



REPORT ON GATHERINGS ON *Indigenous Cultural Heritage*



March 30, 2019



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Foreword

In the fall of 2018, I was privileged to be a part of two gatherings, which had as their objective to bring together Parks Canada team members and Indigenous cultural heritage practitioners, experts, Elders and academics to engage in discussions about how we can improve how we work together in the future. Parks Canada recognizes that it has not always gone about commemorating and sharing Canada's history in ways that respect Indigenous perspectives and values. For the past thirty years, we have been working to build our relationships with Indigenous peoples but there is more we can do. These gatherings were the start of a conversation about what it means to remember, commemorate, protect and share Canada's heritage so that our future can be stronger and more reflective of diverse perspectives. This is especially important for Indigenous heritage and history.

The stories shared and comments received at these gatherings, which are summarized in this report, have already begun to inform Parks Canada's work. I am happy to share some of these updates with you as part of this report and to reaffirm my commitment to moving this important work forward.

I would like to thank all of the participants for their honesty, advice and for sharing their stories and perspectives. Your contributions are helping to shape the future of cultural heritage policies and programs in Canada as well as the presentation and enjoyment of heritage places. I am pleased our paths have connected and we have started to create a community of cultural heritage practitioners including government and Indigenous representatives from across the country.



The success of the gatherings and the content of this report benefitted from the input and contributions of our partners at Indigenous Heritage Circle (IHC), the members of our valued Indigenous Council of Advisors and those who graciously agreed to share their stories with us. In addition, I'd like to thank our professional and skilled facilitators and all the very talented performers who, through their dance, music and humour entertained us and helped to set the tone for these important discussions.

Finally, I want to thank all of the Elders who shared their stories, history and prayers with us and the Indigenous communities who welcomed us onto their traditional lands to begin this important dialogue. Thank you, migwetch.

Joëlle Montminy, *Vice-President*
Indigenous Affairs & Cultural Heritage
Parks Canada



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INDIGENOUS HERITAGE CIRCLE

About the Indigenous Heritage Circle

Parks Canada was pleased to work closely with and receive guidance from the Indigenous Heritage Circle (IHC) in the preparation and delivery of two engagement sessions on cultural heritage. IHC provided advice on the process for identifying and engaging with Indigenous cultural heritage representatives from across Canada and played an integral role in the design and delivery of the engagement sessions.

The IHC is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to the advancement of cultural heritage matters of importance to Métis, Inuit and First Nations peoples in Canada. The IHC fully recognizes that Indigenous Peoples understand and describe “heritage” according to their own perspectives, traditions and languages, and that Indigenous heritage is intrinsic to Indigenous well-being for all generations. Through dialogue and learning, the IHC aims to serve as a trusted and inclusive organization that facilitates sharing of information, ideas and issues related to Indigenous cultural places, landscapes, narratives, languages, practices, arts, objects, and Laws and Protocols.

Active since 2013 and incorporated in 2016, the IHC supports actions and policies consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the TRC’s Calls to Action for Truth and Reconciliation, and Laws and Protocols of Indigenous Peoples. The organization is primarily focused on Canadian issues and initiatives, but is also committed to supporting Indigenous cultural heritage internationally. The IHC’s concept of heritage is rooted in Indigenous realities linking the intangible and tangible and the natural and cultural.



Defining Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage from an Indigenous perspective

Indigenous Peoples understand and describe “heritage” according to their own perspectives, traditions and languages.

While it is difficult to create a universal definition of “Indigenous heritage”, generally it would include ideas, experiences, worldviews, objects, forms of expressions, practices, knowledge, spirituality, kinship ties and places valued by Indigenous Peoples with each of these concepts inextricably interconnected with each other.

Indigenous heritage is intrinsic to the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and held for all generations.

Definition prepared by Indigenous Heritage Circle (IHC)

PRESIDENT OF THE INDIGENOUS HERITAGE CIRCLE

Message from Karen Aird

In accepting an invitation to work with Parks Canada on the Indigenous engagement program, the IHC had two primary objectives. The first was to help bring Indigenous scholars, Elders, academics, caretakers and curators into direct engagement with Parks Canada about programs that need Indigenous expertise and insights. The second was to give the IHC a deeper understanding of Parks Canada's mandate and activities to allow us to follow progress on any promises made from the engagement program and examine how Canada's actions will serve the renewal of a nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of Indigenous' rights and on the values of respect, co-operation, and partnership.



During the engagement sessions, Indigenous participants described their efforts to reverse the impacts of colonial policies, programs and laws that silenced Indigenous languages, diminished the role of Elders and knowledge-keepers, suppressed Laws and Protocols, and isolated communities from lands that sustain them. They also explained the many ways heritage is integrated into their daily lives with no support from governments. Conversations also shone a bright light on the diversity of experiences that are representative of Indigenous heritage and why these are so incredibly valuable to Indigenous communities and to Canadians as a whole.

The stories and guidance shared during these initial sessions will assist and guide the work of the IHC and have laid a foundation for strengthened relations with all involved. For this, the IHC says ‘Mussi, Mewich, Nakurmiik, Marsee, Merci, Ish nish, Masi chok, Woliwon’ to all Indigenous participants, especially the Knowledge Keepers and Parks Canada staff and to Vice President Joëlle Montminy who had the vision and courage to take on this collaborative work.

Karen Aird, President, IHC



SECTION 1

Introduction & Background

The Parks Canada Agency administers over 90 percent of federally-owned lands. Nearly all of the heritage places the Agency administers include lands tied to the traditional practices of First Nations, Inuit or Métis. Because of this, Parks Canada has a unique opportunity and responsibility to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. The network of heritage places managed by Parks Canada help Canadians connect to and discover Canada's natural and cultural heritage. By working in partnership with Indigenous peoples, we are well-placed to foster reconciliation dialogue and facilitate cultural learning among Canadians.

There is significant work underway in the Agency to advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Some of those initiatives are visible and already making a difference, and some are setting a foundation for positive change in the coming months and years. In Section 3 of this report, under the sub-sections “A few points about” and “Looking ahead”, you will find examples of some of the initiatives underway, report on progress made to date and examples of the planned activities in the near future. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of everything the Agency is doing to advance reconciliation or what has been accomplished to date. These are simply examples shared with the reader which may be of interest because they directly relate to what we heard.

Parks Canada has relationships with over 300 Indigenous groups at a local and regional level across the country, and the Agency has taken steps to work more collaboratively with Indigenous representatives at the national level, but we want to and must do more.



Gatherings on Indigenous Cultural Heritage

Parks Canada hosted two gatherings in the fall of 2018 that brought together Indigenous peoples and Parks Canada staff to discuss how Parks Canada can improve its cultural heritage processes and policies to be more inclusive of Indigenous peoples and their perspectives. The first gathering was held in Calgary, Alberta on November 6th and 7th, 2018. The second gathering was held in Gatineau, Quebec on November 27th and 28th, 2018. Each gathering began with a casual evening session where participants had the opportunity to meet each other, gain a better understanding of the context for the discussions planned and enjoy a cultural performance. The following day included presentations from the Vice President of Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Joëlle Montminy and two Parks Canada sites working with Indigenous peoples (see **Appendix A** for a description of these examples). Following the presentations, breakout sessions were held to garner participant feedback on a variety of topics related to Indigenous cultural heritage (see **Appendix B** for the gathering programs including a list of questions and topics).

The Purpose of the Gatherings:

- ❖ Develop a deeper understanding of Indigenous perspectives on cultural heritage;
- ❖ Understand how Parks Canada can better acknowledge Indigenous peoples and their histories, heritage values and memory practices in Parks Canada's history and commemoration policies and programs;
- ❖ Understand where Indigenous peoples may wish to assume leadership in these areas;
- ❖ Establish respectful practices of engagement with Indigenous peoples as an example for future Parks Canada initiatives; and
- ❖ Identify individuals who are interested in and can contribute to advancing Parks Canada's initiatives, and to build and maintain relationships with these Indigenous cultural heritage practitioners and organizations.

Parks Canada approached these engagement sessions with a fundamental desire to create a space for conversation with Indigenous partners. We constructed our discussions, questions and agenda based on feedback from Indigenous advisors and participants.

The Participants:

The gatherings brought together 66 Indigenous participants and 33 government representatives. Indigenous men and women of varied ages represented their organizations and cultures from across Canada. Parks Canada staff, the Indigenous Heritage Circle and the Council of Advisors suggested possible participants. Most Indigenous participants held positions related to cultural heritage including Elders, Executive Directors, and heritage representatives from a nation or band. (For a full list of attendees, please see **Appendix C.**)

Many of the government attendees represented the Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate (IACH) of Parks Canada, which sponsored the gatherings. Other attendees included Parks Canada staff from other parts of the Agency, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. (See **Appendix C** for full list of attendees and **Appendix D** for the organizational structure of Parks Canada)

The Council of Advisors:

Our first step toward the gatherings was to create the Indigenous Council of Advisors to guide our decision-making and to provide advice on the process for delivering the two gatherings. The co-chairs were Karen Aird, President of the Indigenous Heritage Circle, and Ellen Bertrand, Parks Canada's Director of Cultural Heritage Strategy. The Council included five Indigenous leaders from across Canada (1 Métis, 1 Inuit and 3 First Nations). The Council met weekly and advised on identifying participants, selecting a location and facilitators, the questions to be discussed during the gatherings and the process for delivery. The Council also approved all materials sent to participants and provided feedback on this report. (See **Appendix E** for information about this Council)

The Report:

This document is a final report summarizing the discussions at the two gatherings. Our specific topic concerned Indigenous cultural heritage in order to inform the work of the Parks Canada Agency. Note takers attended all discussions and their extensive notes were carefully transcribed and shared with participants following the gatherings. These notes form the basis of this report.

SECTION 2

Context & Drivers

Parks Canada knows that Indigenous peoples want to see change. Parks Canada also wants and needs to have a network of cultural heritage practitioners and specialists with whom we can collaborate to help make this change happen. The Government of Canada, including Parks Canada, is committed to reconciliation and a nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership.

In May 2016, the Canadian government announced it was a full supporter of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It is a guiding document which supports Parks Canada's efforts towards reconciliation. These efforts must also align with the Government of Canada's approach.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada defines reconciliation as “an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships.” Moreover, “a critical part of this process involves repairing damaged trust by making apologies, providing individual and collective reparations, and following through with concrete actions that demonstrate real societal change.”

