



Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan



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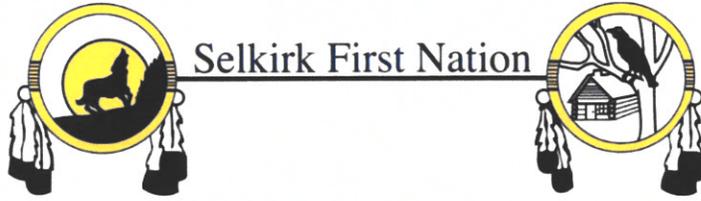
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Lands and Resources
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Government of Yukon
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Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan: prepared for the governments of Selkirk First Nation and Yukon in accordance with the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement. The Management Plan was guided by the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.

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Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan

We, the undersigned, accept this Plan as a framework for cooperative management of the Huchá Hudän / Fort Selkirk Historic Site.



Chief Darin Isaac
Selkirk First Nation

Aug 20, 21
Date



Ranj Pillai
Minister of Tourism and Culture
Government of Yukon

Aug 20, 2021
Date

FOREWORD

This Management Plan represents the approach and recommendations of Selkirk First Nation (SFN) and Government of Yukon (YG) to meet the requirements of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement for a Management Plan to guide the management of the cultural and natural resources at the Fort Selkirk Historic Site.

The Plan respects the principles described in the Final Agreement, Schedule A, 3.6:

- Protection, conservation and interpretation of the heritage resources at Fort Selkirk in accordance with national and international standards as accepted or modified by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon;
- Recognition of the importance of Fort Selkirk to Selkirk People and protection of the use of Fort Selkirk by Selkirk People;
- Encouragement of public awareness of and appreciation for the natural and cultural resources of Fort Selkirk and surrounding area; and,
- Provision of reasonable opportunities for the public to visit and appreciate Fort Selkirk.

Nothing in this Management Plan will, or is intended to, abrogate the rights guaranteed under the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement (Self Government Agreement) or impair the Selkirk First Nation's inherent right to practice traditional pursuits.

This is a living document. It sets a course and will be treated as a dynamic work in progress, open to improvement as new opportunities are discovered and greater experience is gained along the path of its implementation.

As long as the intent and good will of both governments that went into the development of this plan remains during its implementation, the Fort Selkirk Historic Site will continue to illustrate and honour our heritage and culture. A heritage to be shared, respected and cared for by all Yukoners.

Acknowledgements

Preparation of this Management Plan was supported by the following:

Fort Selkirk Management Committee

- Selkirk First Nation Government:
 - Teri-Lee Isaac, Manager, Heritage
 - Jennifer Lee, former Director, Lands and Resources
 - Roger Alfred, Traditional Law Researcher
 - Ellie Marcotte, Director, Lands and Resources

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 - Joel Le Baron, Historic Sites Project Officer and Secretariat
 - Shannon Van Bibber, Historic Sites Planner
 - Alternate - Rebecca Jansen, Senior Historic Sites Planner

- June 2018 site visit: Selkirk First Nation participants:
 - Carl Blanchard (Fort Selkirk Staff)
 - Charles Joe (Carpenter's Helper)
 - Daniel Luke (Carpenter)
 - Franklin Roberts
 - Freda Alfred (Fort Selkirk Staff)
 - George McGinty
 - Jessica Alfred
 - Jimmy Simon (Carpenters Helper)
 - Millie Johnson
 - Ricky Joe (Carpenter)
 - William Sidney (Site Manager)

- Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse Open Houses
 - Amy Johnny
 - Audrey Trudeau
 - Brian Isaac
 - Carmen Baker
 - Chief Sharon Nelson
 - Dale Bradley
 - David Johnny
 - Don Trudeau
 - Dorothy Johnson
 - Eddie Tom Tom
 - Emma Alfred
 - Eugene Alfred
 - Lizzie Hall
 - Norman Silas
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 - Linch Curry
 - Maria Van Bibber
 - Yukon Historic Resources Board

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Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement

The Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement (SFNFA) was signed on July 21, 1997. The Agreement requires the designation of Fort Selkirk as a historic site under the *Historic Resources Act* and an approved Management Plan. A Management Plan updating the 1990 Management Plan was completed in 2000 and Fort Selkirk was designated a Yukon Historic Site on August 6, 2010.

Chapter 13, Schedule A¹: Fort Selkirk Historic Site

2.0 Establishment

2.2 *The Commissioner of the Yukon Territory and the Selkirk First Nation will hold title for lands forming part of Fort Selkirk as tenants in common.*

3.0 Management Plan

3.1 *A management plan shall be prepared for Fort Selkirk.*

3.2 *A steering committee shall be established to prepare the management plan referred to in 3.1.*

3.2.1 *A steering committee shall be comprised of six members, of whom three shall be nominated by Government and three shall be nominated by the Selkirk First Nation.*

3.6 *The preparation of the Management Plan will be guided by the following principles:*

3.6.1 *protection, conservation and interpretation of the Heritage Resources at Fort Selkirk in accordance with national and international standards as accepted or modified by the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon;*

3.6.2 *recognition of the importance of Fort Selkirk to Selkirk People and protection of the use of Fort Selkirk by Selkirk People;*

3.6.3 *encouragement of public awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural and cultural resources of Fort Selkirk and surrounding area; and,*

3.6.4 *provision of reasonable opportunities for the public to visit and appreciate Fort Selkirk.*

4.0 Approval and Review of the Management Plan

4.1 *The Minister and the Selkirk First Nation will jointly approve the Management Plan for Fort Selkirk;*

4.3 *The Government and the Selkirk First Nation will jointly review the Management Plan at least every 10 years;*

¹ Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement. (1997). Government of Canada, The Selkirk First Nation, and the Yukon Government.

6.0 **Implementation**

- 6.1 *The Government and the Selkirk First Nation will manage Fort Selkirk in accordance with the Historic Resources Act and the approved Management Plan; and,*
- 6.2 *A management committee shall be established to implement the approved Management Plan, the committee will be comprised of six members, three nominated by Yukon Government and three nominated by Selkirk First Nation.*
- 6.3 *The Management Committee shall implement the approved management plan in a manner consistent with the principles set out in 3.6.*
- 6.5 *If the Management Committee is unable to agree upon the manner in which to implement the approved Management Plan, the Minister or Selkirk First Nation may refer the matter to dispute resolution under Article 26.3.0.*

The Selkirk First Nation (SFN) and Yukon government (YG) have been working and providing funding together to preserve and maintain Fort Selkirk since 1982. As part of the ongoing management of the site, Selkirk First Nation work crews preserve buildings, provide tours to visitors and maintain camping areas with funding and technical support from the Yukon government. YG staff also work at the site with the work crews when required and work closely with the site supervisor and the SFN Heritage Manager. YG staff also provide secretariat support to the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.

In May 2010, title was raised for Fort Selkirk Historic Site with the Yukon and Selkirk First Nation governments as tenants in common (co-owners). This fulfills the obligations of articles 2.1 and 2.2 of Schedule A (Fort Selkirk Historic Site) of Chapter 13 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement.

The Fort Selkirk Management Committee resumed in October 2017, in accordance with the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement Chapter 13, Schedule A, to update the 2000 Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan and implement the approved management plan.

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.
- 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.

1.0 Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan



“Fort Selkirk shall be preserved, protected and developed as a living cultural heritage site.”

Fort Selkirk 1990 and 2000 Management Plan

Photo 2 – Aerial photo of Fort Selkirk.1977. (Photo: Natural Resources Canada) Note: North is to the bottom of the image.

1.1 Introduction to the Management Plan

Fort Selkirk is a special place that connects the past with the present. The heritage of Fort Selkirk allows every person that visits to experience First Nation heritage and the history of Yukon settlement through the site’s cultural resources and interpretation. To the Selkirk First Nation people, it is a part of their homeland and a place for spiritual and cultural renewal. Fort Selkirk is a cherished reminder of the past and a beautiful setting to enjoy. For the visitor, Fort Selkirk provides a rare glimpse at the history of trade and settlement in the north.

From the late 1970s, work occurred at the site by Danny Roberts and initially Parks Canada, then with Yukon government and Selkirk First Nation. After years of effort, the first co-managed heritage site in the Yukon was formalized with the 1990 Fort Selkirk Management Plan.

Fort Selkirk is co-owned and co-managed by Selkirk First Nation (SFN) and the Government of Yukon (YG) as outlined in Chapter 13, Schedule A of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement (SFNFA).

The SFN and YG manage the site on behalf of SFN citizens and Yukoners. Together there is a shared vision for the future of the site that was developed based on the Selkirk First Nation’s Final Agreement and Self Government Agreement, from community engagement and approval from the Fort Selkirk Management Committee, that is expressed through the Fort Selkirk Management Plan.

The 2021 Management Plan addresses the conservation goals, objectives and actions to protect and present the heritage and cultural values of the site for SFN Citizens and the public alike. The plan is a continuation of the vision, goals and principles that were established by the previous Management Plans (1990 and 2000).



Photo 2 – Aerial photo of Fort Selkirk. 1977. (Photo: Natural Resources Canada) Note: North is to the bottom of the image.

Located in the traditional territory of Selkirk First Nation, west of the confluence of the Pelly and Yukon Rivers, this historic site is within a pristine natural environment of river bank and open space, boreal forest, and neighbouring basalt cliffs and mountains. The former town site stretches approximately a kilometer along the southern bank of the Yukon River. One of the unique characteristics of the site is that it was a gathering place where trade, game harvesting, potlaches, and cultural activities occurred here for generations. A network of traditional routes passed through this region connecting people to this meeting location. Ancestors from the Selkirk First Nation, other First Nations, as well as non-Indigenous people in the Yukon all called it home.

Fort Selkirk Historic Site has an exceptional history connected to the SFN and the history of the settlement in Yukon. Long ago, the people of the Selkirk First Nation were known as the Huchá Hudän people, meaning Flatland People. The reason for the Flatland name was because of the landscape in Fort Selkirk, where the land is flat on both sides of the river². A network of traditional routes that pass through this region connected people to this meeting place. These ancient connections are known from its earliest use by Northern Tutchone people and other First Nations as a gathering place for trade, potlaches, and cultural activities.

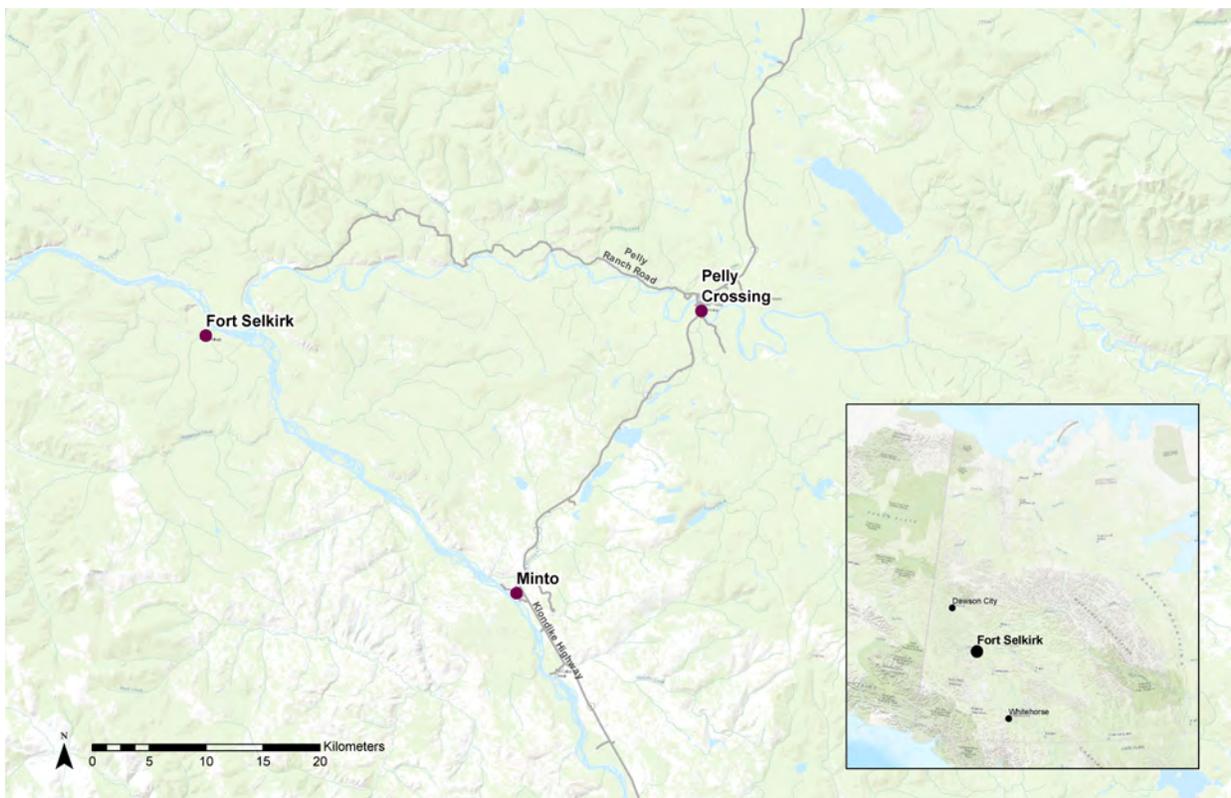
Ancestors of the Selkirk people first encountered Robert Campbell of the Hudson's Bay Company when he journeyed down the Pelly River to its confluence with the Yukon River in the summer of 1843³. Campbell established the trading post, first near the confluence of the Yukon and Pelly Rivers (Fort Selkirk 1) from 1848 to 1852, and later relocated to the current site (Fort

² <https://www.yukoncouncilofarchives.ca/selkirk-first-nation>

³ Gotthardt, Ruth. *Selkirk First Nation Culture and Land Use Study*. pg. 18

Selkirk 2) in 1852⁴ where it operated for less than a year⁵. Fort Selkirk received its European name from the Hudson's Bay Company explorer and fur-trader Robert Campbell, after Lord Selkirk, an important investor in the Hudson Bay Company.

A permanent community began in the early 1890s with the establishment of a trading post and an Anglican Church mission. The community grew quickly during the Klondike Gold Rush, beginning in 1896, supporting stampeders on their way to Dawson City. Fort Selkirk was used as a base for the Yukon Field Force from 1898 to 1900, and the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) established a post here in 1898. Residences included First Nation cabins, camps, and outbuildings; public buildings including the churches, school, and stores; and non-Indigenous housing and outbuildings.



Map 1 - Fort Selkirk Historic Site Context Map

Fort Selkirk is recognized as a place where families were raised, friendships were renewed, where people danced and shared food. The built features of the site represent late nineteenth and twentieth century history. The oral histories and archaeological resources demonstrate the occupation of the site for thousands of years. The history of Fort Selkirk tracks its importance as a gathering place and community for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples where trade and social activities took place, and where Yukon settlement in the region developed. The setting of

⁴ Castillo, Victoria Elena. *Fort Selkirk: Early Contact Period Interaction between the Northern Tutchone and the Hudson's Bay Company in Yukon*. Archaeology Programme, Government of Yukon, Hudę Hudän Series, Occasional Papers in Archaeology No. 17. 2012.

⁵ Gotthardt, Ruth. *Selkirk First Nation Culture and Land Use Study*. pg. 67 and pg. 83.

the town on the Yukon River connects to the historic river travel routes and the strategic location for trade. The scenic qualities of the historic log buildings set into the landscape take advantage of river access and views.

Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, Fort Selkirk remained a stable, thriving community. In the 1950s, Fort Selkirk was abandoned as the construction of modern roads and the end of sternwheeler traffic changed travel routes in the region. The residents relocated to various locations including Dawson, Minto, and subsequently Pelly Crossing.

In 1990, Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon agreed “Fort Selkirk shall be preserved, protected and developed as a living cultural heritage site”.⁶ A “living cultural heritage site” is defined as “protecting the resources and values, and supporting the traditions inherited from past generations.”⁷

Management planning for the site considers the development history of Fort Selkirk and the previous conservation actions.

The previous management plans for the site (1990 and 2000 Management Plans) describe Fort Selkirk as a ‘meeting place’ and a ‘living cultural heritage site’. The site has a long tradition of cross-cultural use and is part of the homeland of SFN. The principles of a historic site in continued use was reflected in these previous Management Plans. In addition to the Management Plans, the site's Interpretive Plan recognizes the layers of history that are present at the site and in the oral histories that have been collected. The *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan (1994, updated 2004)*, shares six main themes of Fort Selkirk: *The Natural World; Northern Tutchone Homeland; The Seasonal Round; Trade and Travel; Power and Sovereignty and A Shared Community*.⁸

Presently, the site is actively used by SFN citizens, Yukon residents, river travellers and tourists. Through co-ownership and co-management, the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon governments fund a seasonal work crew and staff of SFN citizens at Fort Selkirk in the summer months to maintain the site. Site interpreters from SFN are on site to welcome visitors who may experience guided or self-guide interpretive tours. Visitors are accommodated at the Yukon Government campground, located at the west end of the site.

Changes on the site in the past three decades have been a result of the conservation, stabilization and maintenance work completed by SFN and YG on the buildings and landscape through the implementation of the actions identified in the previous Management Plans. Other changes to the natural and cultural resources have occurred at the site, including the maturing of vegetation that has changed the views of landscape features, erosion events along some portions of the Yukon River bank at the Historic Site, and facility development on the site to support tourism, conservation activities, and SFN citizen use.

Fort Selkirk is recognized as a place where families were raised, friendships were renewed, where people danced and shared food.

⁶ *Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan*. May 2000. Pg. i, Executive Summary.

