



NOMINATION TR'ONDĚK KLONDIKE

Sharing Our Stories

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE TR'ONDĚK-KLONDIKE WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION?

In February 2021 Canada submitted a new nomination for Tr'ondek-Klondike to UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). This new nomination of the Tr'onděk-Klondike heritage site has been accepted for evaluation. Over the next year experts will review the nomination. A decision by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee is expected in spring of 2022.

BACKGROUND

The idea for a Klondike World Heritage site has been around since the 1970s. The idea gained momentum in 2013 when UNESCO designation became a priority during regional economic planning. Over the following four years a community-based initiative led to a formal nomination that Canada submitted in 2017. In May 2018 Canada withdrew the nomination from consideration. This decision was made after the evaluation of the nomination found more work was required.

WE'VE BEEN BUSY SINCE THE SPRING OF 2018.

While the decision to withdraw the nomination was a setback, the local project team was

committed to reworking the nomination. In October 2018, the local project team hired an independent expert to visit and review Tr'onděk-Klondike. The goal of the review was to help decide whether to revise the current nomination, develop a new nomination, or end the project. Through this review, the local project team and four levels of government continued working together. The local advisory committee suggested a new nomination should place Tr'onděk Hwěch'in perspective at the center of the gold rush narrative.

THE NEW IDEA

Over the winter of 2019, the project team worked on a new idea for a UNESCO World Heritage Site nomination. The focus of the new concept is the long-standing presence of Indigenous people in the Klondike, before, during and after the establishment of colonial administration. The new nomination includes the many layers of settlement and interaction at Fort Reliance, *Ch'ĕdāhdĕk* (Forty Mile), *Ch'ĕdāhdĕk Tth'ān K'et* (Dĕnezhu Graveyard), Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine, *Tr'ochĕk*, Dawson City, *Jĕjik Dhā Dĕnezhu Kek'it* (Moosehide Village) and *Tihe Zra,y Kek'it*



Georgette McLeod leading a tour at *Tr'ochëk* (2012).

(Black City). Together, these sites tell a story of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in experiences of colonialism within their homeland.

This idea was shared with UNESCO's cultural heritage advisor, ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites). After a rigorous five-month review, ICOMOS determined that a new nomination, focussed on Indigenous experiences of colonialism, could be an important addition to the World Heritage List.

WHAT IS THE NEW NOMINATION?

The new nomination is a serial property, which is a World Heritage site made up of different sites. The new nomination has eight parts: Fort Reliance; *Ch'ëdähdëk* (Forty Mile); *Ch'ëdähdëk Tth'an K'et* (Dënezhu Graveyard); Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine; *Tr'ochëk*; Dawson City; *Jëjik Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it* (Moosehide Village); and *Tthe Zra,y Kek'it* (Black City). These sites show the long-standing presence of Indigenous people in the area and their interactions with newcomers between 1874 and 1908. Each part of the site tells the story of different phases of the relationship between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the newcomers who began arriving in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's territories in the later part of the nineteenth century.

Together, these eight sites total 334 hectares of land. Each site is a separate and distinct area. The lands and waters in between the sites are not included in the nomination.

Who is the Project Team?

Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Advisory Committee is non-regulatory. The Committee has representatives from community and mining industry organizations, governments, and residents. Representatives from the Dawson City Museum, Dawson City Chamber of Commerce, Klondike Visitors Association, Klondike Placer Miners Association, Yukon Chamber of Mines, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon, Parks Canada, City of Dawson governments, and Dawson residents (up to four positions, with at least one Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen).

The Project Management Committee is heritage staff from Tr'ondëk-Hwëch'in and Yukon governments.

Most of the eight component sites are on Trondëk Hwëch'in Settlement Lands. *Ch'ëdähdëk* (Forty Mile) and Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine are co-managed by Trondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon. The sites in Dawson City that contribute to the nomination are all Historic Sites under the care of federal, territorial, and municipal governments.

There are five component sites that currently have management plans: *Ch'ëdähdëk* (Forty Mile), Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine, *Tr'ochëk*, Dawson City, and *Jëjik Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it* (Moosehide Village). These sites will continue to be managed according to their plans with no additional constraints or changes. The sites that do not have management plans will continue to be managed according to existing legislation, including the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Act, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Lands and Resources Act and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and Self-Government Agreement.