The Agency's network of heritage places, located in every province and territory across Canada, provide Parks Canada a unique opportunity to partner and collaborate with Indigenous peoples. In this manner we foster a reconciliation dialogue and create opportunities for cultural learning for all Canadians.

Parks Canada has produced a work plan, approved in March 2019, which outlines a series of actions to address challenges which are impeding progress on reconciliation within the Agency. This work plan identifies changes to policies and practices that will support field units in working with Indigenous partners and is intended to be implemented over a 5 year timeline, with annual reporting on progress. A copy of the work plan: *Mapping Change: Internal Shifts to Support Reconciliation within Parks Canada* will be made available on the Parks Canada website in the coming months.



Within this broader context of reconciliation, a number of government initiatives were put forward which provide a foundation for the Agency to advance its cultural heritage work. These include, but are not limited to:

TRC Calls to Action

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission came forward with 94 calls to action to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation. Call to Action #79 calls for the development of a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage and commemoration. The work to deliver on Call to Action #79 falls within the responsibilities of and is being moved forward by Parks Canada. Call to Action #79 states,

1. Amending the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* to include First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat.
2. Revising the policies, criteria, and practices of the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices into Canada's national heritage and history.
3. Developing and implementing a national heritage plan and strategy for commemorating residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada's history.¹

Private Members Bills

There are a number of bills being debated in parliament which will directly or indirectly impact Parks Canada's work to advance reconciliation. These include, but are not limited to:

Bill C-374 (*Historic Sites and Monuments Act*) was put forward in 2017. This Bill proposes to amend the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* to include Indigenous representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

In 2018, Private Members Bill C-391 (*Aboriginal Cultural Property Repatriation Act*) was put forward to support the return of cultural objects to the originating communities. This Act may impact how Parks Canada manages the collection of Indigenous objects in its care.

At the time of this report, both of these bills were being debated in Parliament.

¹ *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*



Minister's Round Table

Every two years the Minister of Environment and Climate Change undertakes a substantial engagement process with members of the public across Canada, called the Minister's Round Table. In 2017, the report, *Let's Talk Parks Canada*, outlined the major points emerging from the most recent Round Table sessions and Parks Canada's commitments for addressing these comments. One of the five topics for discussion at these engagement sessions was "promoting reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and all Canadians". Based on feedback, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change committed to undertaking a number of actions directly related to the involvement and inclusion of Indigenous peoples in the work of Parks Canada. (See **Appendix F** for a list of commitments in the Minister's Round Table Report relevant to Parks Canada's Indigenous cultural heritage work and a link to the full document.)

Standing Committee for Environment's Report on Heritage

In December 2017, the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) produced a report, *Preserving Canada's Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow*, containing 17 recommendations to improve heritage conservation in Canada, including federal heritage legislation, strengthened federal heritage policies, financial measures and integrating Indigenous perspectives. In particular, Recommendations 15, 16 and 17 identified areas for improvement with regards to the heritage of Indigenous peoples. (See **Appendix G** detailing Recommendations 15, 16 and 17 and a link to the full document.)

Throughout 2018, Parks Canada undertook research and engagement to inform the response to the report. This engagement included the two Indigenous gatherings on cultural heritage discussed in this report.



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"What is heritage? What is culture?
It is our way of life."

Mary Jane Johnson, Participant

SECTION 3

What We Heard

The responses from both gatherings were sorted into common themes and topics. The three areas of feedback are:

Section 3.1: Indigenous perspectives and issues on cultural heritage and working with government.

Section 3.2: Indigenous views and perspectives directly related to Parks Canada's work and responsibilities in archaeology, collections, commemorations, and sharing stories.

Section 3.3: Indigenous views and perspectives on core Parks Canada Agency functions such as human resources, training, and government structures and processes which support the Agency in its cultural heritage work.

SECTION 3.1 – Indigenous Perspectives and Issues

This section summarises what we heard from Indigenous participants about their issues working with government and their understanding of their heritage. These perspectives and views will be considered in Parks Canada's work going forward.

Holistic World View

- ❖ Everything is interconnected – land, nature, language, culture, knowledge. You cannot treat these things separately.
- ❖ Without one aspect, the others suffer, i.e. no access to land means ceremonies cannot be done and stories aren't told and are forgotten.
- ❖ This holistic worldview is what makes up the identity of Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ This is why knowledge keepers aren't just experts in one area; they know about many things – culture, environment, language, science, etc.
- ❖ This upholds the concept of landscape narrative, which says land is like a living person such that each place has a story to go with it.

Access to Land

- ❖ Access to land is needed to maintain Indigenous cultural practices.

“Our cultural heritage is drawn from the land and begins with our own stories. It is our identity.”

Dr. Leroy Little Bear,
Participant

- ❖ Preventing access is detrimental to the identity of an Indigenous group. This has happened in many sites managed by Parks Canada across the country because of laws, admission prices, and overcrowding of sacred areas.

- ❖ Restoring access by providing free entry, space to conduct ceremonies, and permission to hunt or gather is important to restoring cultural heritage and the well-being of Indigenous communities.

Importance of Language

- ❖ Language is part of all life and keeps culture intact.

- ❖ Spirituality is embedded in language.

- ❖ Language is how we identify people.

- ❖ There are two ways to think about language, 1) the way of speaking and 2) how culture and ideas are presented.

- ❖ Much knowledge of Indigenous languages has been lost. Regaining what was lost in order to pass it on is important.

Importance of Oral Traditions

- ❖ Indigenous cultures reproduce themselves using oral traditions.

- ❖ Oral traditions are central to understanding the unique heritage of Indigenous peoples.

- ❖ Indigenous oral traditions deserve protection equivalent to Western knowledge, e.g. as Intellectual Property, as scientific evidence, as historical proof.

- ❖ Research into the roots of Indigenous oral traditions will help preserve this knowledge.

Loss of Heritage

- ❖ Traditional lands, animals and plants are in danger of being lost due to climate change.

- ❖ Indigenous Traditional Knowledge is in danger of being lost as Elders pass away without teaching others.

- ❖ Passing Traditional Knowledge on to the next generation is essential to the survival of Indigenous cultural heritage.

- ❖ Passing on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge is challenging because Elders often fear sharing their stories due to being dispossessed of places special to their communities. Indigenous peoples must contend with the isolation imposed by colonisation.

“Heritage is not a separate entity,
it is mixed in with daily lives.”

Art Napoleon, IHC Director, participant

“I have one song in this whole world
that belongs to me – one sentence
says much about me. It’s the way
you see things, the way you behave,
how you acknowledge.”

Fibbie Tatti, Participant

Legacy of Harm

- ❖ Colonial practice has inflicted much harm on Indigenous peoples due to loss of lands that undermined their communities and erased Indigenous history.
- ❖ While the Canadian Government operates on a Western paradigm, building a relationship with Indigenous peoples requires a recognition of the systems that organize their knowledge.
- ❖ Building a relationship between Parks Canada and Indigenous peoples starts with trust and respect.
- ❖ Parks Canada must do Truth Telling to address the past damage done by its actions to gain the trust of Indigenous peoples – apologize and acknowledge the promises left unfulfilled.

“There needs to be truth acknowledgement and some sense of the wrong being done.”

Dr. James Igloliorte, Council of Advisors

“Canada wouldn’t exist without Indigenous contributions. These contributions should be visible. We are this country. We are all Canadian. Canada is an Indigenous country.”

Madeline Redfern, IHC Director & participant

Need for Visibility

- ❖ Indigenous heritage is not an artefact of the past. It is active today and is continually being created.
- ❖ Indigenous peoples are experiencing a resurgence of culture that they want to share with the world.
- ❖ Indigenous peoples want to be part of the culture at Parks in a meaningful way – not just “bannock, braids, and beads”.
- ❖ Indigenous peoples want to be visible through acknowledgement of traditional territory and recognition of Indigenous protocols and symbols.

Desire for Economic Opportunities

- ❖ Indigenous peoples are looking for new economic opportunities.
- ❖ Indigenous peoples are embracing a tourism industry that can provide economic opportunities, increased visibility and enhance cultural identity.
- ❖ Tourists are looking for authentic encounters with Indigenous peoples expressing their traditional cultures.

Capacity Challenges

- ❖ Indigenous groups often lack the personnel and expertise to handle the requests made by external groups.
- ❖ Indigenous communities may be dealing with serious health, financial, education, and self-governance issues.
- ❖ Indigenous peoples wish to build capacity among their members but often lack the opportunities and funding.

SECTION 3.2 – What We Heard About Parks Canada’s Work in Cultural Heritage

This section summarizes what we heard about Parks Canada’s work in cultural heritage including suggestions made by participants for consideration. This section also outlines some of Parks Canada’s initiatives in these areas and how the feedback from these gatherings is informing the Agency’s work.

Designations, commemorations and valuing heritage

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT DESIGNATIONS, COMMEMORATIONS AND VALUING HERITAGE

The current system of national designation is a colonial system that lacks recognition of the perspectives of Indigenous peoples. Indigenous communities feel excluded from the current designation process. The current commemoration and designation program is not inclusive of Indigenous world views and Traditional Knowledge.

No consensus exists on the wisdom of designating more Indigenous sites if this means Indigenous peoples are prevented access to sites or if sacred sites become public places. However, if designation and protection were paired then the incentive to nominate Indigenous sites increases.



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WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS — SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION REGARDING DESIGNATIONS, COMMEMORATIONS AND VALUING HERITAGE

- ❖ The designation and commemoration processes, including writing plaque text, should be done with Indigenous peoples and include their perspectives and languages.
- ❖ The processes of designation and commemoration should honour Indigenous perspectives, in particular by valuing Oral Traditional Knowledge, encouraging language revival and supporting a Holistic World View.
- ❖ More pre-colonial sites/histories should be designated and commemorated.
- ❖ Ensure designations do not restrict the access Indigenous people have to traditional land or threaten sacred places.
- ❖ Better educate the public about the process for designation by having information readily available on your website.
- ❖ Commemorations should recognize difficult history with Indigenous peoples such as residential schools.
- ❖ Be open to commemorating sites with something other than a plaque.
- ❖ Ensuring Indigenous peoples have representation on the HSMBC is a step in the right direction.



