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la science et la culture



World Heritage
in Canada
Patrimoine mondial
au Canada

UPDATING CANADA'S TENTATIVE LIST FOR WORLD HERITAGE SITES

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Government of Canada is updating Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites, an inventory of natural and cultural heritage properties with strong potential to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.

World Heritage Sites represent some of humanity's most outstanding achievements and nature's most inspiring creations. The World Heritage Convention established the World Heritage List as a means of recognizing that some places are so exceptional as to be of universal importance to all humanity. By joining the Convention, the Government of Canada has pledged to ensure the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of World Heritage Sites in Canada.

In order for Canada to nominate a property as a potential World Heritage Site, it must first be included on its Tentative List. A public process is currently underway to solicit all applications for consideration for Canada's updated Tentative List for World Heritage Sites. **Applications must be received by January 27, 2017 using a standard [Application Form](#).**

Applications will go through an internal review by Parks Canada, followed by a review process led by a Ministerial Advisory Committee of Canadian experts in the fields of natural and cultural heritage. From all the applications received, the Advisory Committee will recommend to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change those properties it considers to have the strongest potential for successful inscription on the World Heritage List. The Minister will select candidate sites based on the recommendations of the Committee and announce Canada's updated Tentative List for World Heritage Sites in December 2017.

Who Should Read this Information Document?

This information document has been developed to inform and guide proponents who are preparing an application for Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites. It provides an overview of the criteria and requirements for inscription of World Heritage sites, outlines the process of preparing an application, explains what information must to be included in an application, and identifies how the applications will be consistently evaluated.

By reading this information document you will have a better understanding of the stringent criteria that need to be met for a place to become a World Heritage Site, and of the rigorous process involved in nominating and inscribing a property to the World Heritage List. If you think your site has what it takes to make a strong case for being listed as a World Heritage Site, this document will inform you how to take the first step – being included on Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites.

1. THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AND THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Through UNESCO's 1972 [Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage](#) (the World Heritage Convention), the World Heritage Committee is tasked with objectively evaluating whether nominated sites, either natural or cultural (or a combination of the two), meet the stringent criteria to be considered for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

To date, 1052 sites of "Outstanding Universal Value" have been inscribed on the World Heritage List. Places as unique and diverse as the wilds of East Africa's Serengeti, the Pyramids of Egypt, the Persian Gardens in Iran, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, the Baroque cathedrals of Latin America as well as Canada's Rocky Mountain Parks and the Landscape of Grand Pré are some of the special places and culturally defining sites around the globe that make up our world's heritage.

The World Heritage Convention in Canada

There are currently 18 properties in Canada inscribed on the World Heritage List. By joining the Convention, Canada has pledged to care for these World Heritage Sites, and to avoid deliberate measures that could damage World Heritage in other countries.

The Parks Canada Agency is the lead agency for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Canada. Its responsibilities include facilitating Canada's participation in the business of the Convention, preparing and maintaining Canada's Tentative List, providing general guidance to Canadian World Heritage Site management authorities in regards to the application of the Convention to their properties, providing guidance to organizations responsible for preparing nomination dossiers, and coordinating communication between Canada and the World Heritage Centre for these purposes.

How Sites are Inscribed on the World Heritage List

There is a four-stage process for a heritage property to become a World Heritage site. First, in order for a country to nominate a site as a potential World Heritage Site, it must be on its Tentative List. Second, a detailed nomination dossier is prepared by the proponent for the site according to the criteria and requirements outlined in the World Heritage Committee's [Operational Guidelines](#). Third, international experts from the World Heritage Committee's official advisory bodies evaluate the nomination. Finally, the World Heritage Committee makes a decision on the nomination.

After being selected for inclusion on the Tentative List, it is the responsibility of the proponent to prepare a nomination dossier. The process to prepare a nomination can be expected to take at least two years and usually takes longer. Based on recent Canadian experience, this involves the proponent dedicating full-time staff and considerable financial resources. Parks Canada staff are available to provide advice in the preparation of a nomination; financial assistance is not provided. After submission of the completed nomination, the evaluation, review and decision process takes approximately 18 months.