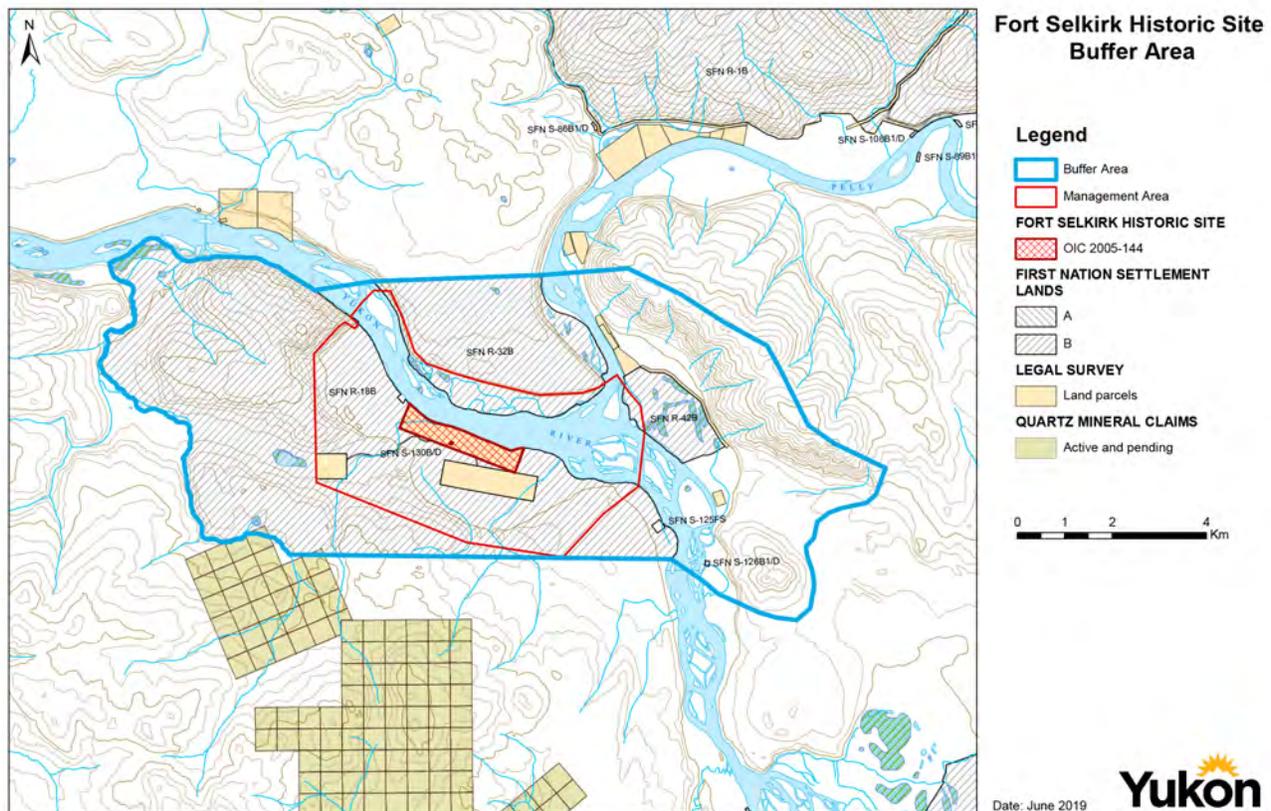
⁷ Definition from the Fort Selkirk Management Committee, 2019.

⁸ *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan (1994, updated 2004)*.

The updated 2021 Management Plan identifies the guidelines and actions to ensure Fort Selkirk continues to reflect its connection to the past while also allowing for present day and future use.

1.1.1 Fort Selkirk Historic Site Boundary and Buffer Area

The Fort Selkirk Historic Site is contained within Lot 1021, Plan 2008-0123. The historic site boundary encompasses an area of 1,113,804 m² (110.9 hectares or 273.9 acres). Within the boundary of the historic site is the First Nation Graveyard.



Map 2 – Fort Selkirk Historic Site and Buffer area. Map provided by YG. (Full size map can be found in Appendix 3).

In 2005, Fort Selkirk Historic Site was withdrawn from mining, prospecting, and exploration and development of oil and gas or coal mining as described in Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement under Chapter 13.4.6.1 - Schedule A, Section 11.0.⁹

Fort Selkirk is made up of the historic townsite area and adjacent lands as identified in the SFN Final Agreement Section 8.1 as outlined in red in Map 2.

⁹ Order in Council (OIC) August 22, 2005. OIC 2005/144 - Placer Mining and Quartz Mining Act; OIC 2005/139 - Lands Act and Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act; 2005/13 - Oil and Gas Act.

In 2019, the newly developed and approved buffer area was created and encompasses the surrounding lands outside of the Management Area to ensure the values of the site are protected from development as outlined in Map 2. In 2019, the buffer area was withdrawn from mining, prospecting, exploration and development of oil and gas or coal mining.¹⁰

The SFN and Yukon government shall manage the land within the Buffer Area in a manner consistent with section 3.6, Schedule A of the SFN Final Agreement. This area includes lands that are an essential part of the setting as well as lands required to “buffer” the site and control access. It is intended that the land use policies outlined in this management plan will be treated as guidelines for the Buffer Area.

1.1.1.1 Fort Selkirk Management Area

The area defined as the ‘Fort Selkirk Management Area’ was agreed upon and signed in the SFNFA in 1997. The Buffer Area was signed and approved by Yukon and Selkirk First Nation governments in 2019.

Immediately surrounding the historic site boundary, the land use and ownership includes Selkirk First Nation Settlement Land; Yukon Commissioner’s land; an airstrip; and a leased land parcel (see Map 2).

The Buffer Area takes into consideration lands visible from the Historic Site, along with the approach to the site from the river that are an essential part of the setting.

1.2 Management Plan Update Objective and Methodology

The update of the Fort Selkirk Management Plan is a requirement of the SFNFA, Chapter 13, Schedule A, 4.3. Under the requirements “The Government and the Selkirk First Nation will jointly review the Management Plan at least every ten (10) years”.

1.2.1 What is a Management Plan?

A heritage management plan identifies what is significant in a historic place, to whom, and how to guide and manage change within the historic site. The Plan identifies long-range goals, objectives and policies that will guide the protection, conservation, and interpretation of its heritage resources and the development of the site.

It is a tool intended to provide sufficient information for managers to protect and manage the heritage values of the site, guide the day-to-day management, assist in decision-making and to support local cultural and economic benefits.

1.2.2 Updating the Management Plan

The objective of updating the Management Plan is to build upon the previous Management Plans, which have proven effective to guide conservation and use of the site. The update process included a review of the previous vision, goals and objectives that guided the protection, conservation and interpretation of the heritage resources of Fort Selkirk since 1990. The update also required that the Management Plan be prepared in accordance with the SFNFA, the Yukon Historic Resources Act (SFNFA, Chapter 13, Schedule A, 6.1), and current national standards and guidelines for historic places in Canada.

¹⁰ Order in Council (OIC) May 23, 2019. OIC 2019/12.

It is timely to create an updated Management Plan to continue the work that has been done to conserve and present the site, and to add new management actions and guidelines based on the best practices of the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*¹¹ (Standards).



Photo 3 - 1990 Fort Selkirk Management Plan.

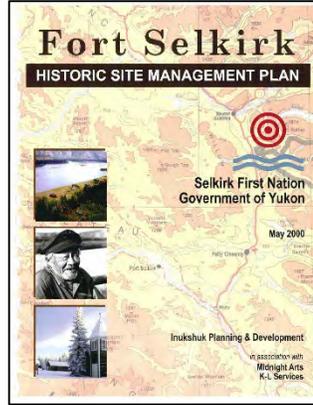


Photo 4 - 2000 Fort Selkirk Management Plan.

Actions that were in the previous Management Plans have been implemented over the past thirty (30) years to conserve heritage resources and develop infrastructure to support ongoing use of Fort Selkirk by SFN citizens and visitors.

The 2021 Management Plan respects the past actions and takes into consideration current and predicted uses of the site, regional economic opportunities, and new issues and opportunities related to conservation and interpretation of the site.

1.2.3 Process

The preparation of the updated Management Plan began with a review of the SFN Final Agreement, the 1990 and 2000 Management Plans, the 1994 Interpretive Plan (updated in 2004), and the annual Field Season Reports.

The process began with engagement sessions with the community in Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse in March 2018. A site visit was completed in June 2018 to document the existing conditions of the site and to understand use of the site by SFN citizens and tourists. The visit included an inventory of the site that is documented in the *Fort Selkirk Historic Site Environmental Scan* (2019).

¹¹ *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* (2nd Edition). 2011. Published: Canada's Historic Places (a Federal, Provincial and Territorial Partnership). <https://www.historicplaces.ca/en/pages/standards-normes.aspx>



Photo 5 - Meeting with SFN and YG representatives at Fort Selkirk (June 2018).



Photo 6 - George McGinty and Millie Johnson reading the Danny Roberts Interpretive sign (June 2018).

The site visit was conducted with the participation of SFN citizens Franklin Roberts, George McGinty, Millie Johnson, and Jessica Alfred, along with work crew member Carl Blanchard and interpreter Freda Alfred. The documentation process considered the past conservation actions and the current conditions of the site and its resources. The team reviewed the site: buildings, structures (historic and contemporary), building outlines (foundations, cellars, berms and other forms), and building orientations; views; landscape features; circulation patterns and trails,¹² interpretation; graves, burial sites and cemeteries; place names; and traditional uses at the site.

A draft version of the 2021 Management Plan was prepared and reviewed by the Management Committee. Community engagement sessions were held in Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse in October 2018 and March 2019 to gather input for the recommendations to be included in this final Management Plan. Newsletters documented the various stages of the project and were made available at community engagement sessions and online.

1.2.4 Applying the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada

The *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, 2011 Edition (Standards)* identifies a multi-phase process for planning for the conservation of heritage resources. This document was produced after the 2000 Fort Selkirk Management Plan. It was developed as a pan-Canadian project, an important summary of best practices in heritage conservation.

The *Standards* contain conservation principles, definitions, and best practice guidelines in common use to guide management actions at significant historic sites such as Fort Selkirk. It provides guidance on sensitive additions or alterations to the site that may be needed while still protecting the heritage resources.

¹² 'Trails' refers to: 'Traditional routes' that are travel routes, also called 'Grandfather Trails', which may or may not have been recently physically located and visible in the landscape; contemporary trails to specific historic places like Victoria Rock or the 'cemetery' that are in use by ATV or foot traffic and may follow a traditional route; or, 'Maintenance Trail' used by Fort Selkirk work crew/staff to access the site.

For Fort Selkirk, the appropriate relevant best practices concern management of the buildings, cultural landscape and archaeological features, and the actions that contribute to interpretation of the site¹³.

- Conservation is any management action to protect significant heritage resources.
- Preservation is any action aimed at extending the life spans of heritage resources.
- Rehabilitation is change to heritage resources to be sensitive to heritage values and allow selected use or interpretation activities to meet new requirements.
- Other approaches such as restoration or replication of lost features are not generally recommended for this significant historic site, except in special circumstances with the support of the Fort Selkirk Management Committee.

Applying the *Standards* in the 2021 Management Plan update informed the long-term guidelines to ensure Fort Selkirk's continued conservation and use.

¹³ Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada (2nd Edition). 2011. Published: Canada's Historic Places (*a Federal, Provincial and Territorial Partnership*).

2.0 Fort Selkirk Setting, Resources and Use

The following description of the setting and resources at Fort Selkirk is a summary of the heritage and natural resources that contribute to the significance of the site, and the use of the site by various groups.

2.1 Setting



Photo 7 – Yukon Archives. Father Bobillier fonds85/66. [View of Fort Selkirk townsite looking North East with St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church in the foreground (at right). [L-R: Store house, Selkirk Hotel, Store Shed, Unidentified Shed, Armstrong Cabin, Anglican Church, rear addition Rectory, T&D Store]. ca. 1940.

Fort Selkirk Historic Site is on a river terrace on the southern shore of the Yukon River, and approximately 1.5 km downstream from the Pelly River confluence. The site includes a broad open area at an elevation of 436 m (1,429 feet); and a significant area of forest. The Historic Site is set in a landscape of rolling hills that are part of the Lewes Plateau, rising to elevations of 900-1,200 m (3,000-4,000 feet).



Photo 8 - Stone House Interpretive Centre at Fort Selkirk.

Fort Selkirk is approximately 55 km downstream from the community of Pelly Crossing. Access from Pelly Crossing is by road to the privately-owned Pelly Farm, and then approximately 8 km by boat along the Pelly and Yukon Rivers. Fort Selkirk is approximately 38 km downstream from Minto. Outside the boundary of the Historic Site, to the south-east corner, is an airstrip.

The majority of the built historic resources are located within the open area on an east to west alignment of the Yukon River bank. The Stone House (Visitor Centre) is located at the western end of the open area and the Yukon Field Force area is at the eastern-most

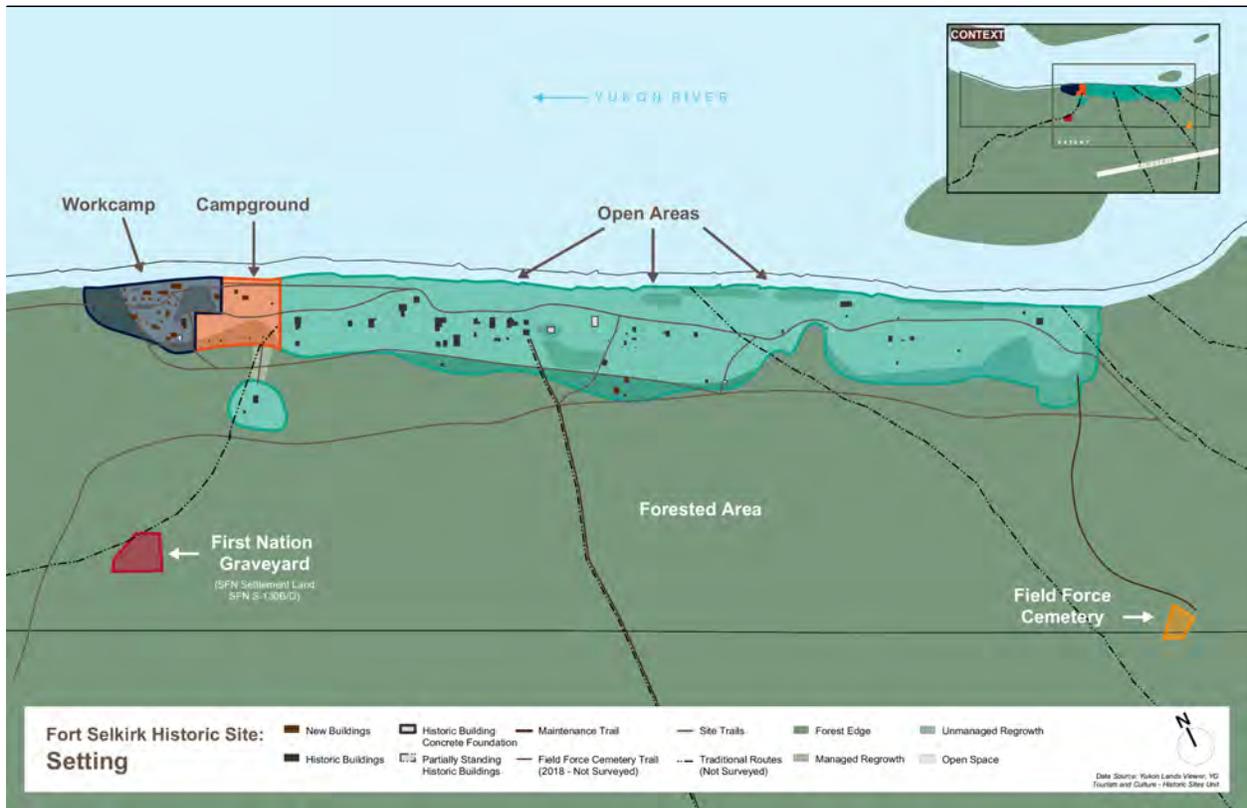
end. Between the ends of the open area is the collection of conserved buildings and outbuildings, archaeological features, foundations, fence lines, and moveable artifacts that are associated with Fort Selkirk’s historic occupation. St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church is set back from the other buildings in a forest clearing to the southwest of the campground. The Larsen/Lankin Cabin is located in the forest to the rear of the Taylor and Drury Store. Within the forested area between the Stone House and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church there are two areas identified as First Nation ‘unmarked burial sites’. The Field Force Cemetery is located to the southeast of the Yukon Field Force area.



Photo 9 - View of Field Force Memorial.



Photo 10 - View of the Orderly Room and Frank Blanchard cabin.



Map 3 - Fort Selkirk Historic Site Setting (Full size map can be found in Appendix 3).

The work camp and campground services are located to the west end of the open area. The work camp supports site maintenance and the seasonal work crew accommodations, and the SFN Elder's Cabin. The campground supports visitors with space for tenting, a kitchen shelter, and outhouses.

Forest covers approximately two-thirds of the overall designated area of the Historic Site. The forest is predominantly coniferous vegetation, mixed with deciduous trees and shrubs, and meadow plants. During the time that Fort Selkirk was occupied the forest had been cleared. The current forest edge is a recent development as a result of regrowth after the site was no longer permanently occupied. Heritage resources in the forested area include the foundations of buildings, outhouses, and outbuildings, along with countless artifacts (middens, equipment, household items, etc.).

Traditional travel routes connect Fort Selkirk to the rest of the region. Some of the traditional routes, also called *Grandfather Trails* by SFN, have not been marked on the ground however, their general locations have been identified.

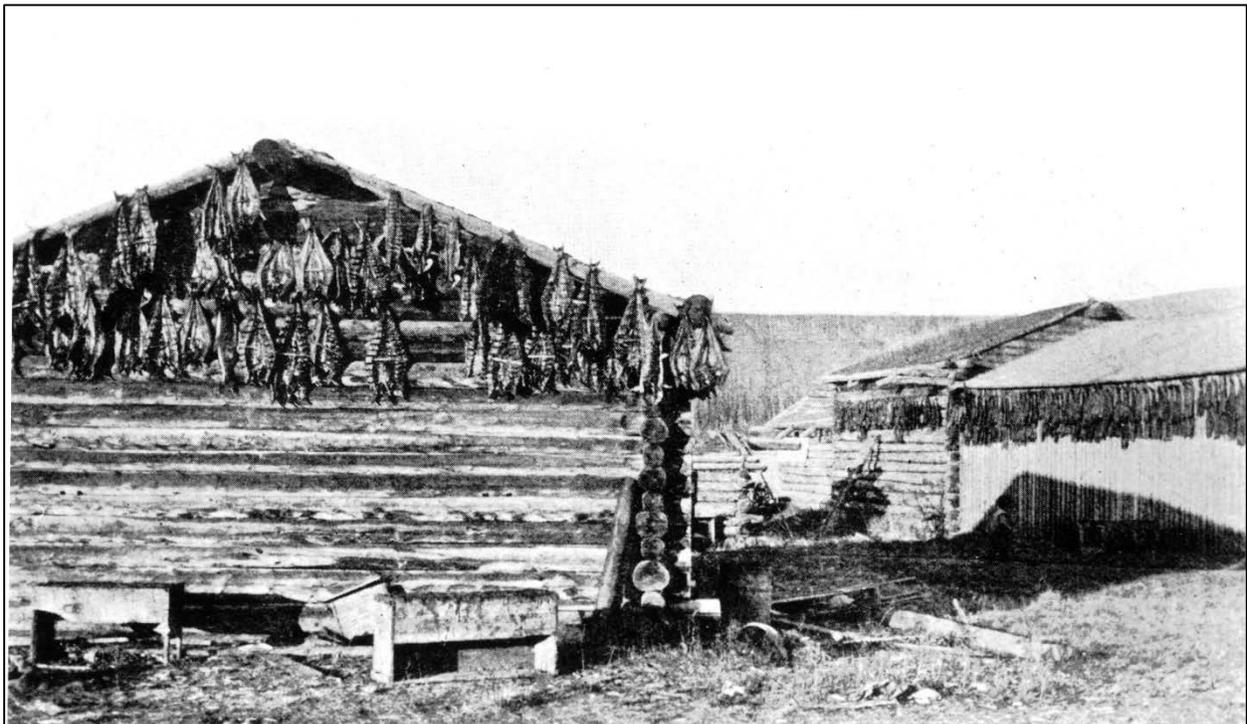


Photo 11 – “Salmon drying at Fort Selkirk. C. Runguis.ca 1906. (Back view of Harper's Post).”