Appointments could be done by:

- Selecting candidates through a Canada-wide Indigenous committee
- Vetting applicants through Indigenous organizations
- Empowering Indigenous organizations to select appointees

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A few points about designations, commemorations and valuing heritage...

- ❖ The process of national designation and commemoration currently includes provisions for valuing Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, consulting Indigenous groups, and including Indigenous languages on plaque texts.
- ❖ There are currently 265 Indigenous designations out of a total of 2,192, which represents just over 12% and there are approximately 105 plaques that include an Indigenous language.
- ❖ All national designations are being reviewed in collaboration with Indigenous researchers to ensure each is respectful of Indigenous perspectives and history. Upon completion, Parks Canada will work with Indigenous communities to revise any designations and texts of concern.

Looking Ahead...

To improve representation of Indigenous peoples and their perspectives in national designations, Parks Canada is undertaking a number of initiatives, including:

- ❖ Adding representatives for First Nations, Métis and Inuit to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to provide their perspectives for designations and commemorations (pending approval of Bill C-374 in Parliament);

- ❖ Working with Indigenous peoples to review and amend Parks Canada policies, practices and programs associated with cultural heritage, national designations and commemorations;
- ❖ Exploring a variety of means to commemorate designations; and
- ❖ Undertaking an awareness campaign to ensure Indigenous communities across Canada understand the national designation process and feel welcome to contribute.

“Telling stories isn’t from a book. Involve us. Camp in my tent, offer thanks to the caribou. Don’t pretend you know from some book about me or our lives. We have to be there.”

Jodie Ashini, Participant

Indigenous experiences

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES

Indigenous peoples want visitors to sites managed by Parks Canada to understand whose traditional lands they are visiting. Understanding these homelands are significant to Indigenous peoples will help visitors make respectful choices about the land and Indigenous cultures.

Travellers want encounters that are educational and rewarding while Indigenous peoples want their community economic development to build on their traditions. Having Indigenous peoples share their stories expands the variety of perspectives offered and demonstrating traditional activities enriches the authenticity of the visitor experience.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS — SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION ABOUT INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCES:

- ❖ Include recognition of traditional territory on welcome signs.
- ❖ Use Indigenous place names on signage.
- ❖ Work with local Indigenous people to teach visitors proper protocol for being in that place.
- ❖ Support public ceremonies of Indigenous cultures taking place at sites managed by Parks Canada.
- ❖ Work with local Indigenous peoples to develop and deliver educational programming for youth.
- ❖ Support Indigenous tourism experiences at sites managed by Parks Canada.
- ❖ Support Indigenous businesses.
- ❖ Acknowledge and promote Indigenous peoples on the Parks Canada website.

A few points about Indigenous experiences...

- ❖ Approximately 10-15% of Parks Canada national parks and national historic sites have signs that include an Indigenous language with additional sites moving forward on this front. In addition, some sites offer programs or personal interpretation in Indigenous languages.
- ❖ Since 2016, Parks Canada has supported 43 Indigenous tourism initiatives through its Indigenous Tourism, Experiences and Storytelling Fund and has established a formal partnership with the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC).
- ❖ Parks Canada has created an Indigenous Relations Community of Practice to improve communications internally and share best practices across sites managed by Parks Canada.

“There is no colonial/settler history separate from Indigenous history.”

Clifford Paul, Participant

Looking ahead...

- ❖ Parks Canada is committed to working with Indigenous peoples and communities to offer new opportunities for sharing their protocols and history. Through partnerships, the goal is to develop interpretive and storytelling programs rooted in traditional activities and traditional knowledge.
- ❖ Parks Canada will be amending the Exterior Signage Manual and the Agency Brand Standards and Guidelines to provide consistent guidance on including Indigenous languages on future signs at places under its jurisdiction.
- ❖ Parks Canada is committed to developing tool(s) to communicate best practices regarding inclusion of Indigenous languages in communication materials at heritage places (e.g. Visitor activity guides, brochures including maps, and interpretive signage).
- ❖ Parks Canada will participate in honouring the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL) through a variety of initiatives.

Sharing Indigenous stories

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT SHARING INDIGENOUS STORIES

Indigenous peoples want to see their stories told at sites managed by Parks Canada. They want to be part of telling these stories. The current perception is sites managed by Parks Canada tell the colonial stories and present a one-sided view of history.

Parks Canada can be an important venue for Canadian and Indigenous youth to learn Indigenous histories.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS — SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION ABOUT SHARING INDIGENOUS STORIES:

- ❖ Ensure Indigenous perspectives are recognized in the stories told at sites managed by Parks Canada.
- ❖ Work with local Indigenous peoples to develop non-personal means of storytelling, i.e. exhibits, videos, books, curriculum guides, etc.
- ❖ Hire local Indigenous peoples to share their stories.
- ❖ Have site staff work directly/train with local Indigenous peoples to foster a better understanding of their perspectives.
- ❖ Invite Indigenous youth to experience and participate in storytelling activities and workshops.
- ❖ Tell the difficult stories of the relationship between colonial regime and Indigenous peoples, i.e. the “dark” history of each site.

A few points about sharing Indigenous stories...

- ❖ Budget 2018 provided funding to ensure the perspectives, voices and history of Indigenous people are integrated at Parks Canada places. Work is now underway to rethink how sites are presenting their history and several sites are already actively broadening their presentations, through acknowledging multiple perspectives and sharing authority.

“Tourists want to hear all the stories and history. Parks Canada is the right organization to make changes.”

Eric Tootoosis, Participant

- ❖ Parks Canada’s national team is providing support to field units and Indigenous partners to advance projects that seek to include Indigenous perspectives, and ensure the stories of Indigenous peoples are told in their own words, and in their own way.

Looking ahead...

- ❖ Parks Canada is currently conducting a consultation on the draft Framework for History and Commemoration, which will guide the sharing of Canadian history at heritage places across the country. Once the Framework is in place, it will encourage sites to take a new approach that understands history beyond the standard colonial narratives.



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Caring for Indigenous collections

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT INDIGENOUS COLLECTIONS

Indigenous communities need to have access to cultural objects to ensure their cultural heritage is sustained. Cultural objects should be returned to the community to which it belongs despite the many challenges involved. This is especially urgent for human remains and funerary objects, which have special meaning and require special care. Descendant communities have a special interest in any repatriation process that involves their ancestors.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS — SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION ABOUT INDIGENOUS COLLECTIONS

- ❖ Begin repatriating collections associated with specific descendant communities by:
 - starting with human remains;
 - identifying Indigenous objects in the Parks Canada collection and establishing the area from which they originated;
 - inform descendant communities about material culture held in the Parks Canada collection;
 - work with communities to establish proper protocol for repatriation.
- ❖ When repatriation is not possible, Parks Canada should:
 - make collections accessible to Indigenous communities;
 - have a process by which to loan out or provide access for ceremonial use;
 - employ staff who understand the artefacts and how to care for them appropriately;
 - work with Indigenous leaders to understand proper protocols;
 - share space in collections facilities to allow Indigenous communities to care for their objects.
- ❖ Create reproductions of objects to share with communities or the public.
- ❖ Use language about cultural objects that shows respect for Indigenous perspectives.
- ❖ Train Indigenous peoples in collections management.

A few points about collections...

- ❖ The collection under Parks Canada's care consists of approximately 31 million historical and archaeological objects, and up to 10% of these are Indigenous.
- ❖ Parks Canada is engaging with Indigenous groups across Canada about increasing access to these objects as part of the project to consolidate the collection in a new purpose built facility in Gatineau, Quebec.

“The life history of the object all the way through needs to be co-managed including photography, display, etc. – every step along the way.”

Rae Mombourquette, Participant

Looking ahead...

- ❖ Parks Canada will continue to better understand the interests and perspectives of Indigenous peoples in order to enhance its procedures on the care and handling of Indigenous objects. This will provide an opportunity for Parks Canada to collaborate with Indigenous peoples and communities about capacity building and training in the care and management of collections through such things as collections related internships and employment opportunities.
- ❖ Parks Canada's policies governing the care and management of historical and archaeological objects and human remains are currently under review. Parks Canada will work with Indigenous cultural heritage advisors to ensure renewed policies and practices support reconciliation, and reflect Indigenous perspective on history, heritage values and memory practices.

Undertaking archaeology

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeologists have unearthed sacred objects and removed them from the land where they belong. They have disturbed sacred sites and collected offerings without consulting with Indigenous peoples.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS — SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION ABOUT ARCHAEOLOGY

- ❖ Leave objects in the place where they are found, especially human remains.
- ❖ Work with local Indigenous peoples when starting any archaeological work and notify of any finds immediately.
- ❖ Work with local Indigenous peoples to establish appropriate protocols for working on Indigenous traditional land.
- ❖ Teach Indigenous peoples archaeology so they can participate in the process.
- ❖ Partner with Indigenous groups in a GIS/Land Knowledge system.
- ❖ Protect sacred archaeological sites from disturbance.

A few points about archaeology...

- ❖ Parks Canada now uses a minimal intervention approach in its archaeological work and seeks to reach a balance between preservation of material culture in situ (i.e., where they are located) and intervening (i.e. surveys, excavation) to acquire sufficient data to guide conservation efforts.



- ❖ Parks Canada seeks to hire Indigenous archeologists as a priority to assist on its projects. Parks Canada aims to engage early with Indigenous communities when it conducts archaeology in the parks and sites it manages.

Looking ahead...

- ❖ Parks Canada is committed to working with Indigenous Knowledge Holders and experts to revise and co-develop archaeology policy, protocols and tools to ensure effective mechanisms for involvement of Indigenous peoples in project design and decision making. Resources for this review have been allocated with an expected completion date of March 2023.



SECTION 3.3 – What We Heard about Core Agency Functions

This section summarizes what we heard about our hiring practices, improving our relationships with Indigenous peoples, training staff, and Parks Canada’s structures and processes. Each of these areas can facilitate or impede our ability to move forward in our work with Indigenous peoples in cultural heritage.

Comments from the gatherings are being actively shared across the Agency to mobilize collective efforts. Similar to Section 3.2, this section includes a summary of “What We Heard” as well as a brief description of some of Parks Canada’s work relevant to these areas of interest. Parks Canada’s work is continually advancing and changing as our understandings evolve in response to ongoing engagement with Indigenous partners.



