

ICOMOS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES
CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE MONUMENTOS Y SITIOS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ СОВЕТ ПО ВОПРОСАМ ПАМЯТНИКОВ И ДОСТОПРИМЕЧАТЕЛЬНЫХ МЕСТ

Our Ref. GB/AS/1597/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 21 December 2018

H. E. Ms Elaine Ayotte
Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75015 Paris

World Heritage List 2019

Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai'pi (Canada) – 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 2019. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to “Writing-on-Stone / Áísínai'pi” was carried out by Serge Lemaitre (Belgium) in September 2018. The mission expert highly appreciated the availabilities and support provided by the experts in your country for the organization and implementation of the mission.

On 12 October 2018, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding documentation, research, selection of components, dating, development projects, factors affecting the property, management and monitoring. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 14 November 2018 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2018, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2019. The additional information provided by the State Party, together with mission and desk review reports were carefully examined by the Panel members. This process will conclude in March 2019.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on Saturday 24 November 2018 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel. The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the discussions at the ICOMOS Panel meeting. Following the completion of their deliberations, the ICOMOS Panel has identified areas where it considers further information is needed.

Therefore, we would be pleased if the State Party could consider the following points:

Rock art sites

On the basis of the additional information provided and on the discussions held on 24 November 2018, the ICOMOS Panel understands the rationale for the selection of the rock art sites within the nominated property components and Buffer Zones. However, the ICOMOS Panel would appreciate to receive further information on the significance of the sites that are not included into these boundaries (the nominated serial components or their Buffer Zones), and on their relationships with the ones included into the nominated area and Buffer Zones.

Past and Present Blackfoot Cultural Practices

The ICOMOS Panel is interested in better understanding the sacred cultural practices of the Blackfoot people, which were followed in the past and which are still practiced nowadays. Could the State Party provide information on the cultural traditions that are still carried out onsite: are practices based on a ritual calendar? Is there any contemporary details available in relation to these practices?

The ICOMOS Panel would also appreciate to receive additional information regarding the use of the site as a burial place, as well as the importance of the sweet grass prairies for the Blackfoot people.

Buffer Zones

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide explanations as regards the delineation of the Buffer Zones, especially in relation to their extents – as the State Party indicated that, initially, the Buffer Zones were much larger than the current ones. The ICOMOS Panel would like to receive as well further information as regards the involvement of the local communities – not only the Blackfoot people – in this process.

With regard to the delineation of the Buffer Zones, the ICOMOS Panel would be interested in receiving further information regarding how the important viewsheds have been defined and will be protected on the nominated property.

The ICOMOS Panel would appreciate further information regarding the potential impacts of gas and oil exploration activities on the nominated property.

Management

The ICOMOS Panel would be pleased if the State Party could provide additional information on the finalization and adoption of the Management plan.

The ICOMOS Panel would also be pleased to receive information regarding the tourism strategy for the nominated property, in particular as regards the development of a visitor management plan that could be part of the Management plan.

Removal of the Rodeo

The ICOMOS Panel notes that there has been a long-term commitment to the eventual relocation of the rodeo grounds. The ICOMOS Panel considers this measure to be important for protecting the integrity for the nominated area, and would be grateful if the State Party could provide the timetable for the removal of the rodeo.

We look forward to your responses to these points, which will be of great help in our evaluation process.

We would be grateful if you could provide ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre with the above information **by 28 February 2019 at the latest**, the deadline set out in paragraph 148 of the Operational Guidelines for supplementary information on nominations to be received. Please note that any

information submitted after this date will not be considered by ICOMOS in its evaluation for the World Heritage Committee. It should be noted, however, that while 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 would be grateful if the State Party could keep its response concise and respond only to the above requests.

We thank you for your support of the World Heritage Convention and the evaluation process.

Yours faithfully,



Gwenaëlle Bourdin
Director
ICOMOS Evaluation Unit

Copy to Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park
 Mookaakin Cultural and Heritage Society
 Parks Canada
 UNESCO World Heritage Centre