Photo 12 - View from the Anglican Rectory of the MeÂu (Basalt Bluff) and push cart.

2.2 Neighbouring Landscape Features

Outside of the Historic Site boundary are features in the landscape that contribute to the heritage values and setting of Fort Selkirk.

- MeÂu (Basalt Bluff) is a basalt bluff opposite the site that is the result of local volcanic eruptions dating to about 1.5 to 2 million years ago and is a significant landmark in the area. The bluffs have navigational significance for river travelers to signal the approach to Fort Selkirk; wildlife is often seen along the game trail at the top of the bluffs; and the bluff features prominently in the scenic views from Fort Selkirk.
- Nelruna or Volcano Mountain is located about 16 km north of Fort Selkirk. Geologists believe the last eruption of Nelruna occurred some 4,200 years ago¹⁴, although oral accounts recorded with SFN Elder Harry Baum suggest there may have been more recent activity (Jackson and Stevens 1992).

Traditional First Nation names for local features:

- **MeÂu** (Basalt Bluff)
- **Nelruna** (Volcano Mountain)
- **Ne Che Ddhäwa** (Cinder Cone)
- **Ete Cho** (Mount Hansen)
- **Tthi Ts'ech'än Ddhäw** (Victoria Mountain/Mount Corcoran)

¹⁴ Nelruna: geology. http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/expositions-exhibitions/fort_selkirk/english/tnw/tnwgeo.html

2.0 Fort Selkirk Setting, Resources and Use

- Ne Che Ddhäwa or ‘Cinder Cone’ (the name refers to the split appearance of the mountain top) is volcanic vent located about 4 km upriver of the mouth of the Pelly River. A hot spot located at the base of Ne Che Ddhäwa on the Yukon River was used as a traditional healing place. The steam and heat promoted plant growth that was likely used to treat people during flu epidemics at Fort Selkirk¹⁵.
- Ete Cho or Mount Hansen is approximately 8 km east of Fort Selkirk (near the mouth of the Pelly River). The mountain is sheep habitat and a sheep hunting area.
- Tthi Ts’ech’än Ddhäw or Victoria Mountain/Mount Corcoran is named for Tthi Ts’ech’än (Victoria Rock) located at its base. Below Victoria Rock there is an eddy in the river that was an important traditional fishing site for SFN people.

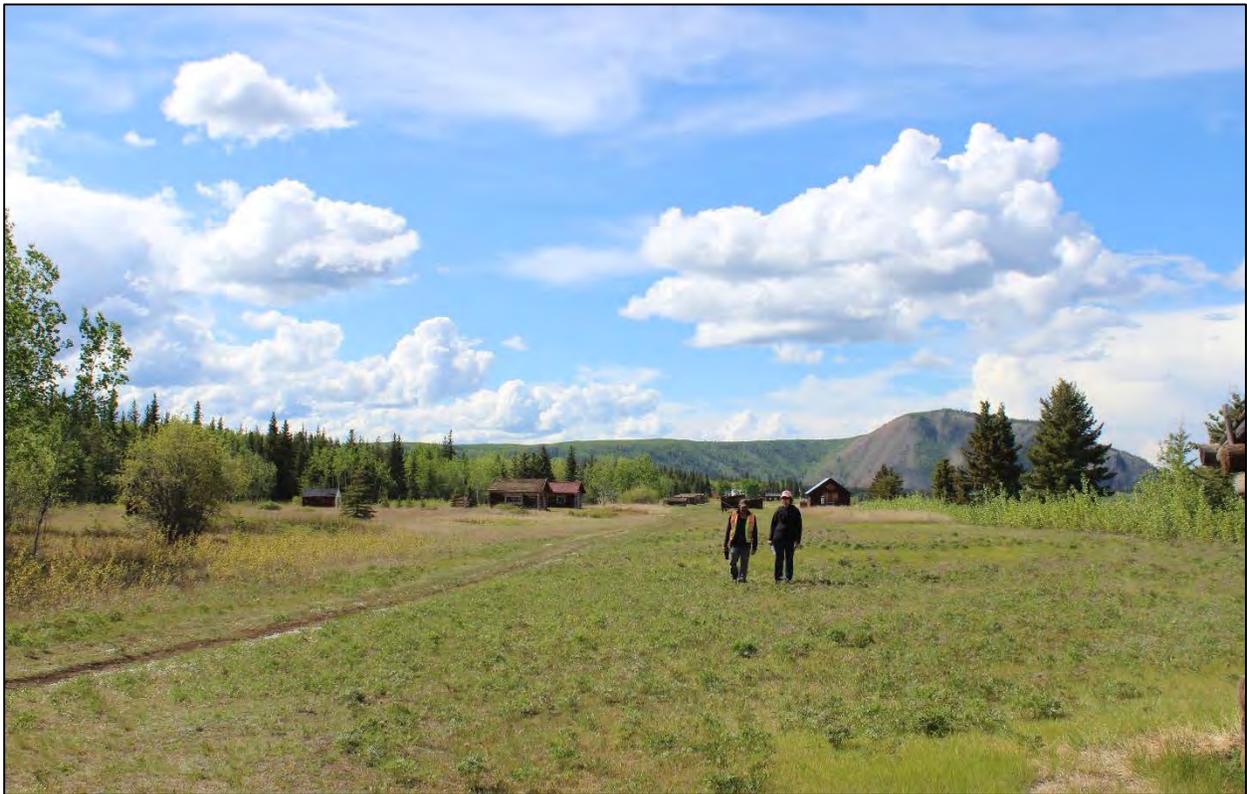


Photo 13 – View West across the open space to Victoria Rock showing different vegetation types and the trail.

¹⁵ Flu epidemics occurred at several times in the history of Fort Selkirk, including 1848-1852 small pox; 1915; and 1925.



Figure 1 – Aerial view west (downriver) over Fort Selkirk showing landmarks in the area.



Figure 2 – Aerial view east over Fort Selkirk showing landmarks in the area.

2.3 Heritage Resources

The heritage resources of Fort Selkirk include archaeology, built features, moveable artifacts, landscape features, burial sites, and the documented oral histories of the site.

2.3.1 Archaeology

A collection of artifacts has been recovered from Fort Selkirk that range in age from approximately 2,000 years to 150 years Before Present. The objects include numerous tool related artifacts such as stone flakes, microblades, a copper point¹⁶ and a biface scraper. It was noted in the 1990 Management Plan that these items were not found in a context that allowed them to be dated within the site. Other artifacts that were previously collected include ceramic shards, glass beads, and a piece of a clay pipe.

Two (2) sites have Borden¹⁷ designations:

- KeVe-1 is the Hudson's Bay Company Post located near the Danny Robert's cabin.
- KeVe-2 is located in the eastern portion of the open area and is associated with historic artifacts from camp occupation dated to 2,000 years Before Present.

Other sites outside the boundary of the Historic Site have also been documented, providing artifacts associated with thousands of years of occupation and activity in the region.

Two palaeontological sites along the Basalt Cliffs opposite Fort Selkirk were identified in the early 1990's. A caribou bone was discovered under the upper basalt, between layers formed by two different lava flows, that was dated to the early Pleistocene, about 1.6 million years ago. At the other site other ancient animal bones were also discovered in the area.

Within the campground there are foundation remnants from previous built features. In the historic area foundation remnants are visible in several locations.

Artifacts from Fort Selkirk that range in age from approximately 2,000 years to 150 years Before Present have been recovered from the site.

¹⁶ Copper possibly came from White River. The diary of *Schwatka* mentions Selkirk people going to White River area to gather copper.

¹⁷ The Borden System (or numbers) is an archaeological numbering system used throughout Canada to track archaeological sites and the artifacts that come from them.

Evidence of the 1852 Robert Campbell trading post has been the subject of recent archaeological research, revealing chimney relics comprised of natural stone. Later, another trading company, Schofield and Zimmerlee, built on this site. When the HBC returned to Fort Selkirk after an 86-year absence, it bought the Schofield and Zimmerlee store. After using the building for several years, the HBC replaced it with a new trading post in the 1940s. Concrete foundations are all that remain of the HBC store, warehouse, and support buildings. The foundations of these buildings are aligned with the common axis of doors facing the river.

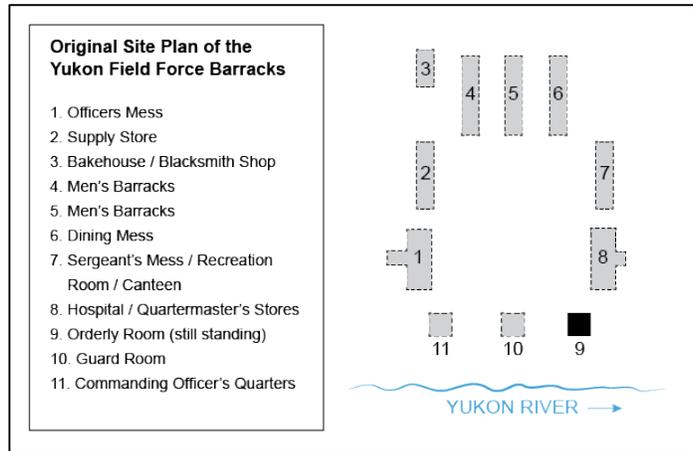


Figure 3 - Original site plan of the Yukon Field Force Barracks



Photo 14 - Example of vegetation regrowth and visible berms in a foundation at the Field Force area.



Photo 15 - Big Jonathan House at Fort Selkirk Historic Site.

There are numerous outlines and berms associated with First Nations cabins, outbuildings or camping areas in the open area around the Big Jonathan house.

Visible foundation berms identify the form of the Field Force site. Two (2) similarly sized square building sites are aligned with the Orderly Room (the only remaining building on this site), parallel to the river bank. The foundations from the larger barracks, mess halls, and support buildings are visible in the encroaching forest edge. These structures once formed an enclosure for a parade ground. Within the forested area to the south of the Field Force site there are individual and groupings of foundations, pits, and remnants of built features including pits and trenches.

The Management Plan recommends archaeological research as an ongoing action at Fort Selkirk (see section 4.4.2).

2.3.2 Movable Artifacts

There are varied and numerous movable artifacts on the Fort Selkirk landscape and these range from dish fragments to machinery parts to intact wagons.

In September 2018 a site visit was undertaken by Cathy Ritchie, Collections Management Advisor, Museums Unit, YG to assess the moveable artifacts in storage and on-site at Fort Selkirk. The purpose of the visit was to determine artifact storage, display and conservation conditions and recommendations for the future management of moveable artifacts. The site visit included sixteen (16) buildings all containing artifacts: three (3) buildings with signage/exhibits, and the Stone Shed, the main storage facility not open to the public. The *Museum Unit Site Visit Report (2018)*¹⁸ identified the various types of artifacts, their locations both on site and in Pelly and Whitehorse and the issues with artifacts in the Stone Shed, Stone House, Coward Machine Shop and Coward Garage, and Big Jonathan House.

The report notes that artifacts associated with Fort Selkirk can be divided into three (3) main groups:

- Historic artifacts that were left behind at the site and once belonged to past residents;
- Archaeological artifacts; and
- Building components (windows, doors, etc.).

The historic artifacts at Fort Selkirk are displayed in the various buildings at the site (Stone House, Big Jonathan House), dispersed on the landscape, or housed in a dedicated storage building (Stone Shed). Off-site there are artifacts displayed at the Big Jonathan Centre in Pelly Crossing and housed with the Heritage Resource Unit (YG) in Whitehorse.

2.3.3 Built Heritage Resources

The built heritage that can be observed at Fort Selkirk tells the story of the development history of the site, its abandonment as an active townsite and community, and its eventual conservation as a living heritage site.

The standing structures of Fort Selkirk Historic Site present a variety of architectural forms, however, most buildings are small in scale, constructed of locally available materials, and are arranged in an ordered alignment facing towards the Yukon River. The design and construction of the buildings present a range of types. Residential buildings include compact cabins constructed of log with pitched roofs of sod or shingles, family cabins, and larger gabled roof dwellings. The building forms, materials and construction techniques reflect the cultural traditions of the builders. The vernacular log construction used locally harvested logs and recycled materials from sternwheelers or previously abandoned buildings that could be repurposed in new construction. The techniques employed at Fort Selkirk resulted in different architectural details, including round logs, sawed logs, milled lumber, a variety of different joint details, and roofing that included sod, shingles or metal.

The built heritage resources include a collection of conserved buildings associated with Fort Selkirk's commercial activities, religious and educational institutions, residential buildings and outbuildings.

¹⁸ *Museum Unit Site Visit Report (2018)*, Cathy Ritchie, Collections Management Advisor, Museums Unit, YG.

Between the campground and work camp there are two historic structures: the conserved Wilkinson Cabin and its lean-to is in use as a workshop and accommodation supporting conservation programs and a barn near the forest edge with partially standing log walls and a collapsed roof.



Photo 16 - Yukon, SFN and Canadian Flags located on the bank of the Yukon River in front of the T & D Store.

The largest grouping of conserved buildings related to commercial and public use is found between the Stone House and Coward's Cabin, garage and machine shop; including the Armstrong Cabin, St. Andrew's Anglican Church and Mission complex, the Taylor and Drury complex, Devore Cabin and Stable, and the R.C.M.P. detachment. Gardens associated with these buildings are no longer visible however, some plants associated with cultivation are present, including rhubarb and raspberry. Other features associated with this area include heritage landscape features such as ornamental fences to enclose yards, and stone lined pathways. This area has unobstructed views to the Yukon River and surrounding landscape. Three flag poles are located at the river bank. Originally only two poles for the Yukon and Canadian flags were installed. In honor of the signing of the Selkirk First Nation Final agreement in July 1997, a pole with the SFN flag was added along side of the Canadian and Yukon.

The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) foundations and Danny Roberts buildings are near the central point of the open area. Visible features include the HBC foundations, Danny Roberts historic structures, and the former sternwheeler docking ramp that was excavated into the river bank. Views along the main axis connect this area to the rest of the site. Views to the Yukon River and surrounding landscape are generally open with some obstruction as a result of recent regrowth vegetation along the river bank.



Photo 17 - Danny Robert's historic structures (centre/left) and cabin (right).



Photo 18 - HBC concrete foundation.

Encompassing a large open space of mown turf and meadow in the central-eastern area of the historic site, the area includes buildings and outlines of primarily residential structures used by Selkirk First Nation. The collection of cabins and outbuildings are clearly indicated in the photos of the site that were taken before the 1950's when the families relocated to other communities. Today the evidence that remains of these buildings is found in the archaeology of the area as well as in the surviving structures. The 2000 Management Plan notes that it was the practice of the Northern Tutchone people to dismantle their cabins for re-use or to burn a cabin after the owner's death.

The Big Jonathan House (owned and managed by SFN) is located on the river bank. The building is a reconstruction of his original house where he had hosted community gatherings such as potlatches and dances. After Big Jonathan's death, his house was taken down as a sign of respect. The house was reconstructed and now functions as a community event space, and cultural and interpretive centre.

One marked grave is located near the river bank to the east of the Big Jonathan House.

The remaining built features in this area include examples of one or two room log cabins built at various sizes and some with sod roofs, outbuildings, and several styles of low and high caches. The standing structures in the area include the historic cabins with roofs (Old Silas cache¹⁹, Luke Roberts cabin, Double cache²⁰, Stanley Jonathan cabin, Jackson Jonathan cabin, Big Jonathan cache, Tommy McGinty cabin, Andrew Baum cabin, and, Joe Roberts cabin) and others. Artifacts in these cabins (stoves, bed frames, bottles, dishes) and insulation visible on the walls (canvas, newspaper, cardboard) provide insight into the daily life and resourcefulness of residents. Partially standing structures include the Old Abraham cabin and the Anderson cabin. These partially standing structures can be reviewed when an updated Conservation Plan is developed.



Photo 19 - Partially standing Old Abraham cabin.

¹⁹ The Old Silas Cache was also called the John Ellis cabin by SFN members that participated in the 2018 site visit.

²⁰ SFN members that participated in the 2018 site visit believe it was built by Stanley Jonathan.



Photo 20 - Distant view of Big Jonathan House and cache.



Photo 21 - View of cache and Luke Roberts cabin.

The Field Force Site is located at the eastern end of the Historic Site open space. In May 1898, the Yukon Field Force began travelling from Vancouver over land and river to establish a detachment at Fort Selkirk. Construction was started by an advance team from the Field Force. By September 1898, the full detachmnet was at Fort Selkirk. The Field Force was withdrawn from Fort Selkirk by May of 1900²¹. One standing square log building (the Orderly Room) remains on this site from the Field Force detachment. Other buildings were relocated within the historic site, or dismantled for the logs. To the west of the Orderly Room is the Frank Blanchard Cabin. One bench and monument are contemporary additions to the site (since 1972). Interpretive panels have been placed inside the Orderly Room. A path through the woods links the Field Force area to the Field Force Cemetery.

2.3.4 Arrangement of Built Features on the Site

The historic building alignment across the site is notable for its relationship to the bank of the Yukon River. Most of the buildings were placed close to the river and almost all buildings are oriented with the front entrance facing the river. This pattern sets up the east-west sightlines and circulation patterns through the site. As noted in the 2000 Management Plan, the mixture of buildings that are in line with the river bank and the organic arrangement of other structures provide evidence of Fort Selkirk's unique development history, the cultural groups that occupied the site, and its role as a settlement in the pre-Klondike Gold Rush period and subsequent development as a centre for trade.