Improving relationships with Indigenous peoples

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The relationship between government agencies and Indigenous peoples is tainted by past wrongs. In particular, this includes Parks Canada's actions in severing Indigenous ties to customary places. This history eroded trust, which makes building relationships a challenge worth undertaking.

Reconciliation requires local action as well as national policies. True reconciliation includes Indigenous peoples having free access to their traditional lands. The "Truth" part is as important as "Reconciliation" and we must acknowledge the past in order to build trust for the future. Following through on commitments and transparency are critical to our success in moving forward with reconciliation.

Due to the fledgling nature of many of these relationships, government officials must be respectful during the engagement and consultation process. Relationships are challenged when Indigenous peoples are brought in late to the discussion, there is not enough time permitted for a full discussion and there is no follow through on consultations. To work together, it is important to find a balance for everyone.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS — SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION ABOUT IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- ❖ Do truth telling at each site managed by Parks Canada.
- ❖ Allow free admission to local Indigenous peoples at every Parks Canada site.
- ❖ Give Parks land back to Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Don't undertake anything about Indigenous peoples, without working with Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Ensure engagement and consultation are done in a meaningful and respectful way every time.
- ❖ Conduct meetings in ethical spaces.
- ❖ Be transparent and honest in all your work with Indigenous peoples, including communicating the work you are doing to Indigenous partners.
- ❖ Support Parks Canada staff fostering personal relationships with Indigenous peoples.

TIPS FROM INDIGENOUS PARTICIPANTS ON HOW TO WORK BETTER TOGETHER

- ❖ Tell what you are reasonably prepared to do and be honest about what is possible and what is not.
- ❖ Show nimbleness and humility.
- ❖ Don't go into discussions with an agenda, put everything aside and have an open discussion. Let unstructured priorities come to the surface.
- ❖ Show you are human through face-to-face interactions and informal meetings with eating, talking and laughter.
- ❖ Don't cut off Elders.
- ❖ Meet in Circles to eliminate the sense of hierarchy.
- ❖ Listen respectfully with no cell phones.
- ❖ Approach Indigenous peoples early in the conversation and continue with regular communication.
- ❖ Reach out and let Indigenous groups know a letter will be coming requesting their participation so it is not coming out of the blue.
- ❖ Don't send your junior staff who don't know who we are.
- ❖ Sustain the conversations. Don't just have one-off meetings.
- ❖ Challenge the idea of "shall" and "must" in government policy.
- ❖ Be mindful of the timing of events and meetings, e.g. not during hunting season in the fall.
- ❖ Show respect for Elders by being flexible when planning events.
- ❖ Take the time to allow a fulsome consultation.
- ❖ Hold learning lunches between staff and Indigenous groups to share history and stories.

A few points related to building relationships with Indigenous peoples...

- ❖ Parks Canada applies the "PARKS" Principles below, to guide and promote relationship building with Indigenous partners:
 - ❖ **Partnership:** Working collaboratively in heritage place planning, management, and operations
 - ❖ **Accessible:** Encouraging access to traditional lands and traditional activities
 - ❖ **Respectful:** Building mutual respect, trust and understanding
 - ❖ **Knowledge-based:** Honouring and incorporating traditional knowledge
 - ❖ **Supportive:** Supporting Indigenous partners' community interests

"Reconciliation is not an event;
it's a process."

Elder Dr. Reg Crowshoe, Participant

- ❖ Under the Indigenous Peoples Open Doors program, Indigenous groups with a traditional connection to a park or site can be exempted from paying entry fees when an agreement is established between the park or site and the Indigenous group. Many sites managed by Parks Canada have created, or are working toward creating Memorandums of Understanding with Indigenous communities as part of this program.

Looking ahead...

- ❖ Parks Canada will participate in honouring the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL) through a variety of initiatives.
- ❖ Parks Canada will create an Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee (*name to be confirmed*). It will provide advice to Parks Canada on cultural heritage related projects. Among its goals will be advancing reconciliation and supporting the Agency in meeting the goals of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous people. (*Note: This is also referenced in Next Steps section*)

Parks Canada's structures and processes

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

Federal departments and agencies are the products of colonial systems that create challenges for Indigenous peoples working with government. It is time to indigenize government systems to integrate Indigenous ways into the work of government. Indigenous groups do not want to be treated as if they are all the same but for government to have an understanding of their unique situations.

Indigenous peoples want to be partners in managing sites managed by Parks Canada. Local Indigenous communities are connected to the land and have valuable knowledge to help guide management. Co-management agreements, guardian programs such as the Haida Watchmen and the Jasper Indigenous Forum are good examples of these partnerships.

“If Government policies are oppressive in nature they won’t work – policy cannot take precedence over Indigenous needs.”

Keyaira Gruben, Participant



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WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS — SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTION TO ADDRESS PARKS CANADA'S STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

- ❖ Have a dedicated team of Indigenous staff who manage relationships with Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Establish agreements that allow Indigenous groups to participate in managing sites managed by Parks Canada.
- ❖ Bridge department silos and policies to support a holistic world view.
- ❖ Bring back the Parks Canada Consultation Committee.
- ❖ Create a policy valuing Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, which applies to all Parks Canada work.
- ❖ Always allow flexibility in timelines and funding when working with Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Remove systemic barriers in working with Indigenous businesses and paying Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Create a strategic plan for all of Parks Canada identifying your plan to build partnerships and undertake reconciliation, indigenization, and consultation across the Agency and at each site. Make the plan and its regular reporting public.

A few points about Parks Canada's structures and processes...

- ❖ As of 2018, over 20 heritage places have cooperative management agreements where Indigenous partners play a decision-making role in heritage place management.
- ❖ Parks Canada has Indigenous guardian programs at a variety of sites managed by Parks Canada.

Looking ahead...

- ❖ Parks Canada is committed to collaborating with Indigenous groups and communities in the management of all Parks Canada places. Where possible, this includes supporting the transition towards management of protected heritage places through a spectrum of cooperative management structures.
- ❖ Parks Canada is committed to reviewing and amending financial tools required for working with Indigenous peoples to support timely processing and to improve their procurement processes and payment flexibility options.
- ❖ Parks Canada is committed to supporting rights implementation and facilitating Indigenous peoples' access to heritage places, including policies for planning, managing and implementing the Indigenous rights to renewable resource harvesting.

Human resource policies and training

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS ABOUT OUR HUMAN RESOURCE POLICIES AND TRAINING

Current structures within Parks Canada make work with the Agency and its people difficult. Frequent changes in staff and lack of training mean Indigenous peoples must continually “re-educate” new Parks Canada staff. Success (or its lack) in working with Parks Canada can depend on a particular person. There is a need for more stability in staffing and more consistency in training around Indigenous issues generally and local issues specifically.

Indigenous peoples want to participate in the management of and care for sites managed by Parks Canada by working with and for Parks Canada. Current hiring and contracting structures make this challenging. Hiring practices don't recognize the non-Western knowledge that Indigenous peoples have and penalize Indigenous candidates for not fitting Western ways of interviewing and not having knowledge of both English and French.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS — SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE OUR HUMAN RESOURCE POLICIES AND TRAINING

- ❖ Hire more Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Recruit people who value and understand working with Indigenous peoples.
- ❖ Provide Indigenous cultural training and education to all staff.
- ❖ Organize exchanges/training between Parks Canada staff and the local First Nations.
- ❖ Encourage Parks Canada staff to spend time with local Elders and knowledge keepers.
- ❖ Create an Indigenous youth employment or internship program.

A few points about human resource policies and training...

- ❖ Parks Canada is committed to ensuring Indigenous peoples working in the Agency have the opportunity to increase their skills and expand into new roles. In 2000, the Aboriginal Leadership Development Program was started to develop a cadre of Indigenous leaders within Parks Canada. This program ran until 2018 and is currently being reviewed.
- ❖ In addition to training opportunities for Indigenous employees, Parks Canada staff deliver the Kairos Blanket Exercise to non-Indigenous employees at all levels. This Exercise fosters an understanding of the history of Crown-Indigenous relations in Canada. Current plans are to expand the delivery of this training.

Looking Ahead...

- ❖ Parks Canada will support managers and Field Unit staff to develop a network of local and regional Indigenous organizations and individuals to augment Indigenous hiring efforts.
- ❖ Parks Canada is committed to developing programs targeting Indigenous youth. The Agency will develop learning offers, that will support Indigenous learning, as well as Indigenous peoples in taking on leadership roles within the Agency.
- ❖ Parks Canada will implement mechanisms and strategies to support the recruitment and promotion of Indigenous peoples and will develop tools to promote the integration of cultural competencies in job posting and interview evaluations.

“First become part of the community. The dance, the pow wow, the celebrations. Let them see you as a human first.”

Cliff Supernault, Participant



SECTION 4

Next Steps

How feedback is influencing Parks Canada's work

Parks Canada values the knowledge and perspectives articulated during the gatherings on Indigenous cultural heritage. We are committed to ensuring the information is shared broadly including to all team members within the Agency whose work can benefit from the insights, perspectives and ideas. Meetings internally have already begun and this report will ensure all feedback is available on request.

Some participant suggestions are easier to address as they are already happening to some extent. In some instances, programs or policies are currently

“Trust and relationships are needed to make sure conversations happen.”

Georgina Liberty,
Participant

in development or they are relatively simple to implement. In addition, some of the ideas put forward suggest actions welcomed by Parks Canada team members and are now under consideration.

Some thoughts and suggestions provided by participants are more complex and will take some time to determine if and how they can be addressed. Making change on systemic issues will require patience, collaboration and commitment as we continue on the path forward to improve the work we do together to advance our mutual objectives.



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How Parks Canada will continue conversations

One of the important outcomes of the two gatherings on Indigenous cultural heritage is the connection to a community with whom Parks Canada can continue to advance important work. Working side-by-side with Indigenous partners, including Indigenous Heritage Circle (IHC) and other cultural heritage organizations, to construct cultural heritage policies and practices will provide Parks Canada with the insights and expertise required to advance this work.

In an effort to stay connected and support the work described in this report, Parks Canada will start by creating an **Indigenous Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee** (*exact name to be determined*). It will have a mandate to provide advice and share perspectives with Parks Canada on how to continue to advance our work on cultural heritage related projects and initiatives, how to stay connected to a community of Indigenous cultural heritage practitioners, and how to support Parks Canada's work in updating/reviewing policies and guidelines, programs and activities.