Managing a World Heritage Site

There are both benefits and obligations associated with inscription of a property on the World Heritage List. The benefits of World Heritage Site designation are site-specific and depend on a range of factors. For example, they may include increased international recognition and tourism, enhanced local and national pride, and greater influence in land and resource planning.

Inscription carries responsibilities for the protection, preservation and transmission to future generations of the site's Outstanding Universal Value through proper protection and management actions, consistent with the high quality of management standards that were identified at the of inscription. Inscription also entails a range of ongoing reporting requirements, including voluntary reporting on projects that might affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as well as regular reporting on the state of conservation of the property.

2. UPDATING CANADA'S TENTATIVE LIST FOR WORLD HERITAGE SITES

World Heritage Sites are, by definition, exceptional at the global scale. The process to update Canada's Tentative List will support the selection of properties with strong potential for inscription on the World Heritage List. A public process is being used to solicit all applications using a consistent template. The review of these applications will be based on a series of standard criteria by a Ministerial Advisory Committee of independent experts in the field of natural and cultural heritage.

Countries are encouraged to update their tentative lists every ten years, and are limited to nominating two sites per year from their tentative list for inscription on the World Heritage List. Therefore, the desired outcome of the update of Canada's Tentative List is the addition of up to ten new properties that have the potential to meet World Heritage criteria and requirements, enjoy broad local support, and are well positioned to prepare a nomination dossier over the next ten years.

The Process to Update the Tentative List

The following process is being used to update Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites:

Step 1 - Call for Applications (by January 27, 2017)

All proponents of properties wishing to be considered for inclusion on Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites must prepare an application using a standard [Application Form](#) and submit it to Parks Canada. The closing date for applications is January 27, 2017.

Step 2 – Internal review of applications (February to April 2017)

A thorough internal review of each application will be led by Parks Canada, according to standard review criteria. As part of the internal review process, Parks Canada officials will consult with relevant provincial and territorial natural and cultural heritage officials to discuss applications originating from their respective province or territory. The review will also consider whether the applicant has identified and engaged local Indigenous communities with asserted or confirmed rights to the property.

Step 3 – Review by Ministerial Advisory Committee (May to November 2017)

An Advisory Committee of natural and cultural experts appointed by the Minister (following a merit-based selection process) will review all applications, together with the results of Parks Canada's internal review, and will recommend a list of properties to be included on Canada's updated Tentative List for World Heritage Sites for the Minister's approval.

Step 4 – Ministerial Decision and Announcement (December 2017)

The Minister will consider the advice of the Ministerial Advisory Committee, deliberate on, and publicly announce Canada's updated Tentative List for World Heritage Sites.

3. CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

This section provides an overview of the criteria and requirements for inscription of a property on the World Heritage List. These requirements are prescribed in the [Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#), which are crucial to understanding the way the World Heritage Convention works. In preparing your application, you should be in a position to describe how your property meets these requirements.

To be included on the World Heritage List, nominated sites must:

- ✓ Be deemed to be of **“Outstanding Universal Value”** by meeting at least one of ten criteria
- ✓ Meet the relevant conditions of **“integrity”** and **“authenticity”**
- ✓ Meet the requirements for **“protection”** and **“management”**

Outstanding Universal Value

The concept of ‘Outstanding Universal Value’ underpins the World Heritage Convention. It is the touchstone for all inscribed properties. To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), defined as follows:

Outstanding Universal Value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole.

For a property to be deemed to have Outstanding Universal Value, it must meet one or more of ten World Heritage criteria (see Annex I).

Cultural World Heritage properties meet one or more of six criteria; natural World Heritage properties meet one or more of four criteria; and mixed World Heritage properties meet at least one natural and one cultural criteria.

