



June 2024



▲ Ranj Pillai, former Minister of Tourism and Culture, Government of Yukon and former Deputy Chief Morris Morrison, Selkirk First Nation signed the third co-managed Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan with many in attendance to witness this partnership. August 20, 2021.

## Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk

*As a living cultural heritage site, Fort Selkirk is a place to share, respect and preserve for future generations.*

From the late 1970s, conservation work at Fort Selkirk was handled by Danny Roberts and Parks Canada, before shifting to the Yukon government and Selkirk First Nation, in the 1980's. After years of effort, the first co-managed heritage site in the Yukon was formalized with the 1990 Fort Selkirk Management Plan. The management plan was updated in 2000 and 2021.

Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon co-manage the site on behalf of Selkirk First Nation citizens and all Yukoners, to conserve, protect and present the heritage and cultural values of the site. The 2021 management plan is a continuation of the vision, goals and principles that were established by the previous management plans. Visit **[Yukonheritage.com](https://Yukonheritage.com)** to see the management plans.



**Selkirk First Nation values of caring, sharing, respecting, and teaching are practiced at Fort Selkirk; therefore, there are no alcohol or drugs permitted at the Fort Selkirk Historic Site.**

Fort Selkirk is set in a pristine river valley, rich in natural resources and surrounded by a mountainous, boreal landscape with a dynamic geological record. There is an intangible, aesthetic and emotional attraction to the site that exudes a sense of community secured within a rugged and visually striking environment. Fort Selkirk illustrates the unique contribution and combination of different cultures and natural environment that has helped form the social, economic and political fabric of the territory.

The site also illustrates the historic trading economy, the transportation development of the Yukon, the sovereignty of Canada, the early expansion of the church and community life in a northern isolated area.

The partnership between the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon governments as co-owners and co-managers of the site illustrates the continuing spirit of deep and cooperative care for Fort Selkirk.

Excerpt from Yukon Register of Historic Places  
[register.yukonhistoricplaces.ca/Place/1170](https://register.yukonhistoricplaces.ca/Place/1170)



▲ Background L-R: Roger Alfred, Ellie Marcotte, Joel Le Baron and Teri-Lee Isaac, Fort Selkirk Management Committee representatives at the August 20, 2021 management plan signing ceremony.

## Did you know?

Artifacts may not be removed from the land. Wherever you are in the Yukon, you are on a First Nation's traditional territory.

Yukon and First Nation governments are working to protect the ongoing story of our living heritage.

## Share your find.

Learn more at [yukonlivingheritage.ca](https://yukonlivingheritage.ca)





# Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Committee

**The Fort Selkirk Management Committee was established to implement the Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan and guide the management of the cultural and natural resources at Fort Selkirk; while ensuring it meets the requirements of the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement Chapter 13, Schedule A and the Yukon's Historic Resources Act*.**

As a co-owned and co-managed Historic Site, the management committee is comprised of six members – three (3) appointed by the Selkirk First Nation and three (3) appointed by the Yukon government.

The Management Committee **will**:

- ▶ Oversee the operations of the site in a manner that fulfills the vision and the management plan recommendations;
- ▶ Review proposals and requests for site activities as they arise to ensure that the heritage resources are protected; and
- ▶ Review and advise on agreements that may be considered with respect to the use and protection of the site.

The Management Committee **oversees** the following administrative activities:

- ▶ Advise on the annual budget and work plan; and
- ▶ Review annual reporting of site conservation and work activities.

**The Fort Selkirk Management Committee manages the site on behalf of Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon and encourage all to contact them regarding on-site events and other activities.**

**Contact information is provided on the back page of this newsletter.**



# MAINTENANCE AND CONSERVATION

## Summer 2024 Site Work:

As a co-managed historic site, Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon have co-operatively planned the following work at Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk Historic Site, with the assistance of contractors, the Fort Selkirk site manager and work crew:

- ▶ General repairs and maintenance of historic buildings;
- ▶ Continuation of work on the wash house and re-roofing of the staff cabins;
- ▶ Collections management of artefacts that includes inventory, assessing condition, and determining how they can be protected and preserved;
- ▶ FireSmart and vegetation Management is done annually by the work crew. This involves pruning, thinning, mowing, mulching, and removing flammable vegetation to minimize the negative impacts of a potential wildfire.



## Log Building Conservation Training

*On-site Log Building Conservation Training* with log conservation specialist, Peter Caron, is taking place June 24 – 28, 2024. This will be a hands-on course for the Fort Selkirk crew to conduct repairs on Fort Selkirk's historic buildings and replace sill logs.

▲ *Devore Cabin, during the 2018 log conservation training. The Devore Cabin conservation was completed in 2018.*



## Condition Assessment of the grader at Fort Selkirk

A grader was brought to the Fort Selkirk site many years ago to help maintain the airstrip. The long-term goal is to remove the grader. Highways and Public Works will be conducting Phase I: Environmental Site Assessment this summer, which will include having an environmental consultant visit Fort Selkirk to assess the grader. They will be looking at the mechanical condition of the grader and possible locations at Fort Selkirk where it can be loaded onto a barge and permanently removed from the site.