All of the component sites of Tr'ondek-Klondike have already had mineral staking rights withdrawn or are on Category A settlement land, identified in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement. There are no mining claims located within any of the component sites.

DEVELOPING THE NEW NOMINATION

Drafting the new nomination began in the spring of 2020. The new nomination covers the important historical period from 1874 to 1908. This stretches from the construction of the first fur trading post in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in territory to when the colonial government and infrastructure was firmly established.

Contractors and heritage staff from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Government of Yukon worked together to draft a statement of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The OUV is the core of a World Heritage site nomination. The project team's goal for drafting the OUV was to tell a story that is true, relatable and easy to understand.

The draft nomination was shared with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in September 2020. This technical review was to ensure critical information was captured in the nomination. The draft included the statement of OUV, the history of the site, and the argument for how Tr'ondëk-Klondike fills a gap in the World Heritage List. There are no World Heritage sites that tell this story of an Indigenous People who experienced colonialism, and most significantly, who continue to inhabit their homeland and practice their traditions and culture.

The nomination was finished in the fall of 2020 and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in Paris, France in January 2021. On March 1, 2021, the nomination was accepted by UNESCO and sent to an Advisory Panel for evaluation.

Funding was provided by Parks Canada, Government of Yukon, and Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor) with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in leading the project, providing in-kind support, heritage and cultural knowledge, and expertise.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next 14 months, up to 10 experts will review the nomination and report back to the Advisory Panel, which reviews the nomination on behalf of ICOMOS. As part of the review, ICOMOS will send a world heritage expert to Dawson for an onsite evaluation. This visit

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Outstanding Universal Value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

will look at the component sites to ensure the nomination's accuracy and completeness. It will likely occur in late summer or early fall of 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic may affect this site visit.

In spring 2022, the Advisory Panel will make recommendations to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Committee will make the final decision at its annual meeting in early July 2022.