Types of World Heritage Properties

The Convention recognizes four types of World Heritage properties:

- **Cultural Heritage** – Properties that meet one or more of criteria i-vi
- **Natural Heritage** – Properties that meet one or more of criteria vii-x
- **Mixed Properties** – Properties that meet one or more of criteria i-vi and of criteria vii-x
- **Cultural Landscapes** – Cultural properties that meet one or more of the cultural heritage criteria, and that represent the “combined works of nature and man”

World Heritage properties are typically composed of one contiguous parcel of land in one country. There are however two exceptions.

Transboundary properties involve properties that have been nominated on the territory of multiple States Parties with adjacent borders. **Serial properties** are properties that include several component parts, which together rather than individually are of Outstanding Universal Value.

Integrity and Authenticity

In order for a property to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, it must be deemed to meet the conditions of “integrity” and “authenticity”. Both natural and cultural properties must meet the condition of integrity, while cultural properties, alone, must also meet the condition of authenticity.

Integrity is “a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. Examining the conditions of integrity, requires assessing the extent to which the property:

- a. Includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value;*
- b. Is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property’s significance;*
- c. Suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.”*

Cultural properties must also meet the condition of “Authenticity”.

Authenticity describes the ability of a cultural property to convey its historical significance to a contemporary world. This significance is expressed through physical and intangible features and attributes that exist currently as a result of both the original creation of the property and its subsequent modification or change over time.

Nominated properties meet the condition of authenticity if the features and attributes of the property are judged to truthfully and credibly express the OUV ascribed to the property. “Genuine”, “real”, “truthful”, and “credible” are the words that are most often used in discussions, documents and academic literature related to the World Heritage Committee’s use of the concept of “authenticity”. In other words, demonstrating the authenticity of the property is to answer the question “can you see, in the property, the original intent of those who were responsible for building, developing and using the property over time?”

Protection and Management

Before the World Heritage Committee will inscribe a property on the World Heritage List, it must be confident that the property will be effectively protected and managed in perpetuity. World Heritage properties must have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management to ensure their safeguarding, including delineated boundaries. World Heritage properties must have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system which specifies how the OUV of a property should be protected, presented and transmitted to future generations, preferably through participatory means.

4. INDIGENOUS, COMMUNITY AND PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

A critical requirement of any successful nomination, and indeed of the overall management of a World Heritage Site, is the effective involvement of the local community associated with the site.

Applicants are expected to identify and engage local Indigenous communities in the development of their application in instances where the site is located on traditional territory (asserted or confirmed), with a view towards ensuring their support for the application. Please contact Parks Canada if you

require assistance in identifying whether the site is located on traditional territory (asserted or confirmed). In the course of these discussions, applicants should:

- Make the appropriate Indigenous community(ies) aware of the proposal to advance the site for consideration for Canada's Tentative List and ensure they understand the process;
- Ascertain if there are any issues and/or concerns associated with the areas being proposed for the Tentative List and document what measures have been taken towards the understanding of these issues and/or concerns;
- Inquire if they support the application; and,
- Should they support the application, determine how the Indigenous community(ies) would like to be involved.

The applicant should clearly document these discussions, and maintain and update their documentation over the course of the discussions.

As part of the review of applications and selection of sites for inclusion on Canada's updated Tentative List, Parks Canada may follow-up directly with local Indigenous communities at select sites and request confirmation of their support for inclusion on the Tentative List.

Demonstration of local community engagement and support is essential to the successful inscription of a property on the World Heritage List. As part of the process of preparing a Tentative List application, applicants are requested to indicate the extent of community and stakeholder support and engagement. Applicants should consider including letters of support from community interests groups and stakeholders with their application.

Applicants can provide Parks Canada with information regarding Indigenous, community and stakeholder engagement and support up until April 30, 2017.

Provincial and territorial governments play an important role in the conservation and commemoration of Canada's natural and cultural heritage. They also administer legislation that supports the protection of heritage places. It is suggested that applicants contact their relevant provincial / territorial parks or heritage department to discuss the development of their application.