Additionally, Parks Canada supports the concept of future gatherings of Indigenous cultural heritage experts and practitioners to share updates, successes and best practices. These forums would also allow different organizations and government departments to share their perspectives and report on progress in their areas of responsibility.

Parks Canada will also explore various tools and means of communication to keep the Indigenous cultural heritage community connected and informed about the ongoing work of the Agency.



“Any knowledge shared with me is not my knowledge to keep – it’s more than a gift – it’s a responsibility.”

Julie Birdstone, Participant

SECTION 5

Conclusion

During the process of creating a space for a national conversation about Indigenous cultural heritage, Parks Canada team members gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of the views that Indigenous peoples hold about Indigenous culture and heritage. There is now a greater awareness of the challenges Indigenous communities and nations encounter as they endeavour to protect cultural traditions and pass them on to future generations. Our dialogue regarding the importance of ceremony, storytelling, access to traditional lands and healthy landscapes brought insights about obstacles and barriers for such practices.

Part of Parks Canada's mandate is to protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's cultural heritage and history, which includes acknowledging the history of Indigenous peoples and the homelands they have occupied for millennia. Parks Canada is committed to a system of national heritage places that recognizes Indigenous traditions, cultures and contributions to Canada. As well, the Agency welcomes the invaluable contributions of Indigenous peoples to our work – from establishing and conserving heritage places to enhancing visitor experience through sharing stories and cultural traditions.

The results of the two Indigenous gatherings summarized in this report reveal the common goals of sharing and protecting the cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples in a mutually respectful manner. The perspectives of participants are guiding our work in commemorating and sharing Canada's stories and underscore the need to be mindful of how we conduct archaeology, how we care for and manage the objects under our care, and how we build collaborative

relationships that will endure into the future. Although the first steps on the path to reconciliation have been taken, there is much distance still to travel.

Parks Canada is grateful to each person who contributed to these gatherings. We extend our gratitude to the participants for taking the time away from their responsibilities, their families, and their work, to share their experiences and their views. We thank the members of Indigenous Heritage Circle for their sound guidance and advice, our Indigenous Council of Advisors for supporting us on this journey, and to all the Parks Canada team members who contributed to the delivery of the gatherings and who are committed to making change within the Agency now and in the years ahead.

Our hope is that this work helps move us closer together. We wish to build on the spirit of 'reconciliation through collaboration' to create a future where all views and perspectives are respected and shared.



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During one of the gatherings Rae Mombourquette, a participant, shared a story which demonstrates the importance of Oral Narratives, traditions and story telling.



“Kwanlin Dün Elder Louie Smith, one of our oldest Elders who never went to residential school, told me while we were recently observing the most complete throwing dart ever found in the Yukon, that sinew was made from twining moose tendons. He told me this because sinew was used to attach both the stone point, and the feathers to the shaft of the dart. Long ago, middle aged women (women with children) would quickly twine the tendons together. Then the young women, the ones who had no children yet, would spend their time rubbing the loose tendons together - holding one end with their teeth and rubbing the strings together with their hands. The result was very fine sinew (as thin as store bought thread; and like the kind on this Yukon dart). The very oldest woman in camp would be called over. She would walk over using two canes (because she was so old). She would then take the sinew of each of the young woman and prick her cheek with it (because she had the softest skin); if she pricked her cheek and said “ouch”, that was good sinew; but if the sinew bent and did not poke her, that was not good sinew, and you didn’t want to hire that girl.

The point of Louie’s story may have been to communicate that the manufacture of this ancient throwing dart took a whole community; and that each member of the community was valued and had active employment. Louie shared this story, in front of archaeologists, conservators, First Nation government workers and territorial decision-makers, some of whom may have dismissed Louie’s stories as just that, “stories”, “myth” or “legend”. However, his collective Oral Narratives represents the law and truth of our origins into this landscape; our community processes; and our societal value. These oral laws and truths are supported by the 14,000 year old cultural and geological records of the Yukon. He can share these Oral Narratives because his entire life has been about listening.”

Rae Mombourquette, Participant (sharing a story she witnessed as an Indigenous Canadian)

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APPENDIX A:

Examples from the Field

Jasper National Park

At Jasper National Park, Indigenous peoples have been noticeably absent from the landscape since the creation of Jasper National Park in 1907. Not permitted to carry out traditional practices, Indigenous people were forced to leave the park, bringing with them their stories, their cultural traditions and their intimate knowledge of the area. It has taken over a century for Parks Canada and Indigenous peoples to come to terms with that history of dispossession and to take steps to reconcile with the past.

For some, renewed trust has developed from the Jasper Indigenous Forum, created in a spirit of healing and reconciliation. The Forum brings to the table 20 Indigenous groups to reintegrate dialogue among all Indigenous peoples with past links to the National Park.

Member of the Forum, Barry Wesley, and Jasper Park Planner, Amber Stewart, spoke about the Forum and the work that Parks Canada is doing with local Indigenous groups. Through this work, some of the positive outcomes discussed by Barry and Amber include:

- ❖ Free access to Jasper National Park and access to harvest medicinal plants
- ❖ Reconnecting Elders with sacred sites
- ❖ Co-development of an exhibit to tell 'our stories to the world'
- ❖ Creating Memorandums of Understanding formalizing the relationship between Jasper National Park and interested local Indigenous groups

- ❖ Employment of Indigenous interpreters and other cultural programming by local Indigenous people
- ❖ Growing relationships between Indigenous groups and tourism operators

While this story has had many positive outcomes, both Barry and Amber were open about the many challenges that had to be overcome to get to this place. These challenging conversations continue as the relationship between Parks Canada and the Indigenous groups evolves.

Batoche National Historic Site

At Batoche National Historic Site, team members provide cultural programming and educate the public on Métis culture and history. Batoche is a powerful place with special meaning to many Métis people across Canada. Since 2005, Parks Canada team members and Friends of Batoche have partnered with the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) to enhance the historic site's cultural programming. The GDI promotes the renewal and development of Métis culture through research and publication of educational materials. GDI's other primary focus, and a part of its mission, is the education and training of the Métis of Saskatchewan.

GCI Director of Publishing, Karon Shmon and Saskatchewan Field Unit Superintendent Adriana Bacheschi, spoke about their collaborations. Together, they have produced educational materials about the site and interpretive elements that will more often highlight the site's community history rather than its military history. The approach is innovative as it recognizes



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there are both divergent and complementary viewpoints of history and these various perspectives should be honored and shared with visitors.

Karon and Adriana discussed the importance of building a relationship to help better understand the different perspectives of the site and in order to co-develop these stories. This collaboration has resulted in a number of positive outcomes including:

- ❖ Local Métis comprise 60% of the staff at Batoche National Historic Site,
- ❖ Michif language is included in site signage,
- ❖ The Métis perspective on Batoche now enhances the Saskatchewan school curriculum, and
- ❖ Increased sensitivity of Parks Canada staff to the cultural significance of the site, e.g., Métis Elders involvement, other perspectives on 1867 and the history of Batoche, the sacredness of the site regarding the type of activities that occur and that alcohol is not served on site.

Karon and Adriana shared that the positive outcomes were achieved with some challenges but both stressed the value of building and maintaining the relationship to keep it strong enough to work through challenges and to achieve outcomes neither Parks Canada nor GDI could do without the partnership.

Mainland Nova Scotia Historic Sites

Mainland Nova Scotia is home to a number of National Historic Sites and National Parks an important role in both Mi'kmaq and Canadian history and life. The Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit and the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM) have collaborated on a number of initiatives at these sites. Field Unit Superintendent, Julie Tompa and Tim Bernard, Director of History and Culture for CMM, spoke about their relationship and some of the initiatives they have undertaken.

Parks Canada had worked with the Mainland Mi'kmaq for a number of years until cutbacks in funding reduced the level of engagement. Following this, there was hesitation by the Mi'kmaq to re-engage with Parks Canada. After trust building conversations, the relationship began to grow again and in 2012 an Interim Agreement between Parks Canada and the

Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia outlined a collaborative working relationship. This Agreement included the establishment of an Advisory Committee and provided free access to national parks and Parks Canada administered National Historic Sites in Nova Scotia for Mi'kmaq people.

Currently, the Mi'kmaq Advisory Committee provides advice, guidance and input into a number of initiatives happening across the Field Unit. One highlight of this, is the development of Mi'kmaq interpretation and a successful Indigenous tourism project at Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site.

Additionally, the Mi'kmaq Advisory Committee provided direction to Parks Canada to work with CMM on projects happening at National Historic Sites in Mainland Nova Scotia. Julie and Tim discussed their collaboration on some of these initiatives:

- ❖ Development of a new exhibit at Fort Anne National Historic Site which fundamentally changed the way stories are told at the site, to include Mi'kmaq perspectives equal to European stories, and
- ❖ Mi'kmaq participation in the development of the flagship exhibit project at the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site.

Julie spoke to some of the internal challenges in changing Parks Canada's thinking to do this work differently. Tim spoke about the desire for Mi'kmaq people to be part of what Parks Canada offers to share their culture and history with others. Both acknowledged there is a need to continue to build trust and relationships to create a solid partnership.

Point Pelee National Park

In 1922, shortly after the establishment of Point Pelee National Park, members of Caldwell First Nation living within the Park boundaries were forcibly expelled from their homes, severing their ties with the lands and waters they had stewarded for thousands of years. As families were displaced, traditions and language were lost.



Despite these terrible beginnings, Parks Canada and the Caldwell First Nation are now working in partnership. Caldwell Nation Council Member, Robyn Van Oirschot and Point Pelee National Park Site Manager, Maria Papoulias spoke about their relationship and some of the important initiatives and outcomes that have resulted.

In 2018, the site put in place a new welcome sign at Point Pelee in three languages - English, French, and Anishinaabemowin – with original art created by the Caldwell Nation. The new sign was developed in partnership with Caldwell First Nation and aims to recognize the important connection the Caldwell have to the lands that now form part of the National Park. Robyn spoke to the importance of this sign to Caldwell members in connecting to the land and re-establishing their language and cultural identity. Maria spoke to some of the internal challenges she faced in getting the project approved.

Additionally, Parks Canada identified human remains from the Caldwell Nation in the artefact collection it manages. After discussions with Caldwell First Nation Council, a process for repatriating these remains was established. Robyn spoke to the importance to the community of having these remains returned. The repatriation was accompanied by a feast – an important cultural event for Caldwell which had not taken place for many years.