Bringing in an environmental consultant for Phase I assessments shows a commitment to responsible site management. It is essential to consider not only the environmental impact of removal, but also the logistical challenges involved. Finding suitable locations for loading onto a barge is a crucial step in ensuring a smooth and safe removal process. This approach demonstrates a proactive stance toward preserving the environment while also addressing the needs of the site.

The airstrip will no longer be maintained as a gravel air strip but will continue as a grassy area where an aircraft can take off and land.





# PARKS DAY

**Saturday, July 20, 2024**

We are excited to once again welcome guests to Fort Selkirk on July 20, 2024, for our annual Parks Day event!

Canada's Parks Day is an annual event promoting the importance of the many parks and historic sites across Canada. Special events and activities at hundreds of sites are hosted across the country, including the popular open house at Fort Selkirk.

All are welcome to this free event, but registration is required.

For more information and to register for the boat trip to Fort Selkirk, contact the Historic Sites Unit at 867-667-5386.



# WALK WITH US

## Respectful Travel Guidelines



**INDIGENOUS  
YUKON.ca**

The Yukon is home to 14 distinct First Nations and 8 language groups. Our land is beautiful and our water is clean. Our land is everything. We are the stewards of this land and we all have a responsibility to care for this land for future generations. We honour our ancestors who shared their teachings with us so that we can now share them with you. We care for this land — the plants, water, air and animals — by showing it respect and treating it as an equal. As you travel through our beautiful homelands, we invite you to **Ná't'sin t'ra** “hold everything up in respect” Northern Tutchone

### When travelling in our homelands, come visit us in our communities

Our culture is rich and powerful — we are proud to share it with visitors who want to listen and learn in a respectful way. When you're in our communities, please visit our cultural centres, celebrate with us during our festivals, buy our art and crafts, listen to our stories, or go on a tour with a local First Nations guide. This helps support the well-being of our communities.

### We care for our land — we expect everybody to share this responsibility

For over 10,000 years, these lands have sustained Yukon First Nations people. We continue to survive on this land through our beliefs, our respect, our honour towards all living things. We must always care for the land so that the land can care for us.

### This land is our home — when visiting somebody's home we follow respectful behaviours

These are our homelands. When visitors come to the Yukon they will be visiting our home — a place that we love, rely on and feel connected to. It is important to understand the customs of the place you are travelling to. Before you visit our communities, do your best to learn about our people and our cultures. This shows respect for Yukon First Nations people.

### Keep the land and water clean

Water is the best medicine in the world. Without water we cannot live. Keeping the land and water clean is essential for keeping our animals, people and environment healthy. Keep a clean camp. Please pack out what you pack in — don't throw garbage on the land or in the water. We must be diligent about caring for our environment for future generations.

### Respect the land and the land will respect you

The land is deserving of the highest honour. Be mindful of your behaviour when travelling on the land. Give thanks to the land and the animals. Keep your mind clear and have good thoughts when you are out on the land. Don't make fun of animals or talk badly about them — they can hear you. The land, water, animals — everything has a spirit. We are all equal as guests on this land — once we respect that everything will be good.

### Be thankful for the land and all that it offers

Our people rely on the land and all that it offers. The land is our grocery store, our pharmacy and our clothing store. We give thanks when we gather from the land. We take only what we need, we use all that we take, and we share what we have. You have to be careful — if you disturb the land, it's not going to come back again.

### Learn the history of this land — it is rich with our stories

The history of this land is much older than the Gold Rush. Our language and stories are deeply intertwined with this land. It is important that visitors hear these stories. It is important that they hear these stories from us — the people who are deeply connected to this land. When given the opportunity, please listen and show respect to the Elders and First Nations people sharing their stories and knowledge.

### Respect our sacred places and teachings

Respect is the highest honour we can give. Our teachings define our responsibilities to ourselves, to the land, and to our communities. Our teachings come from our ancestors who came before us. It is our obligation to pass on these teachings, but please understand not all of these teachings are for us to share. Some teachings should only be shared by Yukon First Nations peoples. We also have sacred places that are not meant for visiting. Please do not visit our spirit houses, graveyards or other sacred sites.

### Respect and honour our culture — understand that our culture is not for sale

Our culture is strong, based on knowledge handed down for more than 10,000 years. Our culture is our stories. Each community has its own stories, songs, ceremonies, and ways of doing things. We welcome you to watch and listen with respect, but visitors must understand that our culture is not for sale. Please do not copy our designs, songs or dances. They belong to our family members, clans and communities. We have been working hard to reclaim our cultures and languages for many years. We ask that you support this reclamation and revitalization.

### Respect our ancestral knowledge, customs, and livelihoods

Our people continue to practice subsistence lifestyles in today's modern world. As hunters, trappers, and other land users, we are mindful of our harvesting practices and understand that animals provide sustenance for survival. We ask that visitors to Yukon First Nations lands not interrupt or interfere with our right to subsistence activities on our traditional territories.



**Scan the code to learn more about travelling respectfully through the Yukon.**

*Gratitude to the Elders who shared their knowledge, stories and wisdom that form the foundations of these Guidelines.*







▲ Taylor & Drury Store. Waterways Survey. Parks Canada. 1973.



▲ Taylor & Drury Store. Historic Sites. Government of Yukon. 2021.

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View this newsletter online at [yukonheritage.com](http://yukonheritage.com)

This newsletter is provided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.  
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