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# ICOMOS

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22 January 2018

H. E. Ms Elaine Ayotte  
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate  
Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO  
5, rue de Constantine  
75007 Paris

World Heritage List 2018  
**Pimachiowin Aki (Canada) –  
ICOMOS and IUCN joint Interim report and additional information request**

Dear Ambassador,

As prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its Annex 6, the Advisory Bodies have been requested to submit a short interim report for each nomination by 31 January 2018. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining the status of and any issues related to the evaluation process.

The joint ICOMOS and IUCN technical evaluation mission to the "Pimachiowin Aki" was undertaken by Gregory De Vries for ICOMOS and Brent A. Mitchel for IUCN from 6-7 September 2017. The evaluators greatly appreciated the excellent support and co-operation provided by your colleagues in the preparation and implementation of the mission, and the kind welcome of the State Party throughout the mission. Please convey our sincere thanks to all of the officials and contributors that assisted the evaluators in undertaking the mission.

At the end of November 2017, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2018. The IUCN World Heritage Panel took place between 4 to 8 December 2017 evaluating natural and mixed properties. The Panel processes will conclude in March/April 2018, following which the Advisory Bodies evaluation reports will be issued to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The nomination dossier, additional information, together with missions and desk review reports as well as other references regarding the nominated property were carefully examined by the ICOMOS and IUCN Panels in formulating their provisional recommendations.

ICOMOS thanks you for the fruitful cooperation and discussion held on 24 November 2017 with their Panel members. As explained during this meeting with your Delegation, the ICOMOS Panel in reviewing the nomination identified several areas where it considers that further information regarding cultural criteria is needed. In addition the ICOMOS and IUCN Panels shared several points of concern and clarification concerning the revised nomination:

- That there will be no change in the pressures for development in the areas that have been withdrawn from the nomination and are now part of the buffer zone, that would impact on the nominated property.
- That there would be scope to expand the nominated area through the future addition of appropriate lands under the care of First Nations, if those First Nations so desired.

- That there are opportunities for other First Nations to actively engage in the governance of the overall World Heritage property and its buffer zone in such a way as to integrate with the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation.
- The revised nomination reports on the potential threat from hydroelectric power lines on a route which may now cross the property. During our evaluations of earlier nominations, there were proposals for new high voltage power lines to run outside the property. It would appear that changes are now being discussed to re-route lines within the property despite the nomination dossier stating that logging, mining, and hydroelectric development are prohibited in the nominated area by means of legislation. Furthermore, under integrity considerations reported in the nomination there is confirmation that the nominated area is free from threats of hydroelectric development. As large scale high voltage power lines (which are associated to hydroelectric development) would have a significant negative impact on the integrity of the landscape, both in visual and associative terms, this is of concern. Thus, we would like to ask for a statement to indicate how protection of the property from the impacts of hydro-electric power lines will be assured.
- Both ICOMOS and IUCN Panel's noted past sensitivities among the nominating First Nations concerning the language and material referred to in evaluations and recommendations to the World Heritage Committee. In order to take account of such sensitivities, the State Party is invited to advise both Advisory Bodies on any areas of concern that they would wish the Advisory Bodies to be aware of.

As you are aware both the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Committee, have previously commended the concept of this nomination as a landmark which highlights the commitment of Indigenous peoples and which demonstrates how the indissoluble bonds that can exist between culture and nature might be recognized on the World Heritage List. Given the positive evaluation recommendations of both Advisory Bodies concerning the previous nomination, both the ICOMOS and IUCN Panels were pleased to see this nomination re-submitted.

We would appreciate your response to the above points as soon as possible, in order to facilitate the evaluation process, but **no later than 28 February 2018**, as per paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines. Please note that any information submitted after this date will not be considered by IUCN and ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while IUCN and ICOMOS will carefully consider any supplementary information submitted, it cannot properly evaluate a completely revised nomination or large amounts of new information submitted at the last minute. So we request to keep your response concise and respond only to the above requests.

**Supplementary information should be submitted officially in three copies to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in order for it to be registered as part of the nomination.** An electronic copy of any supplementary information to both the UNESCO World Heritage Centre ([a.balsamo@unesco.org](mailto:a.balsamo@unesco.org)) and IUCN Headquarters ([christelle.perruchoud@iucn.org](mailto:christelle.perruchoud@iucn.org)) and ICOMOS Headquarters ([apsara.sanchez@icomos.org](mailto:apsara.sanchez@icomos.org)) would also be helpful.

Taking into account your response, IUCN and ICOMOS will formulate their final recommendation to the World Heritage Committee which will meet from 24 June to 4 July 2018 in Bahrain.

In the interest of ensuring dialogue with the States Parties, ICOMOS and IUCN would be ready for a Skype call to clarify any of the above points, or other matters related to the nomination dossier, if that might be considered to be helpful.

ICOMOS is available to meet you in Paris if this would be helpful. You or your representatives are also most welcome to visit IUCN's headquarters in Switzerland to meet in person if you wish, on this nomination, or on any other matter of interest.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Christelle Perruchoud, World Heritage Evaluations and Operations Officer (Tel: +41 22 999 0358; Fax: +41 22 999 0002; email: christelle.perruchoud@iucn.org) or Mrs Gwenaëlle Bourdin, Director of the ICOMOS Evaluation Unit (Tel: +33 (0)1 41 94 17 59, email: gwenaelle.bourdin@icomos.org) if you have any questions regarding this request, or if you would wish to arrange a meeting or phone call to discuss this request.

Please allow us to reiterate our thanks for your support of the World Heritage Convention and for the conduct of the ICOMOS/IUCN joint mission. We look forward to your kind cooperation in furnishing responses to the abovementioned points.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Badman  
Director  
IUCN World Heritage Programme



Gwenaëlle Bourdin  
Director  
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

cc. Canadian Commission for UNESCO, Mr Sébastien Goupil, Secretary-General  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Mrs Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel and Mr Alessandro Balsamo