APPENDIX B:

Gathering Programs

The Facilitators for both gatherings were Carlie Chase of Nawaska Consulting and Lynne Toupin, Principal Consultant, Interlocus.

Calgary

Tuesday, November 6th, Rotary House, Calgary Stampede

- A. Welcome Prayers by Elder Dr. Reg Crowshoe
- B. Attendee Introductions
- C. Welcome Remarks from, Joëlle Montminy, Vice President of the Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate, Parks Canada, and Karen Aird, President of the Indigenous Heritage Circle
- D. Cultural Performance by local singing and dancing group “White Rock”

Wednesday, November 7th, Rotary House, Calgary Stampede

- A. Opening prayer by Elder Audrey Pipestem
- B. Presentation from the Vice President of the Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate, Parks Canada, Joëlle Montminy
- C. Arm Chair Discussions
 - a. Jasper National Park
 - b. Batoche National Historic Site
- D. Breakout Discussions on Successes and Challenges in Indigenous Cultural Heritage Work
 - ❖ What are some of the successes you’ve had in your community or organization or Nation with respect to advancing the sharing and protection of your cultural heritage?
 - ❖ What are some of the challenges you face in trying to achieve your goals/objectives as they relate to the sharing and protection and passing on of cultural heritage?

E. Plenary Discussion on a Definition of Cultural Heritage

F. Prayer by Elder Doreen Bergum

G. Breakout Discussions around Cultural Heritage themes identified in morning

Give an example of an “object/place/idea/etc.” that is unique, relevant and/or significant to your community that PC needs to be aware of?

What would it look like if Parks Canada recognized and included this in its place?

How should collaboration be done to ensure that your example (practices/places/ideas, etc) is understood, reflected and integrated into sites managed by Parks Canada and how they work?

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Experiences | 5. Artistic Expression |
| 2. Ideas | 6. Places |
| 3. Knowledge | 7. Practices |
| 4. Objects | 8. Open topic |

H. Group reflection and discussion of how to move forward

I. Closing Prayer by Elder Barry Wesley

Gatineau

Tuesday, November 27th, Canadian Museum of History – River View Salon

A. Opening Prayer from Elder Peter Decontie of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

B. Participant introductions

C. Welcome Remarks from, Joëlle Montminy, Vice President of the Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate, Parks Canada, and Karen Aird, President of the Indigenous Heritage Circle

D. Cultural Performance by Art Napoleon

Wednesday, November 28th, Canadian Museum of History – River View Salon

A. Opening Prayer from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Elder Peter Decontie

B. Presentation from the Vice President of the Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage Directorate, Parks Canada, Joëlle Montminy

C. Arm Chair Discussions

- a. Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia and Parks Canada Field Unit
- b. Caldwell First Nation and Point Pelee National Park

D. Small Group Discussions - Successes and Challenges in Protecting and Sharing Cultural Heritage

- ❖ What are some of the successes you've had in your community or organization or Nation with respect to advancing the sharing and protection of your cultural heritage?
- ❖ What are some of the challenges you face in trying to achieve your goals/objectives as they relate to the sharing and protection and passing on of cultural heritage?

E. Breakout Discussions (2 rounds)

a. Topic 1: Designating Nationally Significant Heritage

The Minister responsible for Parks Canada designates places, persons and events of national historic significance. Do you see value in this system and would you like to have more Indigenous designations within it? What other ideas would you like to share with respect to Indigenous designations and commemorations?

b. Topic 2: Composition Of The Historic Sites And Monuments Board Of Canada

The composition of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada is changing to include Indigenous representation. What qualities, skills and capacities do you think are important for these representatives? What role would they play? What other ideas would you like to share with respect to Indigenous designations and commemorations?

c. Topic 3: Caring For Indigenous Objects

Parks Canada cares for thousands of artefacts and cultural objects. What do you feel is the appropriate way to handle the management and care for Indigenous artefacts and cultural objects cared for by Parks Canada? What are some of the guidelines we need to take into consideration as we move forward?

d. Topic 4: Telling Indigenous Stories At Parks Canada Sites

Parks Canada is invested in telling the stories of all peoples living in Canada. What steps must Parks Canada take to ensure Indigenous stories / shared history is / are told in a respectful and accurate manner and integrate the perspectives of Indigenous partners?

e. Topic 5: Creating Respectful Relationships

Parks Canada believes it is important to work with its Indigenous neighbours in a respectful way. What steps should Parks Canada take to improve its relationship with Indigenous peoples?

f. Topic 6: Open Topic

F. Sharing what was heard back to group

G. Looking Ahead Discussion

In 5 years, if Parks Canada is doing a good job of taking into consideration Indigenous perspectives in managing its heritage places, what does that look like? How will we know if we are doing this right?

H. Closing Thoughts

Following the Calgary Gathering, the Project Team felt it would be useful to include an opportunity for participants to offer their thoughts in writing. With this in mind, a series of posters were hung in the room at the Gatineau Gathering asking participants to respond on post-it notes to the following questions:

- ❖ Given the role of Parks Canada¹, what are the most important things the Agency needs to pay attention to in advancing its work and incorporating Indigenous perspectives into its programs and policies?
- ❖ What are you most proud of when you think about or speak about your culture, heritage, community, Nation?
- ❖ We recognize there is no direct translation for “Indigenous Heritage”. The closest translation we found relates to the sacred. Given this, is there anything missing, from your perspective, from the definition by the Indigenous Heritage Circle²? If so, what?

The comments offered on these posters were included and considered with all the feedback from both Gatherings.

¹ Parks Canada Mandate included on poster for reference

² Indigenous Heritage Circle's definition of cultural heritage included on poster for reference. The definition used was revised based on the input given at the Calgary Gathering.

APPENDIX C:

Attendee List

Calgary

November 6th and 7th, 2018

| NAME | ROLE | ORGANIZATION |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Adriana Bacheschi | Acting Field Unit Superintendent, Saskatchewan South Field Unit | Parks Canada |
| Allan Davidson | Hereditary Chief | Haida Nation |
| Amber Stewart | Planner, Jasper National Park | Parks Canada |
| Angie Bain | Historical Researcher | Union of BC Indian Chiefs |
| Barry Wesley | Administrator | Bighorn Chiniki Stoney First Nation |
| Elder Bruce Dumont | Past President | Métis Nation BC |
| Cameron Alexis | Executive Director | Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc. |
| Candace Wasacase-Lafferty | Director, Indigenous Initiatives, Chair of the Board | Univ. of Saskatchewan & Wanuskewin Heritage Park |
| Carleigh Grier-Stewart | Geography Student | University of Lethbridge |
| Dan Cardinal | Vice-President | Métis Nation Alberta |
| Dena Rozon | Engagement and Communication Coordinator | Parks Canada |
| Dené Sinclair | Director of Marketing | Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada |
| Dianne Hinkley | Lands Research Director | Cowichan Tribes |
| Donald Sam | Councillor & Director of Traditional Knowledge & Language | Ktunaxa Nation |
| Elder Doreen Bergum | Elder member of Council of Advisors | Métis Nation of Alberta - Region 3 |
| Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn | First Nations Studies Professor and member of Council of Advisors | Simon Fraser University |

| NAME | ROLE | ORGANIZATION |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Ellen Bertrand | Director Cultural, Heritage Strategies, and Co-chair of Council of Advisors | Parks Canada |
| Knowledge Keeper Eric Tootoosis | Elder, storyteller, oral historian, and treaty advisor | Poundmaker Cree Nation |
| Fibbie Tatti | Sahtugotine Culture and Language Advocate & Researcher | Déline Community |
| Greg Kingdon | Senior Communications Advisor | Parks Canada |
| Hayley Grier-Stewart | Economics Student and Vice President | Indigenous Student Club at University of Lethbridge |
| Jarred Picher | Director, Archeology & History Branch | Parks Canada |
| Jason Chernow | Youth Representative | Métis Nation Alberta Region 3 |
| Jenny Klafki | Indigenous Affairs Manager, Lake Louise, Yoho & Kootenay Field Unit | Parks Canada |
| Joella Hogan | Director | Indigenous Heritage Circle |
| Joëlle Montminy | Vice-President | Parks Canada |
| Elder John Wesley | Elder | Bighorn Chiniki Stoney First Nation |
| Julie Birdstone | Ktunaxa Knowledge and Language Sector Chair | Ktunaxa Nation |
| Julie Harris | Administrator | Indigenous Heritage Circle |
| Karen Aird | President, Indigenous Heritage Circle and Co-chair Council of Advisors | Heritage Manager, First Peoples Cultural Council |
| Karon Shmon | Director of Publishing | Gabriel Dumont Institute |
| Lawrence Gervais | President | Métis Nation Alberta Region 3 |
| Dr. Leroy Little Bear | Indigenous rights, Blackfoot culture | Faculty at the University of Lethbridge |
| Lisa Prosper | Board member | HSMBC & ICOMOS |
| Lucy Ann Yakeleya | Artisan, Translator, Archivist | K'ásho Goti'ine Community |
| Marissa Jim | Traditional Land & Marine Use Researcher | Tseycum First Nation |
| Mary Jane Johnson | Heritage Manager | Kluane First Nations |
| Patricia Kell | Executive Director | Parks Canada |
| Paul Dyck | Treaty Negotiations Manager | Parks Canada |
| Paula Amos | Director Partnerships and Corporate Initiatives | Indigenous Tourism BC |
| Rebecca Clarke | Policy and Program Officer | Parks Canada |

| NAME | ROLE | ORGANIZATION |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Elder Dr. Reg Crowshoe | Elder and Cultural and Spiritual Advisor | Treaty 7 First Nations |
| Ruth Ellen Macgillis | Administrative Support | Parks Canada |
| Sharon Snowshoe | Director, Department of Cultural Heritage | Gwich'in Tribal Council |
| Stefan Van Doorn | Senior Analyst, Policy, Planning and Research | Canadian Heritage |
| Thomas (TJ) Hammer | Director, Collections, Curatorial & Conservation Branch | Parks Canada |