To the western end of the site, the historic buildings are aligned with the primary structure closest to the river and supporting buildings to the rear. St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church is notable because it is set back from the other buildings on a high point of land. The church was relocated to this position from the waterfront in 1942 at the instigation of Father Bobillier.

In the eastern portion of the site the First Nations structures and foundations were set out in three (3) rows aligned to the river: a front row closest to the river bank; a central row; and third row close the present-day forest edge. Outbuildings are placed close to the residences.

Within the Field Force Site, the historic relationship of building to building was planned to enclose a parade ground.

²¹ *Fort Selkirk* (Interpretive Guide Book). Yukon – Tourism, Cultural Services Branch.

2.3.5 Graveyards, Cemeteries and Burial Sites



Photo 22 – Field Force Cemetery.



Photo 23 – First Nation Graveyard.



Photo 24 - Two marked burial sites near the Interpreters cabin in the campground area.

Fort Selkirk Historic Site includes several types of First Nation and non-Indigenous burial sites²². Excluded from the boundary of the Historic Site is the First Nation Graveyard owned and managed by Selkirk First Nation (Land Parcel SFN S-130B/D).

Within the campground there are two marked burial sites on the river bank near the interpreter's cabin. To the west of Big Jonathan House is a single unmarked burial site. In the forest to the southeast of St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church is an unmarked First Nation Graveyard.

Located to the south of the Field Force area, in a small forest clearing, is the Yukon Field Force Cemetery. This cemetery is the resting place of three Field Force soldiers, and later was the burial site for the non-Indigenous population of Fort Selkirk. According to those inscriptions that are still legible, the cemetery was in use from 1898 to 1939.

²² First Nations "Graveyard" refers to the burial sites in the forest near the St. Francis Xavier Church and the First Nation graveyard on SFN Settlement Land (SFN S-130B/D); 'Cemetery' refers to the Yukon Field Force Cemetery; and 'Burial Site' refers to all other individual burials sites at Fort Selkirk (marked and unmarked).

2.4 Cultural Heritage



Photo 25 - Yukon Archives. Anglican Church, Diocese of Yukon. 89/41. William Schofield and Chief Peter McGinty shaking hands next to schoolhouse. [Fort Selkirk.]. n.d.

Fort Selkirk has extensive oral traditions tied to its use as a gathering and harvesting area pre-settlement, the use of the surrounding landscape, and its natural resources. The documentation also includes stories on the settlement history and the way of life at Fort Selkirk.

Family and personal names, kinship relationships, and ties between the First Nations of the Yukon are important features of the oral histories associated to Fort Selkirk. The *Fort Selkirk Oral History* (1984 and 1985) project documented through recordings and transcripts, the knowledge of SFN Elders to provide a deeper understanding of the significance of Fort Selkirk, share traditional knowledge and stories. The Elders related stories about the creation of the world, people, animals, and events. For example, the volcanic eruptions (500 years Before Present) the trading practices between the Tlingit and Northern Tutchone people, or events from the early trading post and Klondike Gold Rush period. These oral histories include the place names for important landscape features in the area, and the history of use that these places had for their ancestors.

First Nation people have hunted and trapped in the region for generations. Species of cultural importance include moose, woodland caribou, black bear, red fox, coyote, and smaller mammals such as arctic ground squirrel, hare, and muskrat. Plants traditionally collected for food and medicinal purposes include currants, cranberries, mossberries, raspberries, and rhubarb.

Danny Roberts and his wife Abby were the last full-time residents at Fort Selkirk. Roberts moved to Fort Selkirk in the 1940's to work as a wood cutter for the sternwheelers. When the town site was abandoned, he took on the role of steward for the site, including sharing stories with all people that visited Fort Selkirk. He worked to maintain buildings and features and protected the site from misuse and vandalism. An interpretive panel in the Danny Roberts area shares his story.

Today the cultural heritage of Fort Selkirk is shared at the site in various ways. The Stone House interpretive displays include artifacts, maps, photos and photo albums. The site interpreter provides information to visitors, and shows the available videos produced by SFN and Yukon governments.

Interpretive panels have been installed based on the recommendations of the Fort Selkirk Interpretive Plan (1994, updated 2004), and there are reference booklets about the site and the site's archaeology. These interpretive resources are addressed in a later section of the Management Plan.

2.5 Fort Selkirk Use and Visitation

There are several groups that have a connection to Fort Selkirk: SFN citizens; families with ongoing connections to the site (other First Nations and Yukoners), tourists (Yukoners and non-Yukoners); and researchers and students.

2.5.1 SFN and people with connections to the site

Members of the SFN and Yukon residents visit the site to maintain their strong cultural ties and their traditional activities. The 'living cultural heritage' vision promotes SFN culture and traditions through cultural activities, Parks Days, learning events, language camps, and other actions that attract all people to Fort Selkirk.

2.5.2 School and Community Groups

Fort Selkirk is accessed by groups for educational activities or as part of outdoor programs. Groups include schools (elementary to high school, university and college), Scouts, Canadian Rangers and others. Activities include study and understanding of the Historic Site and its resources, the history of the site's development, and learning conservation practices.

2.5.3 Researchers

Fort Selkirk Historic Site has previously attracted researchers in the fields of archaeology, heritage conservation, and cultural resource management. These activities have contributed to increasing the understanding of the Historic Site and its heritage resources and have also provided opportunities for ongoing training of the work crew, and professional development for SFN and YG staff or other interested professionals in Yukon.

2.5.4 Tourists

Fort Selkirk Historic Site is an important tourist attraction that offers opportunities for heritage appreciation and economic development. Site access from Pelly Farm is limited to events (e.g. Parks Day) with organized transport, or the ability of a visitor to contract a local resident willing and able to provide transport out of Pelly Farm or Minto. The site is primarily accessed by river travellers.

Each heritage resource (either an individual structure or group of structures) at Fort Selkirk contributes to the site's significance.

2.6 Visitor Statistics

The 1990 Management Plan recommended that “Tourism growth should be gradual and in keeping with the Fort Selkirk setting”. The visitation statistics between 1998 and 2019 indicate that visitation has not been growing, but in the past decade has been consistent in the 800 to 1,000 persons range per year.

In 2020, visitation to the site was drastically reduced due to COVID-19. It is anticipated that it will take a few years to reach the pre-pandemic levels. If there is an increase in visitation in the next few years visitor impacts will be monitored and mitigations will be discussed.

Data indicates visits peaked in 1998 at approximately 1,600 people and declined until 2008 to approximately 600 people. Between 2009 and 2017 the visitor levels surpassed 1,000 people once in 2014. In 2018, data collected indicates that 943 people visited Fort Selkirk, which was an increase of 27.1% from 2017 when there were 742 visitors²³. Visitor number estimates are based on the number of guests that filled in visitor registration; however, not all visitors are captured (e.g. off-season visitation mid-September to late-May; and those that don't complete the form). Therefore, the actual numbers of visitors may be higher in any given year.

Visits to Fort Selkirk may occur in any month of the year, however, the majority of visitors arrive after the site has opened in June until closure in late August, with the highest visitation levels typically occurring in June and July. River travellers arrive as self-guided groups or with organized tour groups.

The typical visitors to Fort Selkirk include SFN citizens, Yukon residents, tourists (river travellers) and special interest groups (such as students; researchers, etc.). From 1999 to 2015, visitors were described as coming from Canada, USA and Other. In 2016 and 2017 the categories were expanded, and visitor information was recorded for visitors from Canada, USA, Europe, and Asia. In addition, specific visitor data is collected each year for Parks Day.

Organized events that are hosted at Fort Selkirk include cultural gatherings, community events, and Parks Day, which draws the largest number of visitors for one day in the season. The majority of Parks Day visitors are SFN citizens and Yukon residents. Parks Day occurs on the third Saturday in July (as part of Canada's Parks Day celebrations across the Territory and across Canada) and offers registered visitors a boat charter to Fort Selkirk to enjoy interpretive programs, and self-guided tours. Private boats are also welcomed. The event is hosted by SFN and Yukon governments.

“Being at Fort Selkirk gives me a sense of peace and serenity.”

Visitor comment, 2015

Fort Selkirk Visitors Book

²³ Tourism Yukon 2018 Year-End Report, <https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/tc/tc-tourism-yukon-2018-year-end-report.pdf> Pg. 7

The Yukon Visitor Tracking Program: Pathways Report (2012/2013)²⁴ indicates that visitors to the Central Region (includes Pelly Crossing and surrounding region) are generally middle age, well educated, travelling in small groups (2.7 persons average), and are motivated by authentic experiences (camping, hiking, visiting historic sites or park, viewing wildlife). These visitors typically use online sources to plan their travels and use visitor information centres.²⁵



Photo 26 - River travellers setting up camp at Fort Selkirk (June 2018).

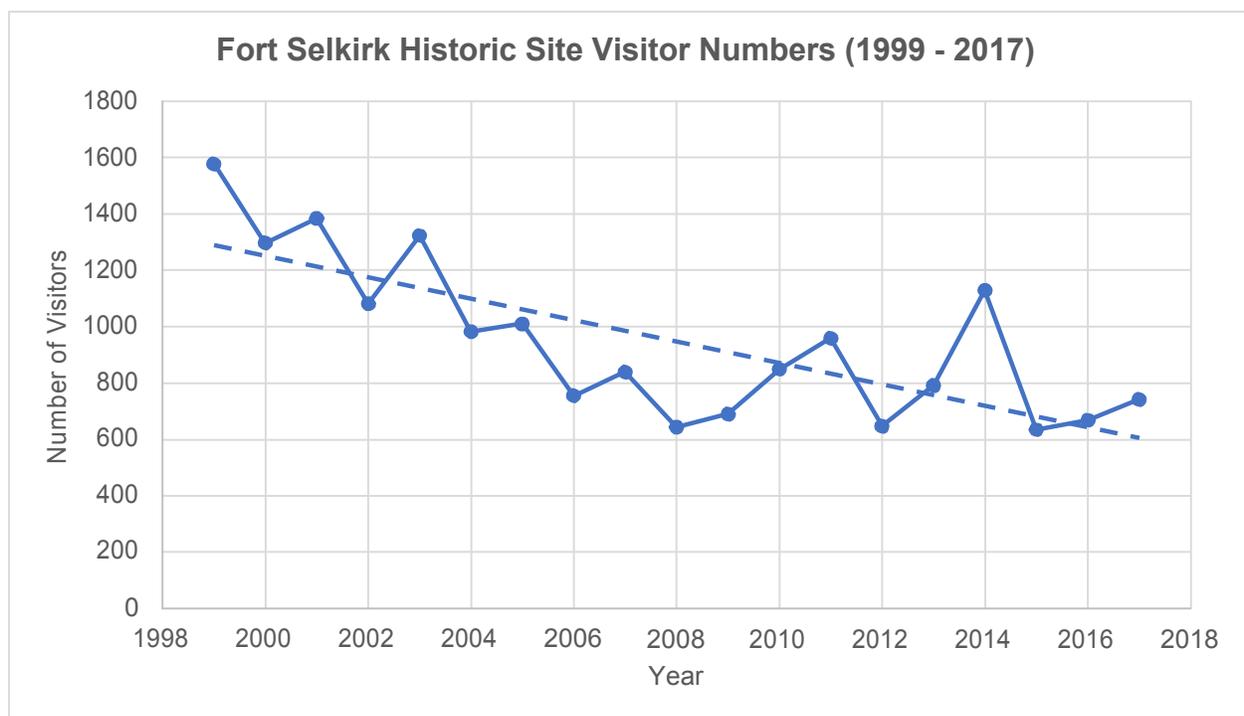


Figure 4 - Total visitors per year from June - September²⁶

The 2012 survey of river travellers indicated that a stop at Fort Selkirk is planned by most travellers with the majority of individuals or groups planning to camp overnight. The site visit at Fort Selkirk in 2018 included a review of comments in the guest book. Most of the comments expressed a positive impression of both Fort Selkirk Historic Site and the campground facilities. A visual inspection of the campground in June 2018 observed that the area is well maintained and does not appear to be showing negative impacts from over use.

²⁴ http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/isu_vtp.html

²⁵ Government of Yukon. *Yukon Visitor Tracking Program: Pathways Report* (2012/2013). Pg. 13.

²⁶ Visitor information received from YG Department of Culture and Heritage., 'Visitor Stats-All Years'.

Visitor statistics inform how the site may be improved to accommodate existing and future increased visitor levels. It is recommended that surveying of river travellers, visitors to the site, and highway travellers (see section 4.6) continue in the future to add additional data for planning.

2.6.1.1 *Tourism Explorer Quotients Summary*

Tourism Yukon uses “explorer quotients” as defined by Destination Canada (<https://www.destinationcanada.com/en/tools>)²⁷. Each explorer quotient type is identified by characteristics stemming from social and travel values, and travel motivations and behaviours. The use of explorer quotients provides indicators for the unique needs and interests of visitors to Yukon. Understanding the motivations for each explorer quotient group can be used to inform the tourism services, interpretation and education that will enhance the experiences for these travellers.

Although explorer quotient data has not been specifically collected for Fort Selkirk, based on the heritage, environment and resources that the Historic Site offers, the following explorer quotient ‘types’ are the most probable visitors to be attracted to experience Fort Selkirk²⁸:

Authentic Experiencers seek First Nations tourism; nature observation activities; and wilderness exploration that they deem to be “authentic experiences” and capture “the true essence of a new place”.

Cultural Explorers seek cultural emersion; wilderness exploration; and heritage and cultural connection. They are driven by “indulgent and carefree travel” and “sharing their experience with others through social media”.

Historians are a combination of personal and cultural history enthusiasts that are seeking day trips that include cultural immersion; outdoor activities; and visiting historic sites, buildings and museums. They are driven by a desire to experience historical points of interest associated with Yukon heritage, but they are not fond of extreme physical challenges when travelling.

Free Spirits seek scenic landscapes and wildlife viewing; aurora viewing; and experiencing all the main attractions of a location. They are driven by “love of travel” and have an interest in the Klondike Gold Rush history and Yukon heritage and culture.

These explorer quotients represent the motivations and interests that a typical visitor to Fort Selkirk may have. All of these visitors share a strong interest in First Nations culture and history, cultural experiences, and are seeking an authentic connection to the natural and cultural environment. The information can inform future planning of interpretation, education, and marketing for the site.

²⁷ Explorer Quotient® is a registered trademark of the Canadian Tourism Commission (CTC).

²⁸ https://tc.beta.gov.yk.ca/sites/default/files/all_flat_sheets.pdf

3.0 Fort Selkirk Historic Site Vision, Goals and Objectives

The 2021 Management Plan continues the directions of the two earlier Management Plans and includes a clear vision and set of goals that recognize Fort Selkirk’s connection to the past, present and future. The history of the site provides the context of what makes Fort Selkirk continue to be an important place for SFN citizens and Yukoners. Through thoughtful management actions, the site will continue to be a place that welcomes all people to connect with the past.



Photo 27 –LAC. Charles A. Keefer Coll. PA197180. Fort Selkirk from the river in the 1940’s.

3.1 Management Plan Vision

The Vision statement for Fort Selkirk reflects the desire to maintain the Historic Sites for all future generations.

Vision:

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

The Vision statement summarizes the long-term desire of the Selkirk First Nation and Yukon governments to protect and conserve Fort Selkirk as a ‘living cultural heritage site’, and confirms the purpose of this plan is to protect heritage resources, and the traditional and current use of the site by all people. The original Vision for Fort Selkirk (Appendix 1), stated in the 1990 Management Plan has informed the updated 2021 Management Plan goals and objectives.

3.2 Management Plan Goals and Objectives

The following eight goals and objectives will lead to achieving the Vision.

Goal 1

Recognize and protect the traditional and current use of the area by the Selkirk First Nation people and the past and current use by other Yukon residents and third-party interests.²⁹

Objectives:

- Preserve, protect and present the evidence of trade, settlement and way of life experienced at Fort Selkirk by all past groups that accessed or occupied the site.
- Encourage Selkirk First Nation use of the site as a 'living cultural heritage site' through traditional use, land stewardship practices at the site, education, employment, and conservation.
- Promote respect for the Selkirk First Nation culture, traditional ecological knowledge and oral traditions and Northern Tutchone language, visitor use and appreciation of Fort Selkirk and stewardship of the site.

Goal 2

Direct the conservation of heritage resources, management and operation of the site by SFN and Yukon governments.

Objectives:

- Utilize available resources in Pelly Crossing and area when possible.
- Develop an updated Conservation Plan for Fort Selkirk.
 - Action:
 - Develop a Conservation Plan building on the 1992 Preservation Plan to provide detailed recommendations for the treatment of individual buildings and site features.
- Undertake the identification and collection of artifacts and develop processes and policies to manage the artifacts.
- Maintain buildings, structures, landscapes and artifacts in a manner that reflects the history of settlement and use of Fort Selkirk by all who lived there.
 - Actions:
 - Apply best practices and guidelines in conservation for built heritage and cultural landscapes, to retain the heritage values.
 - Monitor the condition of built features, cultural landscapes and movable artifacts.
- Use traditional knowledge and undertake research as required to enhance the management, conservation and interpretation of the site.
- Ensure the heritage values of Fort Selkirk are respected in all decisions regarding the site.
 - Action:
 - Develop guidelines for land use and development in the Management Area buffer.

²⁹ Third-party interests include any group that may use the site, such as schools, visitors, or others.

Goal 3

Encourage public awareness and appreciation for the natural, historical and cultural resources of the site.

Objective:

- Develop an updated Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan.
Action:
 - Building on the 1994 Interpretation Plan (updated in 2004), continue to address interpretive training, update infrastructure and program delivery, using oral histories, research, media, and materials.
- Use traditional knowledge and undertake research as required to enhance interpretation of the site.

Goal 4

Contribute to the cultural and economic benefit for the SFN.

Objectives:

- Encourage economic development and employment opportunities for Selkirk First Nation consistent with their social and cultural development objectives while protecting the site's heritage values.
- Ensure economic development at Fort Selkirk occurs at a pace, scale and timing that allows Selkirk First Nation opportunities for employment, training, and business development.
Actions:
 - Contribute information, direction and guidelines when economic development feasibility studies or business plans are undertaken by SFN organizations or individuals for opportunities at Fort Selkirk.
 - Develop and implement management policies required for social, cultural, and business activities at Fort Selkirk.

Goal 5

Apply guidelines for infrastructure development that follows management and heritage conservation objectives.

