



PIMACHIOWIN AKI
WORLD HERITAGE PROJECT

The Land that Gives Life

Pimachiowin Aki UNESCO project submits new nomination

WINNIPEG—January 26, 2015—A revised nomination for the proposed Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site that straddles the Manitoba and Ontario border, will be delivered to UNESCO’s headquarters in Paris, France by January 30th, to be reviewed by international experts.

The submission has been refined after UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee (WHC) deferred making any decision on inscribing the 33,400 square kilometres of Anishinaabe cultural landscape and boreal forest in 2013. Since then, the WHC’s expert advisors have worked with the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation to help strengthen the submission and also to learn how it can improve its own evaluation processes for unique projects like Pimachiowin Aki (*Pim-MATCH-cho-win Ahh-KEY*).

“UNESCO told us in 2013 that they didn’t adequately recognize the bonds that exist in some places between culture and nature. We appreciated the opportunity to explain to them even more clearly the special relationship our people have with the land for generations in this deeper nomination. Our belief that a World Heritage Site can help protect the boreal forest and our culture - is as strong as ever,” said William Young of Bloodvein River First Nation and the Pimachiowin Aki spokesperson.

On behalf of all the Pimachiowin Aki partners, Young especially thanked the International Council on Sites and Monuments (ICOMOS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for support and encouragement in preparing a revised nomination.

Pimachiowin Aki’s submission contends that the area is both a powerful aboriginal cultural landscape and a great natural wonder. Of the 1,007 World Heritage Sites only 3 per cent carry the dual designation of being both a natural and cultural heritage site, making them more complex proposals for the WHC to assess. Pimachiowin Aki would be the first of its kind in Canada.

Pimachiowin Aki is Ojibwe for “the land that gives life” and is a joint effort between the five Anishinaabe First Nations of Poplar River, Pikangikum, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Bloodvein River; and the Manitoba and Ontario governments. Parks Canada, the federal agency responsible for leading Canada’s implementation of the World Heritage Convention, provided advice and guidance to the nomination project.

The Manitoba government is a proud sponsor of the nomination. “Pimachiowin Aki is a gift to the world that is unprecedented in our province’s history, a rare combination of ecological integrity and cultural continuity in the largest protected area of its kind in the world. I’m confident UNESCO will look favourably upon this application. We wish this nomination all the success it deserves,” said Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger.

The Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry added, “I am pleased that Ontario is working together with Manitoba and First Nations partners in both provinces to preserve our natural assets and cultural heritage for generations to come. Ontario is excited at the opportunity that Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and Eagle Snowshoe Conservation Reserve in Ontario could be part of the potential Pimachiowin Aki UNESCO World Heritage Site.”

See attached FAQ. Meegwetch and anishinabemon (*Thank you and see you soon.*)

For more information see www.pimachiowinaki.org or contact:

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