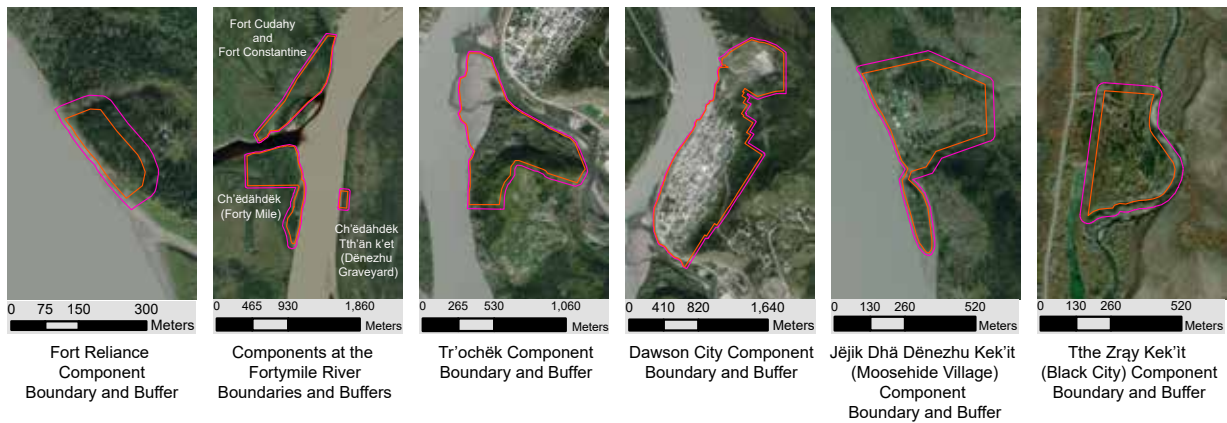
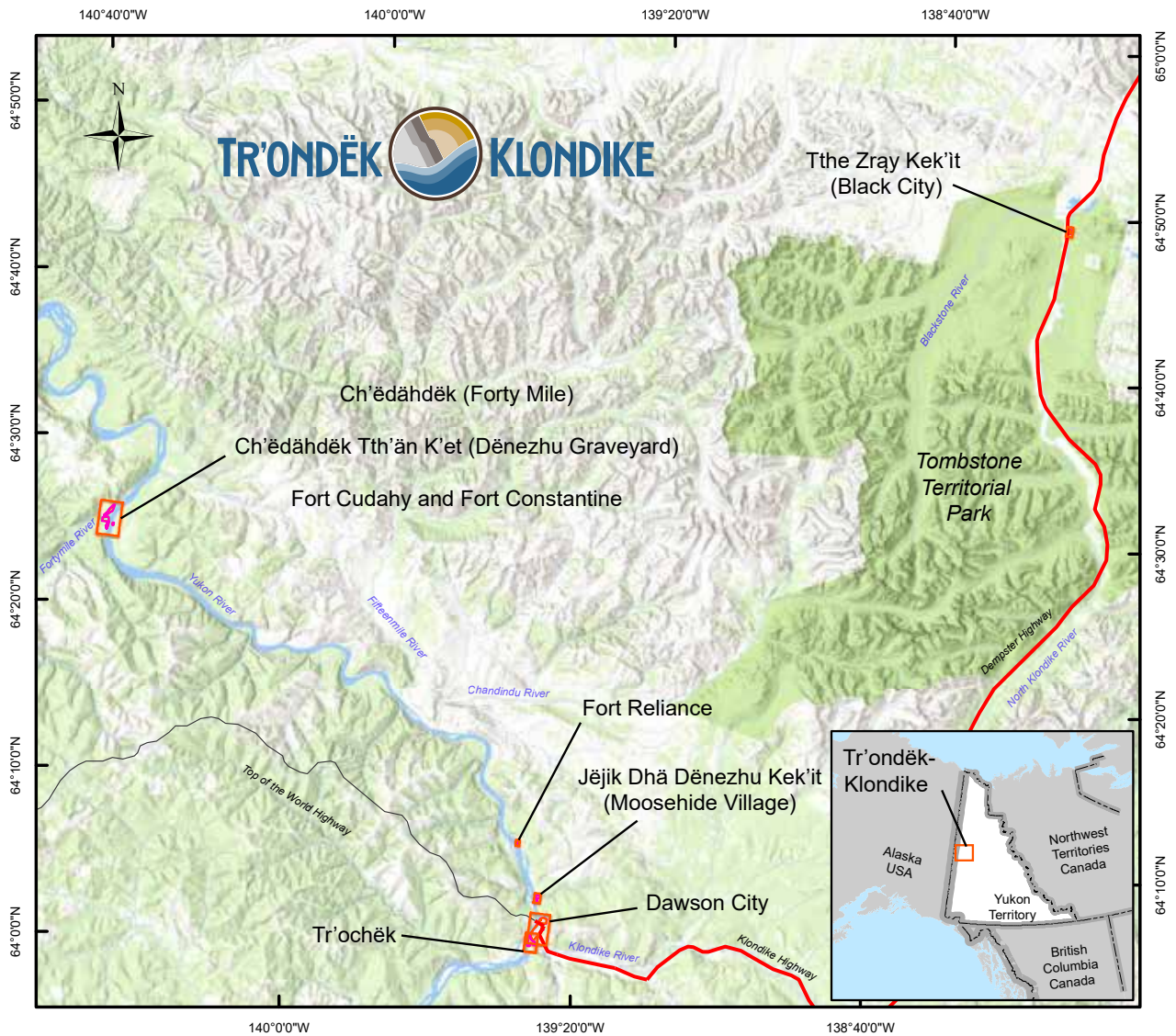
If Tr'ondëk-Klondike is successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List, staff from the four levels of government will form a Stewardship Committee. This group is responsible for developing and approving an Interpretive Plan and a Management Plan for the site. The local Advisory Committee will meet regularly with the Stewardship Committee to provide community perspectives, concerns and opportunities.

For more Information

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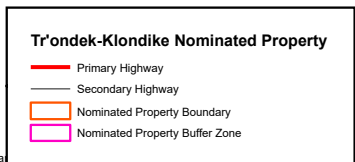


Monitoring visit, *The Zrgy Kek'it* (Black City).



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Yukon Albers
 Projection: Albers
 Datum: North American 1983
 Date: 12/30/2020

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Nominated Property Boundary and Buffer Zone.