Objective:

- Apply best practices and guidelines for new infrastructure or buildings, alterations or additions, or interpretive infrastructure.
Actions:
 - Develop policies, procedures and design guidelines for future development of new buildings at Fort Selkirk, including any new or recent SFN cabins or campsites or any future expansion of the work camp or campground.

Goal 6

Provide visitors the opportunity to experience Fort Selkirk while protecting heritage values.

Objectives:

- Continue to promote Fort Selkirk as a destination for visitors, according to the site's capacity to sustainably receive visitors.
 - Action:
 - Monitor the annual visitation numbers and, as required, apply the guidelines to manage any negative impacts on the site from visitors.
- Continue to promote understanding and education through interpretive services, facilities and activities.

Goal 7

Manage and operate the site based on reasonable funding expectations and human resource capabilities.

Objectives:

- Continue to provide monitoring of site management effectiveness and reporting within resource capabilities.
- Continue to provide opportunities for education and skills development.
 - Action:
 - Continue to provide conservation and safety training programs for Selkirk First Nation and YG staff that work at the site.

Goal 8

The Management Committee will oversee the operation of the site in compliance with the vision and management plan recommendations.

Objective:

- The Management Committee will review proposals and requests for change as they arise to ensure that the heritage resources are protected.
- The Management Committee to provide input and direction on any studies or plans that could impact Fort Selkirk.

4.0 Fort Selkirk Management Approach

The objectives of the management approach at Fort Selkirk are to ensure:

- Conservation of resources is an ongoing priority.
- The Vision, Goals and Objectives of the Management Plan are achieved.
- The heritage value and character-defining elements on the site are maintained for future generations.
- All uses, management actions or development are carefully planned but do not compromise the values of the historic site.
- Interpretation and education contribute to the “living cultural heritage site”.

The Fort Selkirk Management Plan identifies actions that are appropriate to ensure that conservation of resources consider the evidence of past activity, associated heritage values, and considers future requirements. There will continue to be changes over time at Fort Selkirk. These changes will be managed so that the heritage values associated with the site are respected in any decisions. New requirements must be balanced with the protection of historic resources.



Photo 28 – Yukon Archives. Robert Ward fonds. #8800.; Fort Selkirk L-R: St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Armstrong cabin, MacMartin cabin, Selkirk Hotel, Stone house and Roman Catholic Church. ca. 1937.”



Photo 29 - View of the St. Andrew's Anglican Church (June 2018).

4.1 Management Committee

The Fort Selkirk Management Committee resumed in October 2017. In accordance with the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement Chapter 13, Schedule A, 6.2 the Management Committee shall implement the approved Management Plan.

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.
- 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 SFN and Yukon governments will communicate with the Management Committee as the plan is implemented and all parties shall continue monitoring change to identify issues or opportunities as they arise. SFN and Yukon government staff will seek input from the Management Committee where policies are required to guide use of the site in compliance with the vision and guidelines of the management plan.

4.2 Management Zoning

The land and resources of Fort Selkirk Historic Site have been identified under three zones to address the management guidelines for conservation, use, maintenance or development. The purpose of zoning is to assist the Management Committee, SFN and YG governments, and staff in protecting and preserving the overall character and features in each zone.

4.2.1 Previous Management Plan Approach to Zoning the Historic Site

Beginning in the 1990 Management Plan, and continuing in the 2000 update, the Historic Site was divided into areas or zones having similar resources and uses.

The 1990 Management Plan identifies four (4) areas of management, which were described as:

- Preservation Area 'A';
- Preservation Area 'B';
- Visitor Services & Maintenance; and,
- Boat Landings and Trails.

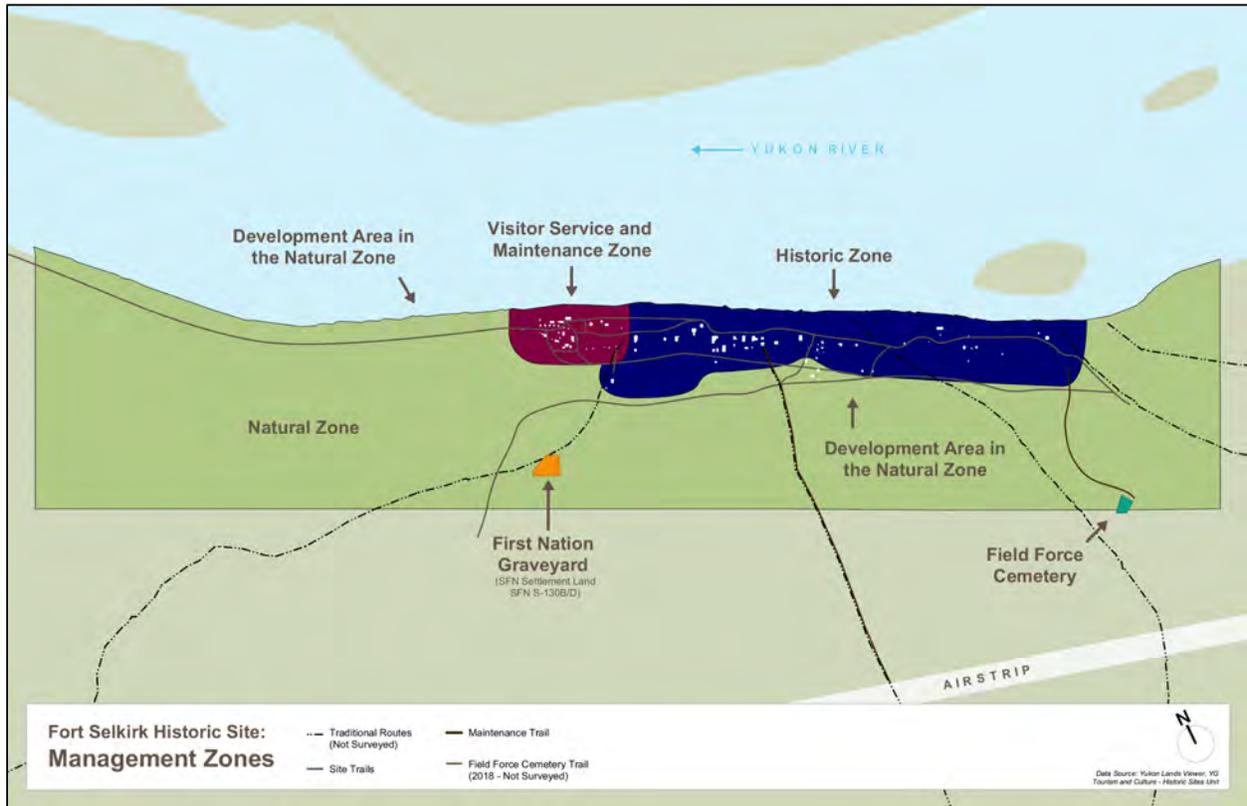
The 2000 Management Plan refined the original 1990 plan based on site conditions at that time and presented four (4) zones or areas of management, which were described as:

- Preservation Area 'A';
- Preservation Area 'B';
- Visitor Services & Maintenance; and,
- Natural Area Zone.

4.3 2021 Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Zones

The recommendation in the updated Management Plan is to use three (3) management zones:

- Historic Zone (combining the previous *Preservation Areas A and B*)
- Natural Zone
- Visitor Services and Maintenance



Map 4 - Fort Selkirk Management Zones. (Full size map can be found in Appendix 3).

4.3.1 Historic Zone

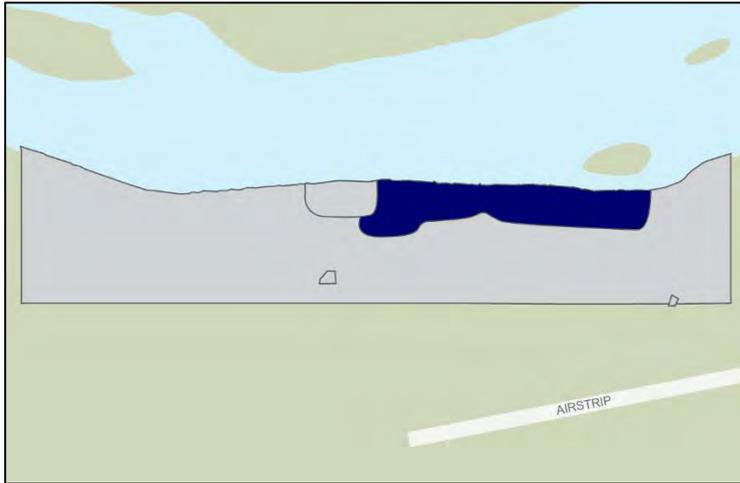


Figure 3 - Historic Zone Management Area is highlighted in blue.

The Historic Zone includes a collection of buildings, structures, archaeology and landscape features. Built and archaeological resources in the zone include: original structures and moveable artifacts (conserved and non-conserved), reconstructed buildings (e.g. Big Jonathan), interpretive structures, burial sites and marked graves, and remaining building berms and depressions.

Landscape features include: open areas, spaces around community buildings used for gathering (both

historic and currently used at Big Jonathan's House, the school, and the churches), the former sternwheeler ramps, former gardens and the maintenance trails. The views within the historic area are open to allow an appreciation of the historic structures and the setting. Views out from the historic area focus on the Yukon River and the surrounding landscape.

The zone is characterized by cut grass, meadow, some stands of mature deciduous and coniferous trees, and pockets of woody vegetation regrowth. A dense wall of mature forest provides a distinct separation between the open area and the forested area to the south and east. This landscape maintains a generally consistent elevation with a slightly lower elevation along the river bank for the former sternwheeler ramp/Hudson's Bay Company features. The Historic Zone includes the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, which is set back from the other buildings on an elevated terrace; the Larsen/Lankin Cabin; and two areas identified as First Nation 'unmarked burial sites' set within the forest edge.

The river bank in the western portion of the open area is typically steep and has minimal vegetation cover, providing unobstructed views to the Yukon River. In the central and eastern portion of the open area, the steepness of the river bank slope varies, and pockets of woody vegetation regrowth occupy the bank.

The Historic Zone includes the historic Danny Roberts structures, but does not include the cabins that are currently in use (*see the Natural Zone for more information on the cabins*).

Management Approaches within the Historic Zone

The Historic Zone is a very special place that is valued by SFN citizens, Yukon citizens, and visitors alike.

The objectives of the Historic Zone are:

- ***To conserve the context and resources and preserve view corridors***
- ***To maintain the heritage character of the zone***
- ***To continue cultural practices and heritage appreciation as a link to the past***
- ***To encourage the interpretation of the site as an opportunity for understanding the history and culture of the site***

Management Actions in the Historic Zone

- Continue annual conservation work based on the recommendations that are provided through an updated Conservation Plan (based on the 1992 Preservation Plan) that details the process of planning, implementing, inventory and documentation of each of the buildings and structures.
 - It is recommended that a Conservation Plan be prepared as an update to the 1992 Preservation Plan for Fort Selkirk. The Conservation Plan will be the template for the annual action planning for conservation actions (whether repair, stabilization or other alterations to protect each of the identified heritage resources) and the inventory documentation reporting that SFNG and YG complete annually.
 - The recommendations of the Museum Unit Site Visit report be implemented³⁰ (see section 4.4.3 and 4.4.4) for the inventory and display of moveable artifacts and cultural landscape features as a priority in the Historic Zone.
- New construction of permanent or temporary buildings are not permitted in the Historic Zone unless it is compliant with the May 1, 1990 Selkirk First Nation Council letter of clarification to the Fort Selkirk Management Plan (Appendix 2). The May 1, 1990 exceptions are:
 - Tent frames or temporary camps would be acceptable for special events or purposes. These would best be located in the vicinity of Big Jonathan's House.
 - No new First Nations cabins are to be developed in the Historic Zone unless for interpretative purposes similar to Big Jonathan's House.

There have been discussions of reconstructing a replica of a historic First Nation cabin(s) in the Historic Zone as an interpretive element. New construction of First Nation cabins for interpretative purposes should be addressed through annual planning and available resources from both governments. Significant planning and research will be required to inform which buildings can be rebuilt and in what priority. Archaeological

³⁰ *Museum Unit Site Visit Report* (2018), Cathy Ritchie, Collections Management Advisor, Museums Unit, YG.

investigations must be completed prior to any new construction. Investigation and research must determine why these buildings are no longer standing. If they were burned or dismantled out of respect for the death of the owner, or if dismantled for re-use, as oral history mentions in the Fort Selkirk Elders Oral History 1984 and 1985 and is also mentioned in the previous two management plans, then the Management Committee and SFN leadership would have to consider if reconstruction is appropriate.

- Rehabilitation of built heritage is permitted. See section 4.4.6 for the management approach of new construction and additions and alterations to built heritage features.
- New interpretive signs may be added to the Historic Zone. See section 5.0 for recommendations on Interpretation and Education.
- Continue annual maintenance of the landscape. See section 4.5.1 for vegetation management.
- Use of motorized vehicles in the Historic Zone will be limited.

Special Management Actions in the Historic Zone

In addition to the general management approach and activities for the Historic Zone, the following key actions address conservation of specific heritage resources.

- The St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Larsen/Lankin cabin are within the Historic Zone but closely bordered by the forest. The forest contributes to the defining character of these buildings and their surroundings. Management for deadfalls and fire protection is recommended.
 - The clearing around St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and the view from the campground to the church shall be maintained.
- Woody vegetation at the building foundations (berms and pits) and cultural heritage landscape features require management. See section 4.4.4 for conservation of cultural heritage landscape features and section 4.5.1 for vegetation management.
- Ongoing monitoring of changes to the river bank is recommended. Any building impacted by future changes in the river bank should be relocated further back into the site while maintaining its original spatial associations and context with other buildings. This would follow the example of the relocation of the School House. Prior to relocation, each of the elements should be measured, documented in photos and text, and marked on the site survey. A photographic record of the relocation processes should be created to assist in the process.
 - The ornamental fences associated with a historic building should be documented and relocated if the associated building is relocated.

4.3.2 Natural Zone

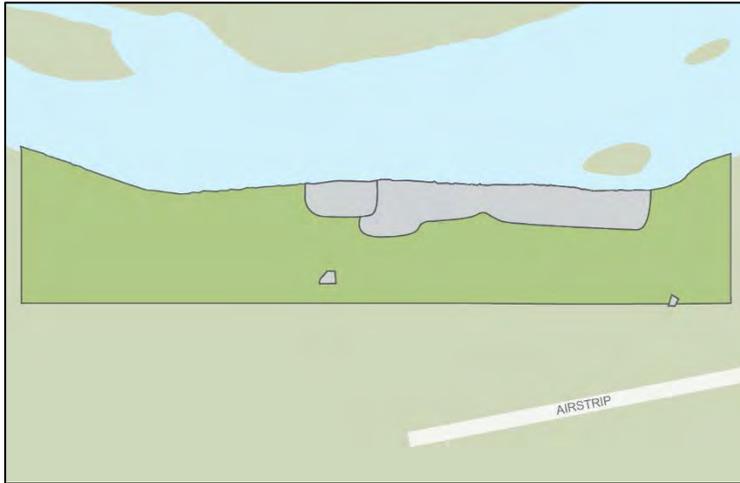


Figure 4 - Natural Zone Management Area is shown in the green area within the Fort Selkirk Historic Site boundary.

The Natural Zone is dominated by coniferous and deciduous trees and a dense understory of mixed vegetation. Within the forest there are small clearings with turf and low ground covering, and a network of trail clearings. The forest environment today is primarily regrowth vegetation. The historic photos of Fort Selkirk show that the land around the town site used to be open area. Change within the Natural Zone has been gradual, and the overall impression is that natural forces are the primary elements of

change. To the west of the work camp the Natural Zone includes the river bank³¹ that changes in its character from stony deposits on the sloped bank with mixed vegetation cover, to a more vertical bank overhung by larger spruce trees.

Within the Natural Zone there are archaeological features, heritage resource remains such as building foundations, pits and scattered artifacts, and maintenance features such as the network of trails. The Natural Zone includes the historic Field Force Cemetery and surrounds the Selkirk First Nation graveyard, Land Parcel SFN S-130B/D.

The Natural Zone includes new/contemporary cabins sites occupied seasonally by SFN citizens. Proposed new First Nations cabins may be developed in the zone under the guidance and approval of the Management Committee. It is recognized that the public space and visitor use of Fort Selkirk overlap with these cabin areas, and cabin owners may experience occasional visitation by tourists.

Management Approach within the Natural Zone

Conservation activities within the Natural Zone are intended to allow for the natural processes at work to continue while also providing opportunities in the zone for new uses.

³¹ This river bank environment is called a riparian area.

The objectives of the Natural Zone are:

- ***To recognize the current and future use of the area by Selkirk First Nation citizens in the Natural Zone; and accommodate any further new development***
- ***To manage and guide any other requirements for future development and use in the Natural Zone***
- ***To direct the conservation of heritage resources***
- ***To manage the forest as required, and integrate forest fire prevention planning with conservation of the natural and cultural resources***

Management Actions in the Natural Zone

- The forest edge shall be maintained to provide the defined distinction between the Natural Zone and the Historic Zone.
- Allow for proposed development of seasonal use cabins under the guidance and approval of the Management Committee (see section 4.4.6). Two areas have been identified as suitable for the addition of First Nations Cabins:
 - South of the Historic Zone within the forest edge. A limited number of cabins may be constructed to the east of the existing SFN cabins. New cabins shall be set within the forest with minimal clearing of the forest edge trees to have minimal visual impact on the values of the Historic Zone.
 - West of the work camp and Elders cabin. This area takes advantage of views and access to the Yukon River. Development in this western location would be compatible with the pattern of east-west alignment and the orientation of the buildings to the river found in the Historic Zone.
- The recommendations of the Museum Unit Site Visit report be implemented³² (see section 4.4.3 and 4.4.4) for the inventory and display of moveable artifacts and cultural landscape features in the Natural Zone as resources permit.
- The natural processes within the Natural Zone should be left unmanaged, allowing trees to mature, die and regenerate. The exceptions to this minimal approach are:
 - Harvesting of mature trees for building repair, new construction or firewood is permitted. This activity should be planned so that the defined edge of the forest is retained. Wood harvesting areas in the forest should be selected where tree removal is not changing the sight lines and visual character of the Historic Zone.
 - Removal of trees is permitted when one has fallen, or threatens to fall, on a heritage structure or trail.

³² *Museum Unit Site Visit Report* (2018), Cathy Ritchie, Collections Management Advisor, Museums Unit, YG.