5. PREPARING AN APPLICATION FOR CANADA'S TENTATIVE LIST FOR WORLD HERITAGE SITES

If you or your group believe that you have a proposal for a natural or cultural heritage site that ought to be considered for listing as a World Heritage Site, you are invited to fill out an application.

All applications must be prepared using the standard [Application Form](#). This will involve providing a concise overview of how the property meets the World Heritage criteria and requirements, a summary of local support for the application, and a preliminary indication of how the proponent would organize themselves for the development of a full nomination for inscription of a World Heritage property within the next ten years.

Applications can include a limited number of additional support materials (e.g. studies, reports) beyond the completed application form. Please help ensure that the review of your application focusses on directly relevant materials that support the justification made in your application for inclusion on the Tentative List. All supporting materials should be referenced in the appropriate section of your application form; please identify the specific pages within the supporting materials that are critical to substantiating the relevance of the application.

Criteria and Requirements for Evaluating Applications for Canada's Tentative List

All applications will be reviewed consistently according to the contents of the Application Form.

A primary means by which your application will be evaluated will be its clear illustration of how the property demonstrates potential Outstanding Universal Value (Sections 3A and 3B of the Application Form), with reference to the applicable criteria (see Annex I). In defining the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the property, you are essentially describing the core argument for its inclusion on the World Heritage list, and as such the rationale for the property to be included on Canada's Tentative List.

Section 3F of the Application Form focusses on whether the property addresses a particular gap or under-represented area on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee seeks to ensure a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List. Applicants should strive to demonstrate whether and how their proposed property supports a balanced and representative World Heritage List. This is not a requirement, but can help substantiate an application. Note that Parks Canada is preparing environmental scans of natural, cultural and Indigenous heritage that will identify potential gaps or under-represented areas or themes of interest to Canada. Summaries of these environmental scans will be made available in September 2016 on [Parks Canada's website](#).

6. SITES ON CANADA'S EXISTING TENTATIVE LIST AND MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING CANADIAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Canada's current Tentative List for World Heritage Sites includes six sites that have not yet been inscribed on the World Heritage List. As part of the process to update Canada's Tentative List, Parks Canada will inquire with the proponents of these sites as to their interest in remaining on Canada's Tentative List and their commitment to bringing forward a nomination for consideration over the next ten years. Responses from the proponents will be brought forward for consideration by the Ministerial Advisory Committee.

Modifications to existing Canadian World Heritage properties are not being considered through the process of updating Canada's Tentative List. Separate World Heritage processes are in place to support boundary extensions and consideration of additional inscription criteria. Site managers wishing to consider modifications to their World Heritage Site are invited to contact Parks Canada directly to discuss this matter.

7. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Parks Canada officials are available to answer your questions regarding the update of Canada's Tentative List. Please contact them at tentativelist@pc.gc.ca or 1-866-862-3378.

Parks Canada officials will be in a position to respond to inquiries regarding:

- The process of updating Canada's Tentative List
- World Heritage criteria, requirements and processes
- Helping to ensure that your application includes all the relevant information

Parks Canada officials are not in a position to:

- Help in the writing of your application
- Advise you on the contents of your application, or the likelihood of its success

At your request, Parks Canada will review applications received by December 16, 2016 and provide guidance as whether the information is complete by January 06, 2017.

A series of resource materials that you may wish to consult in the development of your application can be found on [Parks Canada's website](#).

8. WHERE AND HOW TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS

Applications are available at: [Application Form – Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites](#)

Applications must be submitted by January 27, 2017.

Annex 1 - [Criteria for Inscription on the World Heritage List](#)

To be included on the World Heritage List, a property must be deemed to have Outstanding Universal Value by meeting at least one of the following ten World Heritage criteria:

- i. Represent a masterpiece of creative human genius
- ii. Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design
- iii. Bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or civilization which is living or which has disappeared
- iv. Is an outstanding example of type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage in human history
- v. Is an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures) or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change
- vi. Be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria)
- vii. Contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance
- viii. Be outstanding examples representing major stages of Earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features
- ix. Be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals
- x. Contain the most important and significant habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation