

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/EG/1564/IR

Charenton-le-Pont, 20 December 2021

H. E. Ms Natasha Cayer
Ambassador, Permanent Delegate
Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO
Maison de l'UNESCO
1, rue Miollis
75015 Paris

World Heritage List 2022

Tr'ondëk-Klondike (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 2022. We are therefore pleased to provide you with the relevant information outlining issues related to the evaluation process.

The ICOMOS technical evaluation mission to “Tr'ondëk-Klondike” was carried out by Mr. Paul White (USA) from 23 September to 2 October 2021. 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 5 October 2021, a letter was sent by ICOMOS to request further information regarding the serial nomination approach, boundaries and integrity, protection, development, and mining. Please convey our thanks to all the officials and experts for the additional information you provided on 15 November 2021 and for their continued cooperation in this process.

At the end of November 2021, the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel evaluated the cultural and mixed properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2022. 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 2022.

We thank you for the availability of your Delegation to the meeting held on 26 November 2021 with some representatives of the ICOMOS Panel.

The exchanges during this meeting were of great help for the third part of the ICOMOS Panel meeting.

The ICOMOS Panel noted that significant progress had been achieved in clarifying the rationale of the revised nomination, in terms of the way it illustrates the outcomes of encounters between First Nation and non-First Nation people in this region of Northern America and the effect of colonization on the Tr'ondëk-Klondike. It also noted progress in defining connections between different component sites and the contribution that each site brings to the nominated series.

While recognizing the potential of the nominated property, the ICOMOS Panel debated extensively the way in which the proposed justification for inscription has been framed. The ICOMOS Panel's reflection on this matter is still ongoing and it has identified areas where it considers that further information is needed.

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

Integrity and boundaries

The revised nomination now focuses on specific sites – both archaeological and living in nature – and thus the original focus on landscape has now been replaced by a serial approach. The ICOMOS Panel considers this approach is valid and justified overall by the detailed arguments and evidence brought forward for each component site, but that more specific details are still needed.

In relation to the justification for criterion (iv), which revolves around the idea that the property reflects the profound changes to the Tr'ondëk-Klondike's landscape and their interaction with it during the period of history between 1874 and 1908, the fragmentation of some of the component sites, particularly Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine and Dënezhu Graveyard cluster, was of some concern.

The Panel noted that the nomination dossier highlights that for a number of component sites landscape features are considered relevant for the way they support and complement the archaeological and other evidence and thus how the component sites contribute to the series. However, these features are not included either in the nominated component sites or their buffer zones. Thus, in order to understand the new settlement pattern that emerges at the various main locations of the serial nomination, the landscape that links the component sites together needs to be more clearly set out.

The ICOMOS Panel discussed in length this issue, also in the light of the response provided by the State Party on ownership status and management arrangements for the different component parts. ICOMOS considers that expanded buffer zones could provide a functional link and strengthen the way the settlement pattern emerging from the locations of indigenous and non-indigenous settlements reflects the particular events, period and expression of colonialism, which is at the core of the justification for criterion (iv). Currently the tightness of the current buffer zones means that they are not providing the landscape context that is needed. ICOMOS would like to request that consideration is given to defining the landscape context and including key elements within enlarged buffer zones.

Despite the clarifications provided in the additional information submitted in November 2021, the ICOMOS Panel would need the State Party to further its commitment to ensuring that mining exploitation will not occur in the vicinity of the nominated component parts and that the attributes and conditions of authenticity, in terms of setting, spirit and feeling, which appears particularly important for the understanding of these places, will not be undermined by infrastructure and mining operations that might in the future be developed.

Cartographic documentation

The ICOMOS Panel has found it very difficult to understand precisely what the proposed component sites consist of on the basis of the maps provided, as they do not show either natural topography or cultural heritage features reflecting the proposed justification for inscription. The additional information provided in November 2021 has been of some help, however the resolution of these maps is still insufficient to allow an understanding of the delineation of the various component sites. Hence, the ICOMOS Panel would be grateful to receive additional more detailed maps of the nominated component sites, in which the recorded heritage features, the boundary delimitations, the protection regimes, and

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