- Removal of encroaching vegetation and deadfall along traditional routes and trails within the Natural Zone, such as the trail to Tthi Ts'ech'än (Victoria Rock), is permitted. Other trails, such as the one used to access the airstrip also require removal of encroaching vegetation or deadfall.
- Where maintenance trails enter the Historic Zone, maintenance should ensure that the opening through the forest edge is minimal to retain the visual appearance of the forest edge and the setting of the Historic Zone.

Special Management Actions in the Natural Zone

- Monitoring of the Natural Zone is recommended to identify any sudden changes in the environmental conditions. This will allow for planning an appropriate response by the Management Committee or staff.
- The First Nation Graveyard and Field Force Cemetery are important heritage features in the Natural Zone and will be managed according to section 4.4.5 for burial sites.

4.3.3 Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone

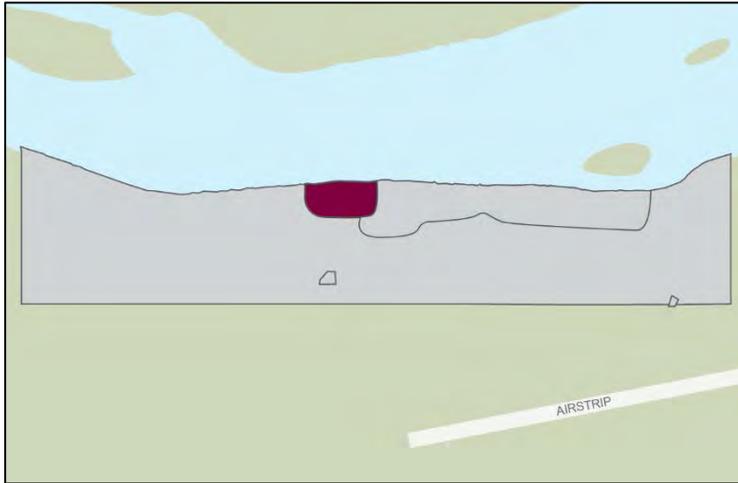


Figure 5 - Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone Management Area is highlighted in purple.

The Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone includes the campground and work camp at the Fort Selkirk Historic Site. The campground and work camp were developed in stages over the past three decades to support the operations, visitation and interpretive programs of Fort Selkirk. The existing buildings and infrastructure in the zone have been constructed in a form, scale and visual character to be distinguishable and compatible with the historic built heritage.

The campground was developed in 1993. The elevation changes between the campground and work camp by approximately 2.5 m, providing separation of the areas and concealing the work camp buildings on the lower river terrace. The high and steep river bank in this area has dedicated access points for visitors, and two access points for the work camp (including an ATV accessible landing area for the work camp boat). The work camp accommodates housing, workshops and support services for the work crew and staff. An Elders cabin is located in the work camp area to enhance opportunities for SFN elders to maintain their connection to the site. Campground infrastructure is located inside a perimeter fence. Heritage features in the zone include foundation pits from previous building locations, and the historic Wilkinson cabin and remnants of a barn. There are two marked graves, enclosed by picket fences located on the banks of the Yukon River in front of the interpreter's cabin.

The zone is defined by the forest edge to the south and west, the Yukon River to the north, and the eastern fence line of the campground. Within the zone are cleared lands that are made up of mown turf, and individual coniferous and deciduous trees.

Management Approach within the Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone

The 1990 Management Plan recommended that “a balance must be found between visitor services and the need to protect the peaceful and spiritual aura that is the heart of the Fort Selkirk experience”. Management actions for the Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone shall maintain and enhance the use of the site and provide the required facilities to support operations, visitation and interpretive programs.

The objectives of the Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone are:

- ***To encourage use of Fort Selkirk and provide services that support positive experiences for all site visitors***
- ***To provide designated spaces for staff and camping visitors***
- ***To allow for development of new facilities required for tourism, maintenance or programming.***

Management Actions in the Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone

- Providing visitor services is an ongoing priority. Visitor accommodation will continue to be concentrated in the campground area. Work plans will ensure maintained open space for tenting, kitchen shelter and picnic tables, supply of firewood for campfires in designated pits, a well and pump, garbage collection and outhouses.
- Visitor experience includes welcoming from the site Interpreter and opportunities for other types of interpretation. Additional signage in the campground is recommended in section 5.0 for Interpretation and Education. See section 4.4.6.2 for guidance on this new construction.
- The recommendations of the Museum Unit Site Visit report be implemented³³ (see section 4.4.3 and 4.4.4) for the inventory and display of moveable artifacts and cultural landscape features in the Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone as resources permit.
- Equipment and daily activities during the summer season that generate noise, materials, landscape disturbance, human waste and refuse are unavoidable and must be managed to limit impact on the heritage qualities of the site and the disturbance to tourists.
 - Maintenance support facilities will continue to be centralized within the “work camp” area. Noise mitigation should be considered for new development associated with generators and stationary power equipment.
 - Continue current human waste and refuse management practices. If visitation levels increase in the future management will adjust these practices as required.
- The zone accommodates future expansion of the work camp to the south and west of the existing work camp.

³³ *Museum Unit Site Visit Report* (2018), Cathy Ritchie, Collections Management Advisor, Museums Unit, YG.

- Monitor the annual visitation numbers and, as required, apply the guidelines in section 4.6 to manage any negative impacts on the site from visitors.
- The zone accommodates future expansion of the campground should monitoring indicate that an increase in visitation numbers requires additional space. The expansion shall be in the area to the south of the Van Bibber Barn. Campground expansion should not encroach on the pathway and visual corridor for St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Future development shall follow the approach included in section 4.4.6.3 for additions and alterations.

Special Management Actions in the Visitors Services and Maintenance Zone

- Rehabilitation of Wilkinson's Cabin is recommended to accommodate a recreation room for the work camp staff.
- A wash house for the work camp is recommended.
- Upgrade of alternative energy infrastructure.

4.4 Management Guidelines for Heritage Resources and Use

This section of the Management Plan provides guidelines concerning heritage resources and the present or future uses of the Historic Site. Each heritage resource (either an individual structure or group of structures) at Fort Selkirk contributes to the site's significance. Many different uses could occur at Fort Selkirk that could be managed to minimize or mitigate impacts to heritage resources. The primary use for most of the site will be interpretation, yet some are also used for gatherings or traditional practices.

In summary, the key recommendations for the management of Fort Selkirk Historic Site heritage resources are concerned with maintaining the integrity of the site. Conservation of the site allows its significance to be enhanced and retained for future generations. The heritage resource management guidelines are summarized as follows:

- Conservation of heritage resources shall be guided by the *Standards* sections on Buildings and Materials, and Cultural Landscapes.
- Carry out minimal intervention to preserve the character of the site and ensure and protect the historic fabric from deterioration.
- Consider heritage value in any intervention.
- Maintain heritage features on an ongoing basis.
- No work shall be done without first completing documentation, research and an evaluation of the structure.
- Document all work undertaken in an updated Conservation Plan for Fort Selkirk. Continue reporting practices on field season annual work plan based on regular inspections and monitoring. Maintain inventory records of heritage resources including detailed photos, written descriptions of the resource and work completed, and recommendations of future work to be completed.

Each heritage resource (either an individual structure or group of structures) at Fort Selkirk contributes to the site's significance.

4.4.1 Built Heritage Resource Management

Continuing the work to conserve the built heritage resources of Fort Selkirk is a priority, dependent upon available resources. The conservation work will consist of preservation activities to extend the life spans of built heritage resources and rehabilitation where a built heritage resources will be adapted to meet new requirements.

In all conservation interventions, the following guidance is provided:

- Conservation and preservation actions for built structures will be ongoing.
 - Stabilization of buildings is a priority.
 - Future preservation of cabins will consider conservation of interior features such as wall coverings and movable artifacts to retain the character-defining elements and tell the story that these features convey about daily life in these homes.

- Where there are remnants of the original materials that had been used historically to cover the interior walls conservation should seek to retain representative areas that are in the best condition from further deterioration or damage.
 - The Management Committee will guide future planning of conservation of the Old Abraham and Johnny Anderson cabins.
- Plan rehabilitation work so that additions or alterations retain historic resources or features, and any new rehabilitation actions are reversible.
- Repair rather than replace, or if replacement is required, ensure that the new parts match the form, materials and details of the original.
- Ensure that new additions to the heritage resource are physically and visually compatible with, subordinate to, and distinguishable from the heritage features.
 - Use consistent roofing material and patterns to retain visual appearance.
 - Sod roof buildings may use best available membrane technology to extend the life of the roof structure.
 - It is acceptable to use modern materials in the restoration of log buildings at ground/lowest levels to reduce the rate of deterioration. New materials should not be visible. Local regrading around buildings should drain away from the foundation. If soil must be placed against the lowest logs, a waterproof membrane should be used.
- When planning for rehabilitation of a building interior, conservation guidelines will consider a conservation plan based on the heritage use of the building, appropriate materials, interpretation, and display/storage of moveable artifacts. The use of buildings for commercial purposes is permitted (e.g. selling goods in a store front) however this new commercial use should not determine the objectives or planning of a rehabilitation. These new commercial uses are secondary considerations in the rehabilitation planning.
- Occupancy shall not occur in the heritage structures, although events such as services in churches are appropriate.
- Built heritage resources potentially affected by bank erosion, revealed by ongoing monitoring of the bank, shall be relocated further back into the site while maintaining the character-defining elements in the new position, following the example provided during the relocation of the School House. Prior to relocation, each of the elements must be measured, documented in photos and text, and marked on the site survey. A photographic record of the disassembly and relocation process should be created to assist in the reassembly process.
- Maintenance of built heritage depends on two factors: ongoing visual examination of the resource by those that are working in it, and periodic reviews by people trained in building conservation techniques. Guides and work crew should be trained to observe the site and to report any signs of change or deterioration based on a checklist. Periodic reviews of components, on an annual or biannual basis, should indicate problem areas to allow normal budgeting procedures and a program of cyclical maintenance. In applying the *Standards* to conservation of existing buildings and structures at Fort Selkirk, it is important that adequate stabilization work is undertaken on the existing

collection of built heritage features to ensure the buildings and structures continue to stand in the future. This would require roofs, walls, windows and door openings be complete and sealed so that the structures are not vulnerable to rain and snow.

Particular areas of concern for maintenance of built heritage are:

- Moisture: Deterioration of the lowest logs or sills that are in contact with the soil shall be monitored. It is acceptable in conservation to use modern materials that are rot resistant in the lowest levels to ensure that the rate of deterioration is slowed. Ideally, the use of new materials would not be visible. Foundations may be raised above grade and water shall be directed to drain away from the foundation of the buildings and air movement shall be promoted to encourage drying.
- Stability: Elevations should be established from a fixed point and checked on a regular basis to ensure that the building is not “on the move”.
- Finishes: The durability of paint systems can vary widely, depending on the condition of the surface, exposure, moisture content of the walls within the building, preparation, previous finishes, etc. Only surfaces that have been historically painted should be repainted. Painting may be viewed as a conservation activity since it may prevent moisture penetration.
- The remaining structures which are still to be worked on shall be stabilized, using the *Standards* and best practices that have proven appropriate to the remainder of the site.

4.4.2 Archaeological Resource Management



Photo 30 - Bottles left in the window of the Joe Roberts cabin.



Photo 31 - Box for Fort Garry Tea used as a wall covering.

While many archaeological resources are known and documented at Fort Selkirk, there is a possibility that there are more archaeological resources that have yet to be uncovered. Ongoing archaeological research is recommended.

Archaeology permits are managed by YG, Department of Tourism and Culture. Archaeological research will follow the policies of the Selkirk First Nation Government, Historic Resources Act, and the best practice for archaeological work. Both governments will be informed of permit applications for Fort Selkirk, and applications will be reviewed with the Management Committee for terms and conditions, and compliance with the Management Plan.

The Management Plan recommends archaeological research as an ongoing action at Fort Selkirk to:

- Continue to document and increase understanding of the site.
- Provide additional recommendations for the ongoing conservation of built features and movable artifacts.
- Survey areas prior to any proposed development for archaeological resources.
- Provide information for interpretive and educational programs.

The following guidance is recommended for the conservation of archaeological resources:

- Archaeological investigation must be done prior to undertaking preservation or rehabilitation work, adding new structures on the site, or land disturbance so that the archaeology can be understood.
- Following an archaeological investigation all open excavation sites are to be restored to the original condition following completion of work.
- Allow for archaeological research projects, studies or programs at Fort Selkirk to continue to accumulate knowledge and understanding of the site.
- Where feasible projects should use community resources, and include SFN Elders and youth, the documentation of oral histories, and contribute information for use in future interpretive and educational programming.

4.4.3 Management of Moveable Artifacts



Photo 32 - Bed frames and other artifacts.



Photo 33 - Metal work artifacts.

The collection of moveable artifacts tells the story of day-to-day life at Fort Selkirk. These artifacts invoke an understanding of the personalities who lived and worked on the site. They play a vital role in helping visitors understand Fort Selkirk as a living cultural heritage site.



Photo 34 - Examples of moveable artifacts found throughout the site.

The assessment results, *Museum Unit Site Visit Report (2018)*³⁴, lays out a practical set of recommendations to address the conservation, storage and display requirements for moveable artifacts. The recommended actions address artifact inventory, identification, storage and display.

The key management recommendations of the report can be summarized as artifact conservation:

- Complete an inventory of all the artifacts in the Stone Shed and on the site, off site in Pelly Crossing at the Big Jonathan Centre, and in collections held in Whitehorse.
- Photograph all artifacts on display in the Stone House, Big Jonathan House, and other buildings. Create a binder for each building so that pest damage, vandalism and theft can be monitored.
- Inventory artifacts in the landscape.
- Prepare a policy for the collection that will guide its care, storage, security, and conservation. The policy should identify who has the responsibility for managing the collection, criteria for additions to the collection, and how it will be accessed and used in the future.
- Establish criteria for conservation treatment setting the priority for conservation care for items of high heritage value

"The core of collections management is knowing what you have in your collection, knowing why you have it, knowing where it is and taking good care of it so that the public (and staff) can access it and benefit from it"

Museum Unit Site Visit Report (2018)

³⁴ *Museum Unit Site Visit Report (2018)*, Cathy Ritchie, Collections Management Advisor, Museums Unit, YG.

- Prepare a documentation record of the artifacts that is accessible to YG and SFN, and provide a unique number to each artifact.
- Improve the storage of the collection by reorganizing how the artifacts are stored, using appropriate materials and making improvements to the Stone Shed (and possibly adding a new storage building if required).
- Involve the interpretation staff in the inventory and monitoring work relating to the artifacts. Provide training on the handling of the collection.
- Improve public awareness of the value of keeping artifacts on site and in situ (in their existing locations).

4.4.4 Conservation of Cultural Heritage Landscape Features



Photo 35 - Sod roof example at Fort Selkirk.



Photo 36 - Rhubarb growing in a small patch outside the Taylor & Drury

The landscape features within the Historic Site boundary are an essential part of Fort Selkirk's heritage value. These features include the historic trail network linking the site to the surrounding landscape, the open area within the Historic Zone (including turf and meadow, tree groupings, the lone spruce tree at the Anglican Church), the former sternwheeler ramp area, ornamental landscape features (including fences, cobble lined paths at the Anglican Church and school), former gardens (documented in archival documents but only evident on site by patches of rhubarb), former dog yards, and significant views within the site and to key landscape features on neighbouring land.

Conservation of many of these existing features involves continuing the regular maintenance activities of mowing and removal of woody shrubs and trees. There are also several depressions that indicate former building locations to be protected and sustained as evidence of historic land uses.

The conservation guidelines for cultural heritage landscape features include:

- Add documentation and inventory of cultural heritage landscape features to the annual monitoring and reporting. The documentation of the cultural landscape values is a priority to establish the base-line inventory for cultural heritage landscape resources.
- Regular and ongoing maintenance activities are required for all constructed and defined cultural heritage landscape features. These features include the trails to the Field Force Cemetery and First Nation Graveyard, the built features that define landscaped areas (flagpoles, fences, and the cobble-lined paths).
- Removal of woody vegetation and annual brushing or mowing of building depressions and foundations, and the historic sternwheeler ramp, is required to conserve the features. See section 4.5.1 for vegetation management.
- Trails that connect the historic site with places outside the boundary are to be maintained, such as the trail to the airstrip, Tthi Ts'ech'än (Victoria Rock), the Field Force Cemetery, Swinehart Farm, and Selkirk First Nation graveyard.
- Traditional routes that link Fort Selkirk with lands beyond the historic site should be researched and these routes shall be surveyed in the future to identify remaining physical evidence and research existing oral histories and interview elders to document the traditional knowledge.
- Monitor and maintain key views to the river and viewscapes up/down the river to features such as MeÂu (Basalt Bluff), Tthi Ts'ech'än Ddhäw (Victoria Mountain) and Tthi Ts'ech'än (Victoria Rock) by selective removal of woody regrowth along the bank of the river at key view points. Within the Historic Zone, this includes maintaining the long east-west view across the open space. See section 4.5.1 for vegetation management.
- Maintain the view to the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church from the campground area.



Photo 37 - Cobble-lined path in front of the Anglican Church.

The landscape features within the Historic Site boundary are an essential part of Fort Selkirk's heritage value.

- Monitor land use applications for neighbouring lands to ensure that development outside the Historic Site boundary or buffer zone does not alter the character defining features of Fort Selkirk.

4.4.5 Management of Graveyards, Cemeteries and Burial Sites

Fort Selkirk Historic Site includes several types of Indigenous and non-Indigenous burial sites³⁵. Within the Historic Site boundary all of these sites will be jointly managed by SFN and YG under the guidance of the Management Committee. These sites include two marked burials in the campground, the unmarked burial site by the Big Jonathan House, the Field Force Cemetery, and the First Nation Graveyard in the forest to the east of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Other burial sites may be identified in the future.

The First Nation Graveyard on SFN Settlement Land (SFN S-130B/D) 'is excluded from the boundary of the Historic Site and is managed by SFN'.

Management guidelines for these sites include:

- All grave markers, grave fences and memorial features associated with gravesites, cemeteries and burial sites within the Historic Site boundary will be monitored and maintained annually as required. Any damage to gravesites will be reported by staff to the Management Committee.
- The Management Committee will consult on the appropriate action if any burial sites are impacted by changes due to the environment, human use, or other preventable causes.



Photo 38 - Signage outside of the First Nation Graveyard.

³⁵ First Nations "Graveyard" refers to the burial sites in the forest near the St. Francis Xavier Church and the First Nation graveyard on SFN Settlement Land (SFN S-130B/D); 'Cemetery' refers to the Yukon Field Force Cemetery; and Burial Site' refers to all other individual burial sites at Fort Selkirk (marked and unmarked).

4.4.6 Managed Integration of Proposed New Development, Additions and Alterations

Fort Selkirk Historic Site is a *continuing evolved cultural heritage landscape*³⁶ that retains significant resources of its past uses and continues to accommodate new uses. Managed change at the site requires attention to the conditions, integrity and authenticity of Fort Selkirk so that new development, additions or alterations are sympathetic to the site's original setting, use, traditions, form, materials and design. Prior to any proposed new development, additions or alterations, review of the proposed changes by the Management Committee is required. The Committee will advise on the appropriate location, design, and allowable change. The Management Committee may seek additional expertise regarding the appropriate management of built heritage, cultural landscape heritage, or archaeological resources that are impacted by the proposed development.

Fort Selkirk Historic Site is a continuing evolved cultural heritage landscape.

Following the requirements in the previous management plans, proposals for new cabins or infrastructure require completion of an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed building site. Archaeological assessments are required both within the historic site zone and in outlying areas that are within the Management Area

Any future change or proposed additions to the site, regardless of the size or type of change, shall follow the design guidelines in the following three subsections.

4.4.6.1 First Nations Cabins Designated Development Areas in the Natural Zone.

In keeping with the recommendations of the 2000 and 1990 Management Plans, a modest number of SFN cabins, tent frames or seasonal camp facilities could be accommodated in the Natural Zone. The recommended location for SFN citizen cabin/camp facilities would be in the Natural Zone to the west (downstream) of the work camp, providing access to the river, or in the forested area of the Natural Zone (see Figure 8) south or southwest of the edge of the Historic Zone (see map in section 4.3.1).

- Construction of permanent or temporary buildings is discouraged in the Historic Zone unless it is compliant with the May 1, 1990 Selkirk First Nation Council letter (see Appendix 2) and is for enhanced interpretation purposes (see section 4.3.1).
- The Management Committee will consult with the SFN government to develop guidelines for how existing and any future cabins will be transferred and/or managed by descendants of the owner.

³⁶ 'Continuing' landscapes in which the evolutionary process is still in progress. They exhibit significant material evidence of their evolution over time. *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* (2nd Edition). 2011. Published: Canada's Historic Places (a Federal, Provincial and Territorial Partnership).

4.4.6.2 *New construction design guidelines*



Photo 39 – Elders' cabin; new construction.



Photo 40 – Work camp buildings.

New construction may take the form of a new building or an addition to an existing structure. The *Standards* recommend that new design be compatible with, distinguishable from, and subordinate to, the historic features³⁷. The contemporary construction of the work camp cabins and the Elders' cabin demonstrates these qualities. They are constructed with logs, and their location, form and scale do not detract from the visual character of the heritage features on the site. Their design and construction techniques add to an understanding of ongoing use and skill in constructing log buildings. Information in the form of archaeology, historic photos or other documents shall guide the design of new buildings added to any zone. It is recommended that any new buildings added to the site continue to follow the pattern that has been established in the area surrounding the proposed development site.

There may be a need in the future to provide more staff support infrastructure such as a wash station, a recreation building for staff, additional staff cabins, or additional camping space for tourists. These new constructions shall be in the Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone.

As with the potential addition of buildings, it is possible to add features into the landscape that enhance the interpretation of the site, access at the site, or address an issue in the environment that requires an intervention (such as repairing trail ruts).

Planning and design guidelines for new construction include:

- New additions are to be designed and constructed to not detract from the character-defining elements of the heritage resources. This would be achieved by consideration of the location, size, materials and form of new additions to ensure that proposed changes are compatible with, distinguishable from, and subordinate to, the other buildings and structures on the site.
- Any new signage that is added on site should have a low visual impact. The size, materials and form of new signage should be compatible with, distinguishable from, and subordinate to, the buildings and structures on the site.

³⁷ Ibid.

- Construction planning recommendations:
 - Build only in areas indicated by the management area plan.
 - Complete an archaeological survey.
 - Complete a servicing and development plan before construction for power, heat, water and waste requirements. Environmentally sustainable approaches to servicing will help ensure that heritage site objectives are respected, and water and waste requirements are adequate and environmentally safe. The level of servicing (for example, power and water) shall be appropriate for the heritage site setting, and not adversely affect heritage values.
 - New buildings shall be grouped together to minimize disruption to the site and to consolidate any servicing requirements.

- Design recommendations for new construction:
 - Incorporate roof slopes to match existing buildings.
 - Keep the buildings generally small in scale, using single storey structures of one or two rooms. Extra space can be built as additions to the rear of a building following the traditional pattern on site.
 - Use window sizes and proportions that appear elsewhere on site.
 - Construct new buildings using sympathetic materials as follows:
 - Logs, with notch types as used on site;
 - Wood framed windows, with wood framed storm windows if required;
 - Metal stovepipes.
 - Roof materials: shingles, galvanized corrugated metal roofing, roll roofing, or sod should be selected following the traditional materials/patterns used historically on the building type or buildings in the area of the new construction. Where there is an opportunity to use sympathetic materials with improved technical specifications, such as a waterproof membrane beneath the turf cover, its use is recommended as long as it is not visible. This is an appropriate strategy since it will extend the life and performance of the new construction and may reduce maintenance requirements.

4.4.6.3 *Alterations and Rehabilitations to existing buildings for interpretation or programming*

If there are additional modifications required to provide programming within the historic structures, these should be carefully planned so that they are reversible, minimally invasive, and leave the historic features intact.

Guidelines for alterations and rehabilitation to existing buildings for interpretation or programming include:

- Alterations to the interior of heritage buildings is permitted where additional interpretive infrastructure is required. It is recommended that a small number of selected buildings in the Historic Zone be identified in an updated Interpretive Plan for additional interior interpretive signage (see section 5.2.3.4).
 - All upgrades for enhancing the visitors' understanding of the site should be kept within the historic buildings and follow the guidelines for *Built Heritage Resource Management* (see section 4.4.1).
 - Alterations to the exterior of the buildings for interpretation or programming purposes are not appropriate.
 - Exterior signage or displays should not be attached to the exterior of buildings.
 - Exterior signage or displays should be located at an appropriate distance from a building to not detract from the heritage character.

- One exception is the Stone House Shed, located behind the Stone House. The Shed stores a collection of movable artifacts and has a restored exterior and a rehabilitated interior. Recommendations for Artifact Conservation³⁸ may be implemented as required to meet the objectives caring for the artifact collection.



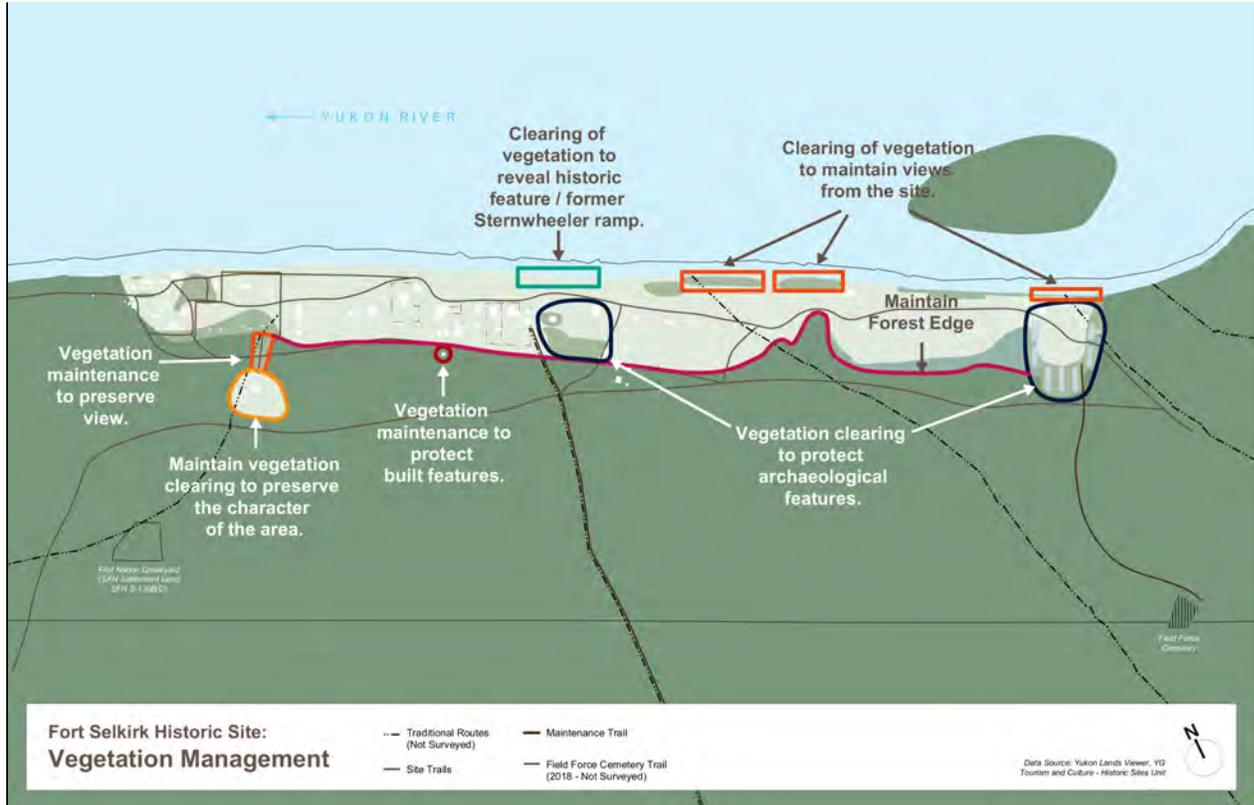
Photo 41 – Frank Blanchard cabin and Orderly Room in the background.

³⁸ *Museum Unit Site Visit Report* (2018), Cathy Ritchie, Collections Management Advisor, Museums Unit, YG.

4.5 Management of Natural Resources

Management of the natural environment and resources contributes to maintaining the character of the Historic Site.

4.5.1 Vegetation Management



Map 5 - Fort Selkirk Vegetation Management. (Full size map can be found in Appendix 3).

Ongoing maintenance of vegetation at Fort Selkirk is required to protect built heritage, maintain the open area character of the Historic Zone, maintain viewsapes, and direct the movement of people through the site.

The management guidelines for vegetation include:

- Undertake annual clearing of open spaces (maintained turf areas and meadows), circulation paths and maintenance trails to prevent woody shrubs and trees from becoming established. As required, prune regrowth vegetation in areas on the zoning plan to prevent vegetation damage to built features, minimize wildfire risks, and to maintain visual sight lines.
- Maintain the forest edge as a character defining element of the Historic Zone.
- Maintain mown turf and meadow edges in areas where visitors are encouraged to walk.
- Prune woody vegetation from the berms and depressions of former building sites to preserve and present the outlines to the visitor.
 - Within the Yukon Field Force site, it is recommended to prune the tree wall back between 5 to 8 m from the outside edge of an archaeological feature.

- For the historic ramps to the Yukon River, remove woody material from the ramps up to the HBC building area to retain the visible association of these features.
- Maintain key views to the Yukon River. Regrowth along the river bank shall be managed through selective pruning of medium and large trees to open multiple views along the river bank. However, removal of all vegetation along the banks is not recommended because vegetation is important for erosion control. (See section 4.4.4)
- Maintain forest fire cuts within and adjacent to the site.
- Motorized vehicles shall be limited to support for work activities and vehicles should use the maintenance trails to the rear of the site (near the forest edge) and avoid the turf areas in the Historic Zone whenever possible to minimize trail erosion and damage to the site's ground cover.

4.5.2 Erosion

The Yukon River experiences annual variations in water level and spring ice break. The bank is being monitored annually. The occurrence or magnitude of the events are not predictable; however, river bank erosion has been associated with past events. Retaining the existing limit of the river bank in the Historic Zone is problematic and the feasibility of engineered solutions would need to be weighed against the cost, effectiveness, and historic and visual integrity of placing embankment protections within the Historic Site.

A feasible mitigation strategy is to retain naturally occurring vegetation on the river bank areas.

- Vegetation root systems may stabilize the river bank. The management of vegetation along the river bank to retain views involves

pruning of woody plants but not the removal of all root systems or the removal of herbaceous plant material.

- Re-vegetation or planting is not recommended at this time but may be studied as a mitigation strategy in the future where the bank soil and shoulder of repose could support vegetation.

Activities that contribute to increased erosion shall also be controlled and the ongoing monitoring of erosion is recommended.



Photo 42 – Set back trail from the top of the bank and encourage the regrowth of low vegetation with spreading root systems.

- Maintenance trails, development, or visitor activities should not occur or be minimized on the top of the river bank edge or on loose soil/deposits in the river bank to reduce impacts on the stability of the bank.

4.6 Visitor Management Guidelines

The SFNFA and the Historic Resources Act outline the requirements to protect Fort Selkirk Historic Site. Visitors to Fort Selkirk appreciate the character and qualities of heritage sites and wish to take part in traditional and/or contemporary activities associated with the site. Increased visitation is encouraged as long as it doesn't result in deterioration or negative impacts on historic buildings, landscape features, artifacts, or the peaceful character of the site.

The historic buildings are generally open during the summer season for visitors to enter. This practice should continue as an important element to presenting a 'living cultural heritage site'. Open buildings will be monitored for impacts, and if required, the open-door policy may be reconsidered by the Management Committee if buildings and artifacts are being negatively impacted by visitors.

Visitor management guidelines for Fort Selkirk Historic Site balance the quality of visitor experience and use with the requirements to conserve and protect the heritage resources and values of the site.

Recommended management of visitor experience at Fort Selkirk is as follows:

- Continued delivery of the interpretive and educational programs offered at Fort Selkirk.
- Continued promotion of Fort Selkirk as a destination. Messages and media should target the Tourism Explorer Quotients (see section 2.6.1.1) to reach the tourist groups most likely to be attracted to Fort Selkirk.
- Update the Fort Selkirk Interpretive Plan (see section 5.0).
- Implement the *Museum Unit Site Visit Report (2018)*³⁹ recommendations for moveable artifact display to enhance interpretation, and secure and monitor artifacts on display.
- Ongoing maintenance of campground area and facilities.
- Plan for economic opportunities (see section 6.0) to maximize the benefits from Fort Selkirk.
- Future campground expansion (should it be required) is permitted in the Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone (see section 4.3.3).
- Guidelines for acceptable noise levels:
 - Campers shall not cause excessive noise or other kind of disturbance
 - Respect quiet hours between the posted times

³⁹ *Museum Unit Site Visit Report (2018)*, Cathy Ritchie, Collections Management Advisor, Museums Unit, YG.

- Be considerate of neighbouring campers and seasonal cabin occupants
- Personal generators are not permitted in the campground
- Personal generators at SFN cabins and the work camp will be placed at the rear of buildings (away from the Historic Zone and public access areas), sound muffling will be required in new buildings/structures to house generators, and hours of operation may be posted

4.6.1.1 Parks Day

The Management Plan recommends the ongoing use and promotion of Fort Selkirk as a Parks Day attraction.

4.6.1.2 Other Special Events

The use of Fort Selkirk for special events contributes to its role as a 'living cultural heritage site'. Special events may include, but are not limited to, cultural gatherings, wedding ceremonies, school groups and concerts.

Special events taking place on the site should not negatively impact on the heritage resources or character of the site; should be respectful of the heritage values of Fort Selkirk and SFN; and should not be invasive, destructive or create any disturbance.

The Fort Selkirk Management Committee will consider permits for special events or additional programming proposals that are compatible with the Historic Site. The Management Committee will determine which of these are feasible/of interest; if impact assessments are required before permitting proposed events; and if watchmen should be required to monitor the event.

4.7 Documentary Source Management

In addition to the management actions specific to each zone, there are long-term and ongoing documentary activities that contribute to the management of Fort Selkirk. The recommendations originally set out in the 1990 and 2000 Management Plan for ongoing record keeping and research should continue.

4.7.1 Oral history

The best means of preserving oral traditions about Fort Selkirk is to encourage people to continue telling their stories. The tradition of story telling as a way of passing on information is an important heritage action. All future heritage resource conservation, archaeological, interpretive and educational projects provide opportunities to gather oral history to extend the traditional knowledge collection and understanding of Fort Selkirk. The use of Northern Tutchone place names, kinship terms and other information about family history in interpretive programs will help strengthen the use and preservation of the language and cultural connection to the site.

Recommendations include:

- Review and assess all existing material to identify gaps in the oral history record that should be the priority for future research.
- Key SFN citizens should be identified for any further oral history documentation.
- Other former residents should also be identified to contribute to the oral history collection. Their memories could enrich students' and visitors' understanding of Fort Selkirk as a place where many cultures met in the past.

The best means of preserving oral traditions about Fort Selkirk is to encourage people to continue telling their stories. The tradition of story telling as a way of passing on information is an important heritage action.

4.7.2 Research

As new research work is generated, it should be incorporated into the collection of documentation and shared by SFN, the Government of Yukon, and accessible as part of the interpretation collection in Pelly Crossing (Big Jonathan House Visitor Centre) and at Fort Selkirk (Stone House).

Future research and documentation at Fort Selkirk will continue to contribute to the traditional knowledge and scientific data collections. Specific areas of research identified in the Management Plan include (but are not limited to):

- Archaeology
- Oral histories
- Built features and movable artifacts
- Traditional routes that link Fort Selkirk with lands beyond the historic site.

Future research priorities may be identified by the SFN or Fort Selkirk Management Committee.

Research project proposals shall be reviewed by the Management Committee.

4.8 Staff Training and Monitoring



Photo 43 – June 2018 Fort Selkirk work crew trimming bushes on site.

The Fort Selkirk work crew, interpreters and YG staff conduct critical conservation activities and monitor the site.

Achieving the goals and objectives of the Management Plan requires the ongoing training of all Fort Selkirk Staff (work crew, watchmen and interpreters) to increase skills in conservation, interpretation, site management, and/or safety. Trained staff will be responsible for monitoring the site.

In addition to monitoring the built heritage and cultural heritage landscape, annual monitoring will include:

- Water quality testing of wells.
- Maintenance and relocation (as required) of outhouses.

Non-biodegradable waste is removed from the site to an appropriate waste facility in Pelly Crossing or other location. Implementation is based on the ongoing maintenance and operations of the site by a seasonal crew, including a site manager, maintenance staff, interpreter(s), camp cook and YG staff. When the crew rotates out for their four-day break, a watchman is either hired, or a member of the crew stays on to watch the site.