Gatineau

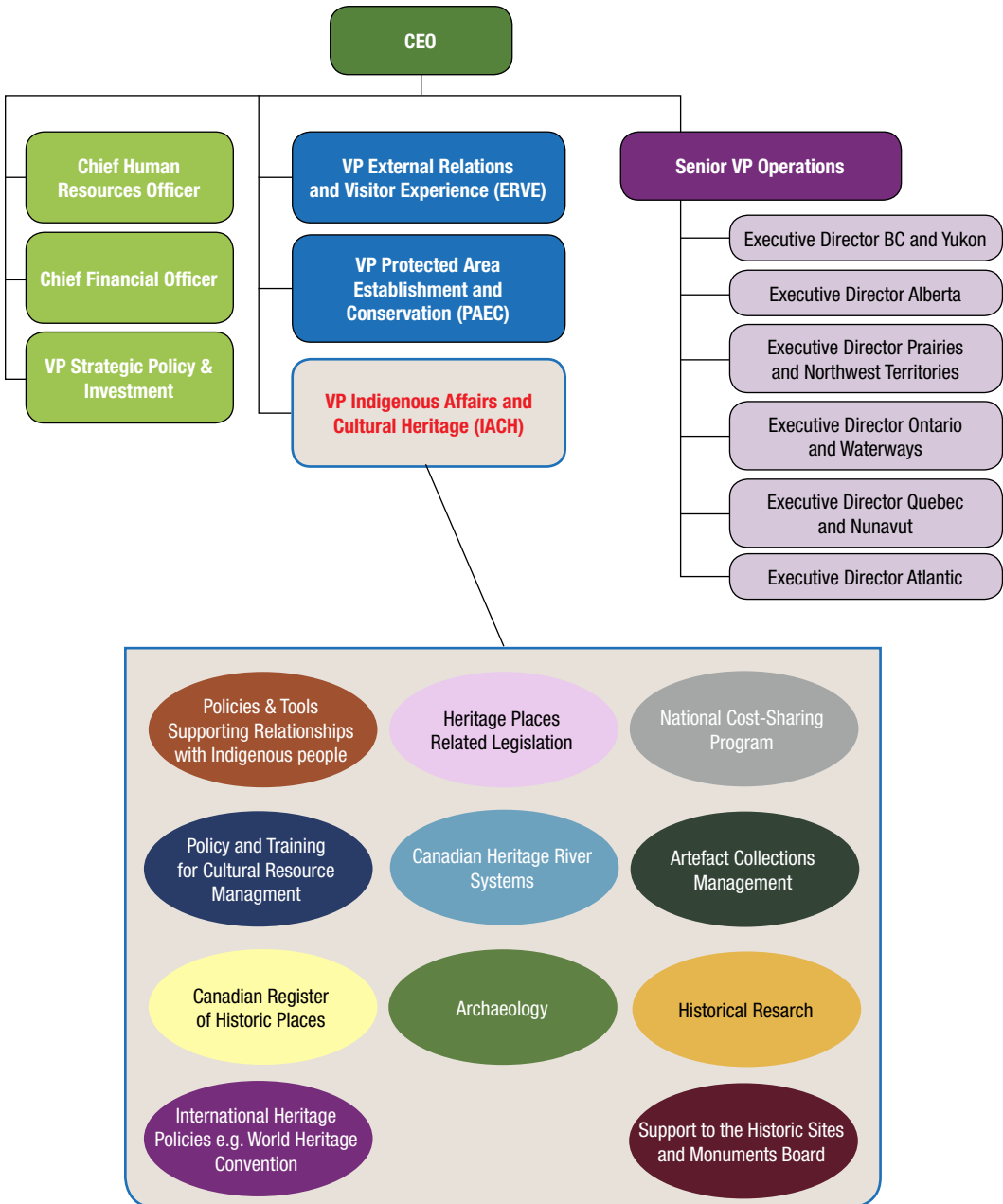
November 27th and 28th, 2018

| NAME | ROLE | ORGANIZATION |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Allan Burnside | Director of Policy, Settlement Agreement and Childhood Claims Branch | Crown Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs (CIRNA) |
| Alycia Lameboy Dixon | University Student | n/a |
| Amber Solomon | Youth Representative | Kingsclear Maliseet Band |
| Andrea Paquette | Human Resource Intern | Métis Nation of Ontario |
| Anita Tenasco | Director of Education | Kitigan Zibi Education Sector |
| Art Napoleon | Performer and Director | Indigenous Heritage Circle |
| Brian Tucker | Associate Director of Education and Way of Life | Métis Nation of Ontario |
| Caitlyn Baikie | Manager for Inuit Youth Participation | Students On Ice |
| Candace Anderson | Consultation Coordinator, Review Panels Division | Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency |
| Clayton Samuel King | Heritage and Cultural Coordinator | Beausoleil First Nation |
| Cliff Supernault | Special Advisor | Métis Nation |
| Clifford Paul | Coordinator Moose Management Initiative | Una'maki Institute of Natural Resources |
| Cody Groat | PhD Candidate | Wilfrid Laurier University |
| Colleen Lambert | Tourism, Culture and Recreation | Miawpukek First Nation |
| Dean Oliver | Director, Research | Canadian Museum of History |
| Dena Rozon | Engagement and Communication Coordinator | Parks Canada |
| Ellen Bertrand | Director Cultural, Heritage Strategies, Co-chair Indigenous Council of Advisors | Parks Canada |

| NAME | ROLE | ORGANIZATION |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| Georgina Liberty | Director Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations | Manitoba Métis Federation |
| Gerald Gloade | Program Development Officer | Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre |
| Elder Gerald Toney Sr | Elders Advisory Council / Director of Operations | Annapolis Valley First Nation |
| Chief Harry Rice | Chief | Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke |
| Dr. James (Jim) Igloliorte | Retired judge and member of Council of Advisors | n/a |
| Jameson Brandt | Coordinator Aboriginal Training Program | Canadian Museum of History |
| Jarred Picher | Director, Archeology & History Branch | Parks Canada |
| Jason Gobeil | Aboriginal Community Coordinator | Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples Council |
| Jenny Buffalo | Intern | Canadian Museum of History |
| Jillian Larkham | Director of Tourism | Nunatsiavut Government |
| Jodie Ashini | Language and Storytelling Advocate | Innu Nation |
| Joëlle Montminy | Vice-President Indigenous and Cultural Heritage Directorate | Parks Canada |
| John McCormick | Senior Policy Advisor, Indigenous Consultation | Parks Canada |
| Jonathan Lainey | Curator, First Peoples | Canadian Museum of History |
| Julie Harris | Administrator | Indigenous Heritage Circle |
| Julie Tompa | Field Unit Superintendent for Mainland Nova Scotia | Parks Canada |
| Kara Sherrard | Corporate Services Manager | Parks Canada |
| Karen Aird | President, Indigenous Heritage Circle and Co-chair Council of Advisors | Heritage Manager, First Peoples Cultural Council |
| Katherine Patterson | Field Unit Superintendent for Georgian Bay and Ontario East | Parks Canada |
| Keyaira Gruben | Council Member | Kingsclear Maliseet Band |
| Koleka Casimir | Intern | Canadian Museum of History |
| Laura Hall | Policy Analyst, Resolution & Individual Affairs Sector | Crown Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs |
| Louis Lesage | Director of the Nionwentsio Office | Huron Wendat Nation |
| Madeline Redfern | Mayor | Iqaluit |
| Mandy McCarthy | Director, Heritage Designations and Programs | Parks Canada |

| NAME | ROLE | ORGANIZATION |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Maria Papoulias | Site Manager Point Pelee National Park | Parks Canada |
| Marie-Pierre Laine | Conseillère en développement | Tourisme Autochtone Québec |
| Nathalie Gagnon | Senior Program Manager, Reconciliation Secretariat | Crown Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs |
| Patricia Kell | Executive Director | Parks Canada |
| Elder Peter Decontie | Elder | Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg |
| Rae Mombourquette | Researcher, Contractor | Kwanlin Dün First Nation |
| Rebecca Clarke | Policy and Program Officer | Parks Canada |
| Robyn Van Oirschot | Council Member | Caldwell Nation |
| Ruth Ellen Macgillis | Administrative Support | Parks Canada |
| Sarah Cronier | Cultural Heritage Project Assistant | Algonquins of Ontario |
| Dr. Sarah Pashagumskum | Executive Director and member of the Council of Advisors | Cree Cultural Institute |
| Stefan Van Doorn | Senior Analyst, Policy, Planning and Research | Canadian Heritage |
| Thomas (TJ) Hammer | Director, Collections, Curatorial & Conservation Branch | Parks Canada |
| Tim Bernard | Director of History and Culture and member of the Council of Advisors | Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq |

APPENDIX D: Parks Canada Organizational Structure



APPENDIX E:

Indigenous Advisors Council

A Council of Advisors was established to inform the process of creating Indigenous gatherings on Cultural Heritage. Advisors were selected based on their knowledge of cultural heritage. Advisors met weekly in the two months leading up to the gatherings. Their involvement included:

- ❖ identifying potential gathering participants,
- ❖ helping design the gathering program and questions,
- ❖ identifying and selecting facilitators,
- ❖ actively participating in one of the two gatherings,
- ❖ working with Parks Canada to summarize and analyze the discussions,
- ❖ providing feedback on the final report, and
- ❖ advising on important issues and providing recommendations throughout the entire process.

The Council included two co-chairs – one from the Indigenous Heritage Circle and one from Parks Canada – and five Indigenous members representing Indigenous communities across Canada.

Co-Chairs



Karen Aird

A member of Saulteau First Nations in Treaty 8 Territory of BC, Karen Aird has worked in heritage for the past 23 years on many projects that convey a strong Sense

of Place in Indigenous Landscapes, encompassing the stories, legal traditions and the intangible and tangible elements into Indigenous cultural heritage planning. Currently, Karen has embarked on the position as Heritage Manager for First Peoples Cultural Council. Karen is one of the founding directors of the national Indigenous Heritage Circle, a non-profit organization focused on the identification, management and conservation of Indigenous heritage.



Ellen Bertrand

Ellen Bertrand is the Director of Cultural Heritage Strategies at Parks Canada. Ellen has spent the past 25 years inspiring Canadians to experience, appreciate and protect their

natural and cultural heritage. She has managed national park and historic site operations, developed innovative national heritage outreach programs and partnerships, and developed approaches to strengthen heritage conservation in Canada.

