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stories, traditions, activities, camps, and gatherings are alive and thriving.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are proud to have taken a leadership role in the preparation of the nomination. It was a collective effort that increased understanding between different parts of the community and built a strong foundation for collaborative management of Tr'ondëk-Klondike in the future. Numerous local and regional organizations came together as advisors and participants in workshops and consultations. The nomination process allowed us to articulate the important cultural and heritage features of this special place and communicate them to visitors, Yukoners, and ourselves.

The cultural landscape of Tr'ondëk-Klondike is truly remarkable, and we are proud to honour the shared history that created it.

Sincerely,

Chief Roberta Joseph

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

# Yukon



Office of the Minister

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

December 16, 2016

As the Minister of Tourism and Culture, I am pleased and proud to provide this letter of support for the nomination of Tr'ondëk-Klondike for inscription on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) World Heritage List. Yukon is extremely proud of our history and culture, and the nomination of Tr'ondëk-Klondike demonstrates the hard work and collaboration that is that basis of our society.

Our history and heritage is evident in the historic townscape of Dawson City, a vibrant centre for the people that live there and for the thousands of people that visit each year.

We embrace the opportunity to share our culture and heritage with the world. Our story is told through the landscape that illustrates the enduring co-existence of Indigenous peoples and newcomers, brought and bound together by the Klondike Gold Rush. Our heritage continues with the ongoing activities tied to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Klondike placer miners' way of life.

The management and protection of the important heritage values of Tr'ondëk-Klondike has been a collaborative process of four governments: the Government of Canada, Yukon government, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government and the municipality of Dawson City. The Yukon government is committed to continue its role in the management, protection and monitoring of the site.

On behalf of the Premier and Yukon government, I proudly support the nomination of Tr'ondëk-Klondike for inscription on the World Heritage List.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeanie Dendys', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon. Jeanie Dendys  
Minister of Tourism and Culture  
Government of Yukon