Members



Tim Bernard

Tim Bernard is well known beyond his own community of Millbrook as the Manager/Editor of the Mi'kmaq Maliseet Nations News and Eastern Woodland Print

Communications. Tim is the Mi'kmaq co-chair of the Culture and History working committee of the Tripartite Forum as well as a member of the History Month and Treaty Day committees. He brings his management expertise to The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq as the Director of History and Culture, and to the development of the Mi'kmahey Debert project.



Dr. James Igloliorte

Born in Hopedale, Labrador, Dr. James Igloliorte attended the Moravian-run grade school in his home community in North West River. In 1985, he received his bachelor of law

degree from Dalhousie University and returned to take up duties in Happy Valley-Goose Bay as a circuit judge. Dr. Igloliorte worked as a Commissioner for the Qikiqtani Truth Commission, and is the past chair of the Torngat Mountains National Park Co-Management Board. He was recently employed by DIAND/CIRNA to facilitate Commemoration and Healing for former Newfoundland and Labrador Residential School Students.



Dr. Sarah

Pashagumskum (PhD)

Sarah Pashagumskum (PhD) is a member of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi in northern Quebec, and has been the Executive Director of

Anischaaukamikw, the regional Cree Cultural Institute for Eeyou Istchee, since 2015. As Executive Director, Sarah leads a dynamic team supporting culture and heritage programming for the nine Cree communities

in Northern Quebec. Sarah has a background in First Nations education, culture and language maintenance, as a teacher, university instructor, education consultant, research coordinator, and author. Her community service includes terms as a band councillor and board member on various First Nations community organizations and the Canadian Museums Association.



Elder Doreen Bergum

Doreen Bergum grew up in Sundre, Alberta. As the Elder for Métis Nation Region 3 Alberta, she celebrates and shares her culture with young and old at events throughout

the year by composing prayers and teaching jigging, beading, moccasin making and copote making. While growing up in Sundre, Doreen was unable to be open about her traditional upbringing, but she is now proud to bring her knowledge and experience to many different groups from elementary schools to colleges, universities and corporations. She has attended many workshops, symposiums and gathering in order to share her Métis wisdom, experience and prayers.



Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn

Dr. Eldon Yellowhorn (Otahkotskina) is from the Piikani First Nation. He completed his studies at the University of Calgary where he received degrees

in geography and archaeology. He applied to graduate school at Simon Fraser University to study archaeology and completed his student career at McGill University (PhD '02). He was appointed to the faculty at Simon Fraser University in 2002 where he teaches archaeology and First Nations studies. He was instrumental in establishing the Department of First Nations Studies in 2012 and was its first chair.

APPENDIX F:

Commitments from the 2017 Minister's Round Table *Let's Talk Parks Canada*

The following are excerpts from the document **Let's Talk Parks Canada** relevant to the topics brought forward at the Indigenous Cultural Heritage Gatherings held in November 2018. To read the full version of this report, please visit <https://letstalkparksCanada.ca/>.

PRIORITIES

The results of the 2017 Round Table engagement suggest a reimagining of the role that Parks Canada places can play in the future. This will require a focus on several priorities, including:

- ❖ Strengthening the role that Parks Canada plays in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and continuing to advance collaboration with Indigenous peoples on conservation, restoration, and enjoyment of national parks and national historic sites.

COMMITMENTS

To build on these successes, and guided by input from the 2017 Minister's Round Table, the Minister commits to the following actions:

Establish new parks and marine conservation areas.

- ❖ In partnership with Indigenous peoples and others, work to achieve the Aichi targets for protecting lands and inland waters. This work, which is part of the "Pathway to Canada Target 1" process, will continue to be grounded in science and Indigenous traditional knowledge, and will contribute to the creation of a connected network of protected and conserved areas.
- ❖ Advance the establishment of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in collaboration with Indigenous peoples across Canada.

Restore sites that have experienced ecological or commemorative decline, and respond to the challenges of climate change.

- ❖ Inventory archeological and historic sites at risk from climate change and development pressures, and work in partnership with Indigenous peoples and academic institutions to record and preserve these places.

Conserve our cultural heritage.

- ❖ Engage Indigenous organizations on amendments to the Historic Sites and Monuments Act, to provide for permanent Indigenous representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Recognize and support the role Indigenous peoples play in managing and conserving spaces, and engage First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in decision-making that affects their traditional territories or cultural heritage.

Advancing Parks Canada's collaboration with Indigenous peoples to strengthen the Agency's most important relationship in the spirit of reconciliation by:

- ❖ Adopting the Principles respecting the Government of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples as the framework for a renewed partnership.
- ❖ Collaborating with Indigenous groups and communities in the management of all Parks Canada places, including in management planning.
- ❖ Facilitating opportunities to restore historic connection to traditionally used lands and waters.
- ❖ Involving Indigenous peoples in conservation programs and ensuring that Indigenous traditional knowledge and Arctic marine science informs conservation and management decisions.
- ❖ Acting on the work of the Indigenous Circle of Experts, who have submitted a report to the Minister on how Indigenous people can contribute to achieving Canada's conservation objectives.
- ❖ Work with Inuit, Métis, and First Nations in the advancement of indigenous protected and conserved areas.
- ❖ Where possible, expanding Indigenous stewardship and guardians programs and initiatives in Parks Canada places as a core element of a renewed partnership.
- ❖ Work with Indigenous peoples and communities on opportunities for interpretive and storytelling programs rooted in traditional activities and traditional knowledge.

Indigenous storytelling and stewardship.

Creating opportunities for Indigenous peoples to tell their own stories about sites of cultural significance would allow visitors to learn more about Indigenous history, and would be an important aspect of reconciliation.

- ❖ We will work with Indigenous peoples and communities on Indigenous stewardship and guardians initiatives, ensure that these efforts can apply to national historic sites and can include sharing Indigenous stories and history.

APPENDIX G: ENVI Committee's Report: Heritage Preservation and Protection in Canada Recommendations for Indigenous Heritage

The ENVI Committee's Report included three recommendations related to Indigenous Heritage. They are:

| | |
|----|--|
| 15 | <p>The Committee recommends that the federal government support an Indigenous-led initiative that will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ determining how places that are important to Canada's Indigenous peoples should be protected and preserved;❖ enhancing the capacity of Indigenous communities to preserve places that are important to them; and❖ presenting the perspective of Indigenous communities regarding the protection of places that are important to them to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat, Parks Canada and other federal government departments and agencies. |
| 16 | <p>The Committee recommends that, in cooperation with Indigenous groups, Parks Canada include Indigenous registrars in the Canadian Register of Historic Places to improve the process by which Indigenous places that are important to Indigenous peoples are identified and designated.</p> |



17

The Committee recommends that, in support of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action 79 and 81, and in consultation with Indigenous groups:

- ❖ The federal government introduce legislation amending the Historic Sites and Monuments Act to add First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat.
- ❖ The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada revise the policies, criteria, and practices of the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices into Canada's national heritage and history.
- ❖ Parks Canada develop and implement a national heritage plan and strategy for commemorating and, where appropriate, conserving residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canada's history.
- ❖ The federal government, in collaboration with Residential School Survivors, commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools National Monument in the city of Ottawa to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.

To read the full report and the government responses visit <https://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/ENVI/report-10/>.

APPENDIX H:

Further Reading

This reading list was created in the spirit of transparency to share Parks Canada's work with Indigenous peoples and other supporting documents related to the issues brought forward at the Indigenous Gatherings on Cultural Heritage.

Parks Canada Publications

We Rise Together: Achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 through the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the spirit and practice of reconciliation

We Rise Together is the report from the Indigenous Circle of Experts who worked together to make progress on Pathway to Canada Target 1 of increasing conserved land and waters by 2020.

Parks Canada Agency, 2018

http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/pc/R62-548-2018-eng.pdf

The Land is Our Teacher: Reflections and Stories on Working with Aboriginal Knowledge Holders to Manage Parks Canada's Heritage Places

The Land is Our Teacher presents a series of Indigenous Knowledge based projects and describes how Parks Canada works with Indigenous Knowledge Holders to meet its mandate.

Parks Canada Agency, 2015

<http://parkscanadahistory.com/publications/the-land-is-our-teacher-e-2015.pdf>

Promising Pathways: Strengthening engagement and relationships with Aboriginal peoples in Parks Canada heritage places

Promising Pathways includes examples from Parks Canada projects and serves as a resource guide for Parks Canada team members and those building and managing relationships with Indigenous peoples.

Parks Canada Agency, 2014

http://www.georgewright.org/Promising%20Pathways_small_20140417.pdf

Working Together: Our Stories; Best Practices and Lessons Learned in Aboriginal Engagement

In an effort to highlight Indigenous peoples' and Parks Canada's achievements, *Working Together* offers a compendium of best practices in working together to deliver Parks Canada's program activities and strategic outcomes.

Parks Canada Agency, 2011

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/agence-agency/aa-ia/te-wt>

Government of Canada Publications

Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples

The *Principles* are a starting point for the Government of Canada to support efforts to end the denial of Indigenous rights that led to disempowerment and assimilationist policies and practices. They will guide the work required to fulfill the Government's commitment to renewed nation-to-nation, government-to-government, and Inuit-Crown relationships.

Department of Justice Canada, 2018

<https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/principles-principes.html>

***Many Voices One Mind: a Pathway to Reconciliation;
Final Report of the Interdepartmental Circles on
Indigenous Representation***

The report from the Interdepartmental Circles on Indigenous Representation's consultations with current and past federal public servants outlining the challenges and barriers faced by Indigenous Peoples working within the Public Service.

Government of Canada, 2017

<https://www.canada.ca/en/privy-council/corporate/clerk/publications/many-voices.html>

Other Publications

***Voices of Understanding Looking
Through the Window***

Examining decision-making models and creating ethical spaces where Indigenous communities and the Alberta Energy Regulator can work together.

Alberta Energy Regulator, 2017

https://www.aer.ca/documents/about-us/VoiceOfUnderstanding_Report.pdf

***National Aboriginal Tourism Research Project;
Economic Impact of Aboriginal Tourism in Canada***

The first major study of Aboriginal tourism in more than a decade points to the increasing importance, growth and sophistication of Aboriginal tourism across Canada.

Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, 2015

<https://indigenoustourism.ca/corporate/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/REPORT-ATAC-Ntl-Ab-Tsm-Research-2015-April-FINAL.pdf>