All visitation within has the potential to impact resources. On site staff should be trained to monitor and report on the following impacts:

- Disturbance or loss of heritage resources and moveable artifacts.
- Hazards to human safety.
- Drinking water safety and waste disposal management.
- Maintenance of visitor service buildings and infrastructure.
- In order to protect artifacts, the watchman or staff on site during the work crew days off should regularly monitor the site, and lock and unlock the Stone House only when visitors need access to the building.

4.9 Management of Hazards and Safety

At all times, safety is a concern at Fort Selkirk Historic Site because of its remote location and the potential for natural or human-caused hazards that threaten the wellbeing of the historic site and people.

Hazard and safety situations on the site include, but are not limited to:

Naturally Occurring:

- Potential for wildlife encounters such as bears.
- Wildfire, high winds, flooding, swift river current, ice conditions, and erosion.

Human-caused:

- Fires, vandalism, or careless use of the site.

The approach for monitoring, reducing the impact of hazards, and improving safety include:

- Staff, work crew or watchman on site will monitor the site for unsafe conditions, make repairs, and respond to emergencies.
- Staff, work crew or watchman on site will inform visitors of hazards (such as the presence of bears) and inform visitors engaging in activities that are unsafe to change their behaviour.
- During the times of the year when the work crew or watchman are not present, some basic fire suppression equipment such as bags/buckets of sand will be available at key locations.

5.0 Interpretation and Education

Chapter 13 of the SFNFA includes heritage objectives “to promote public awareness, appreciation and understanding of all aspects of culture and heritage in the Yukon and, in particular, to respect and foster the culture and heritage of Yukon Indian People” (13.1.1.1), and, “to promote the recording and preservation of traditional languages, beliefs, oral histories including legends, and cultural knowledge of Yukon Indian People for the benefit of future generations” (13.1.1.2).⁴⁰

The objective of interpretation and education is to encourage the appreciation and understanding of the cultural significance, history, and resources presented at Fort Selkirk Historic Site. This is achieved through research, interpretative tours and talks, signage, informational materials available on and off-site, and education programs for use in communities or schools.

5.1 Documentation

Extensive documentation has been completed on Fort Selkirk including personal biographies of SFN members and their oral histories; bibliographies of historic, archaeological and research reports; photographic and video archival materials; Occasional Papers; maps; and other published materials. The Yukon Archives has an extensive collection documenting the history of Fort Selkirk, which can be referenced in the *Fort Selkirk Bibliography* (1988). Fort Selkirk materials are also held by the Selkirk First Nation Government in Pelly Crossing, and displayed at the Big Jonathan Heritage Centre; the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg; the Library and Archives Canada; and in other museums and heritage collections in Yukon.

These documentary sources may continue to be updated as new information is collected. All existing and future documentation will inform the ongoing development and delivery of interpretation and education programs at Fort Selkirk.

5.2 Interpretive Approach

5.2.1 Purpose of Interpretation

Interpretation is a combination of communication, education, and inspiration to help people learn about and understand a place, an event, a culture, or a perspective. Effective interpretation can increase tourism and improve visitor attitudes toward a place or a resource.

Interpretation shall:

- Share the unique story of the site and its resources.
- Enhance visitors’ experience during site visits.
- Show residents and visitors the value of heritage.
- Encourage residents and visitors to care about heritage and inspire the desire to understand and participate in the stewardship of Fort Selkirk.
- Stimulate people to consider new perspectives or participate in new experiences during their visit to Fort Selkirk.

⁴⁰ Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement. (1997). Government of Canada, The Selkirk First Nation, and the Government of Yukon.

- Be carefully integrated into the site to have minimal visual impact and minimal site disturbance.

5.2.2 Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan

The *Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan* (1994, updated 2004) defined the interpretive theme of the historic site as a "Meeting Place"⁴¹.

The Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan has been implemented in the following ways:

- Personal interpretation provided by a seasonal, on site SFN interpreter.
- Non-personal interpretation on site provided through interpretive sign posts and panels at various exterior locations, and interior displays in the Stone House, Big Jonathan House and the Orderly Room.
- The Fort Selkirk interpretive guide book, published by Yukon Tourism, Cultural Services Branch.
- The SFN Big Jonathan Visitor Welcome Centre and interpretive displays located in Pelly Crossing.
- Online resources (stories, videos, image collections) prepared and hosted by various sources.

That Interpretation Plan identified the six main themes illustrated in Figure 10 as the framework for interpretive programs.

⁴¹ Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan. (1994, updated 2004).

FORT SELKIRK INTERPRETIVE PLAN THEMATIC OUTLINE

MEETING PLACE					
The Natural World	Northern Tutchone Homeland	The Seasonal Round	Trade & Travel	Power & Sovereignty	A Shared Community
Geology	Traditional Territory	Food	Trade Routes	Hudson Bay Co. / Tlingit Rivalry	The Families
River Environment	People have been here a long time	Shelter	Trading Partners	Early Euro-American Visitors	Different Lives/ One Community
Fauna / Wildlife	Place Names and their Stories	Clothing	Trade and Supply Centre	The Missionaries	Community Life
Flora / Plants	Gatherings at Fort Selkirk	Medicine	Communications	Government Presence (Police and YFF)	Leaving Fort Selkirk
	Danny Roberts & Family	Traditional Technologies	Means of Travel	Land Claims	Many Yukoners have Selkirk Roots
	Generations Return				Preserving and Managing Fort Selkirk

Figure 5 - Fort Selkirk Interpretive Plan Thematic Outline

5.2.3 Interpretive Plan Updates

An update to the Interpretive Plan is recommended to address the additional storylines and address recommended changes at the Stone House, additional interpretive signage, and the use of technology for interpretation at Fort Selkirk.

The objectives of the Interpretive Plan update are to increase the interactive engagement of visitors with the site and its heritage resources, communicate the site’s history and the importance of protecting the resources of the site, and communicating the regulations and stewardship of the site to all visitors.

5.2.3.1 Interpretive Storylines

The 2021 Management Plan recommends updating the *Interpretive Plan* framework with additional storylines to contribute to the ongoing importance of the site as a “living cultural heritage site”.

Specific storylines to include:

- Additional interpretation of the First Nation use, occupancy and architectural heritage in the Historic area and through selected artifacts.
 - During the 2018 site visit, the guided interpretation and visit with SFN Elders shared stories of SFN gatherings for dances/jigs, the sound of the sternwheeler horn, and the re-use of materials from the old sternwheelers to build homes, grave markers, and other useful objects.
- Interpretation of the natural processes and evolution of the Natural Zone.
 - The area had importance as a resource for firewood to support Fort Selkirk and the sternwheeler activities on the Yukon River, and for building materials. The forest was cut to supply these activities, and archival images demonstrate how clear the land was prior to the 1950's.
- Interpretation of ‘Dog City’, a name used for Fort Selkirk, to highlight the important working role that dogs had in the lives of Fort Selkirk and SFN citizens and the stories of dogs greeting sternwheelers at the shore when they heard the whistle announce the boat's landing
- Interpretation of the Yukon Field Force history, and the construction, abandonment, and re-use of buildings at Fort Selkirk.
- Contemporary political issues including the SFNFA, SFN self-government, and reconciliation.



Photo 44 – Yukon Archives. Martha Louise Black fonds. #3307. Fort Selkirk riverfront scene. Dogs on riverbank waiting arrival of sternwheeler, ca. 1900. [Dog city].

5.2.3.2 Interpretive Programs

Interpretive programs delivered by the on-site interpreters or off-site at locations such as the Big Jonathan House Visitor Centre in Pelly Crossing should continue to integrate oral histories and first-person stories with factual information about Fort Selkirk. In reinforcing the value of these oral traditions, interpreters contribute to share the 'living cultural heritage site' values of the site.

Whenever possible, Elders shall be invited to participate in interpretive program delivery with students/visitors.

5.2.3.3 Stone House



Display refurbishment are recommended for inside the Stone House as part of the implementation of recommendations for *Artifact Conservation*⁴².

Planning for secure displays of artifacts and the use of replicas for interpreter demonstrations and visitor handling would ensure security and increase the lifespan of artifacts. Additional video and audio storytelling facilities at the Stone House should be encouraged to bring a personal experience into the history of the site and its artifacts.

Photo 45 - interpretation and display of artifacts at the Stone House Interpretive Centre.

5.2.3.4 Signage

The plan update should address the design of new interpretive displays and signage to be compatible with existing elements and maintain the design approach described in the original Interpretive Plan.

Additional interpretive signage within the Historic Zone should be kept to a minimum, and where additional interpretive signage is required it should be located inside a building as a free-standing element (see the Orderly Room for an example) or located away from heritage buildings to reduce visual impacts. The updated Interpretive Plan should identify the buildings that are suitable for additional interior interpretive signage.

An information sign with a site map and regulations at the site is recommended for the campground. The following map identifies the existing interpretive signage or display locations and sites with potential for new signage. The exact location of new signage will be determined in an update of the Interpretive Plan.

⁴² *Museum Unit Site Visit Report* (2018), Cathy Ritchie, Collections Management Advisor, Museums Unit, YG



Map 6 - Fort Selkirk Interpretive Signage. (Full size map can be found in Appendix 3).

5.2.3.5 New Technology

Opportunities for new ways to interpret Fort Selkirk may consider the use of technology and telecommunications as these continue to evolve in Yukon.

For example, Virtual (or Augmented) Reality is used at heritage sites around the world to offer visitors a tour of a site as it may have been in the past or a view of an artifact as it may have once looked. There is a desire to show the First Nation building forms that once occupied the Historic Zone. Virtual Reality is one interpretive tool that could allow visitors to experience the area as it was once built and bring people closer to the experience of First Nation residents living here. As a tool, Virtual Reality allows for the past to be reconstructed without making any changes to the physical resources or landscape. Virtual Reality can be accomplished with downloadable apps available during a visitor's pre-trip planning, or through devices borrowed at the site from the Stone House visitor centre. This technology does not require internet access, however as the telecommunications evolves in Yukon, the availability of new technology will continue to bring opportunities for site interpretation that should be embraced at Fort Selkirk to share the living cultural heritage of the site.

5.3 Education

Education programs about Fort Selkirk Historic Site may be developed for delivery in the Eliza Van Bibber School in Pelly Crossing, at other schools in the territory, at visitor/heritage centres, or on site.

Education programs should enable and encourage students to:

- Become aware of Fort Selkirk Historic Site and its unique place in the history and culture of the SFN and Yukon;
- Gain a foundation of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Fort Selkirk's historical, cultural and natural heritage, resources, and the requirements to manage and conserve the site;
- Understand and be able to comply with the regulations that govern Fort Selkirk Historic Site; and
- Develop a sense of stewardship and personal responsibility for conservation of Fort Selkirk.

5.3.1 Schools

The Eliza Van Bibber School and any other school in Yukon that wishes to access information about Fort Selkirk will benefit from educational resource materials (online and print) as an opportunity to introduce students to the general principles and concepts of stewardship, heritage appreciation, and to the unique heritage features and elements of Historic Sites in Yukon.

Specifically, the history and cultural heritage of Fort Selkirk would link Pelly Crossing students to their heritage and ensure that the young people understand that it is an important part of their culture.

Cultural education programs directly relating to the significant heritage of Fort Selkirk could include family histories associated with Fort Selkirk, historic building conservation, artifact conservation, studying and understanding the historic link between Fort Selkirk, First Nations, and the development of Yukon.

The responsibility to develop and deliver materials through the education system would require consultation with the Department of Education, in order to understand and comply with curriculum development standards and identify the grades that would educational materials should target.

5.3.2 Public Education Programs

Outside of the school system, the educational materials prepared for the school can be made available for the general public to access online. This provides the opportunity to introduce people to the unique heritage features and elements of Historic Sites in Yukon.

5.4 Conservation through Promoting Stewardship

Conservation requires a commitment to increase public awareness and promote stewardship of historic sites. The objective is to increase public understanding of the value of the historic site that encourages all people to be stewards of heritage. This is achieved by developing key messages about the purpose of conservation, and the stewardship efforts that are required for conservation to be successful.

There are five stages of developing stewardship commonly used in interpretation and education for heritage sites and resources: Awareness, Understanding, Respect, Care, and Promotion.



Figure 6 - The Cycle of Heritage Awareness (NVision)

1. **Awareness** is using key messages in interpretation and education to sensitize all users of the site to the importance of Fort Selkirk, and to identify the individual and shared roles in protecting heritage resources.
2. **Understanding** of heritage conservation management is planned into interpretive and educational materials and activities that are taking place at Fort Selkirk to ensure the message is reaching all of the user groups. Stewardship must be understood by everyone.
3. **Respect** is the recognition of the living heritage of Fort Selkirk and highlighting the value of the cultural connection for SFN and Yukoners with the site. Key messages should explain why the site and its resources deserve respect.
4. **Care** for Fort Selkirk is communicating the shared responsibility for conservation.
5. **Promotion** of stewardship as a management approach is achieved through the delivery of interpretive and education programs at/about Fort Selkirk.

It is recommended that the updated Interpretive Plan and education program include key messages that will promote stewardship at Fort Selkirk by all site users.

5.5 Management Plan Recommendations for Interpretation and Education

A review and update of the Fort Selkirk Interpretation Plan (1994, updated 2004) shall incorporate additional stories, address incomplete recommendations from the previous plan, and update the following actions:

- **Key Messages:** Develop key messages about the purpose of conservation and stewardship at Fort Selkirk. These messages shall include first person accounts from SFN and other Yukon citizens about the values of stewardship; information about the methods and outcomes of conservation; and information to all visitors about their role in protecting the site for the future. Once developed the key messages can be integrated into interpretive and educational materials or activities.

- Continue to research and document Fort Selkirk to contribute traditional knowledge and scientific data to interpretive and educational programs:
 - Archaeology
 - Oral histories
 - Built features and movable artifacts
 - Traditional routes that link Fort Selkirk with lands beyond the historic site
- Interpreter: Continue the mentorship program for one or more SFN individuals to be trained by the skilled SFN on site interpreters to develop a future generation of storytellers.
- Stone House: Plan to retrofit the interpretive displays in the Stone House to provide permanent display panels and secure display cases on the key themes.
- Implement the artifact conservation and display recommendations in the *Museum Unit Site Visit Report* (2018).
- Campsite Signage for Information and Regulation: Budget for the fabrication and installation of a site and context map and interpretive panel to be installed in the campsite. The sign content shall provide regulations, information and orientation of Fort Selkirk for visitors.
- Publish an updated version of the Fort Selkirk (*Your Guide to Fort Selkirk Historic Site*) and Fort Selkirk Archaeology booklets in print and for online digital access.
- Online Content: Support the continuing development of on-line content on the history and significance of Fort Selkirk for use in the Visitor Centre, education programs, and marketing materials. All existing and new interpretive content will be made available online in digital form and available for download by potential visitors as an interpretive method. In the future, should cellular services become available in the region of Fort Selkirk, digital content for on site interpretation can be enhanced.
- Public Education: Special Events such as Parks Day or programs at the Big Jonathan Visitor Centre shall be encouraged as educational opportunities for the public.

6.0 Economic Opportunities



Photo 46 – Yukon Archives. P.A.M., FTD 22/10-18. Interior of the Schofield and Zimmerlee Store, October 1937. photographer John Gregg.

In accordance with the SFNFA, Chapter 13, Schedule A, the management of Fort Selkirk Historic Site will address “economic opportunities for the Selkirk First Nation associated with Fort Selkirk” (3.7.10).

SFN members may be given the opportunity to obtain contracts related to the management and/or the supply of goods/products for the Historic Site.

There are several short and long-term economic opportunities related to the Management Plan for the SFN to consider.

6.1 Employment

Direct employment of SFN members as staff (work crew, watchman and interpreters) will be ongoing for the implementation of the Management Plan and SFNFA, providing direct economic benefits. The continuation of the SFN caretaker and interpreter’s seasonal employment at Fort Selkirk is recommended.

Ongoing training of individuals in conservation is recommended. Training and experience provided at Fort Selkirk may lead to contract work for the log structures at the Historic Site or elsewhere in the Territory. Other training activities may include involving SFN members in lead and/or advisory capacities for the development of cultural interpretation and education materials recommended in the Management Plan. Continuation of the mentoring program for future interpreters is also recommended.

6.2 Business Opportunities

An immediate and ongoing economic opportunity for SFN members is to address the access issue for visitors wanting boat transportation to Fort Selkirk from Pelly Crossing, Pelly Farm or Minto. Attracting new visitors to the site will encourage economic benefit to SFN.

6.2.1 Boat Service and Day Excursions

A seasonal boat service between Pelly Farm and Fort Selkirk that includes a full or half day excursion package provides an outfitting business opportunity that could be developed by an SFN citizen, SFN business, or the Selkirk Development Corporation.

Strengthening the access links between Pelly Crossing and Fort Selkirk requires a feasibility study and business planning. The planning work would be initiated by the business operator but may require initial support from the SFN government.

The feasibility study shall identify the requirements (regulatory, financial, equipment and training) and establish a business plan. The feasibility study shall include surveying highway travellers to collect updated information on their motivations and interests for visiting Fort Selkirk. Surveying could be completed through a partnership of the SFN and YG governments. Survey data will direct the planning of day trips and/or drop off/pick up trips required to capture the segment of the tourism market travelling the highways that are interested in Fort Selkirk.

The Pelly Farm public access point would be used for boat launch/landings and parking. The excursion package shall consider site interpretation, cultural activities, and providing meals. Insurance costs, equipment costs, salaries, and regulatory requirements must be considered in planning.

6.2.2 Film and Special Events Location

The unique qualities of Fort Selkirk offer potential to attract film crews, and the use of Fort Selkirk as a film, special event or concert location may generate revenue through permit fees, employment, and contracted support services. However, the use of the site for film productions or other commercial events must be balanced with protection of the resources, use of the site by visitors and SFN citizens, and the impact on the site's services to accommodate a film crew for various lengths of time.

It is recommended that the Management Committee develop a policy for the use of Fort Selkirk for filming and other similar uses. The policy will identify a contact at SFN and identify the types of activities that are compatible with the site, and what activities are not. For example, Parks Canada includes some of the following considerations for allowing filming at historic sites:

- What works well: Small productions involving minimal equipment and crew size to limit the impact on the environment and the visitors; productions requiring minimal shooting time and assistance from the staff and work crew of the site; hiring the services of local citizens to support the production; educational productions contributing to the objectives, messages and themes of the site; and productions requesting off-season shooting dates.
- What won't work: Using equipment, chemicals, or engaging in any activity that may damage the environment and structures of the site; and portraying activities that are illegal, damaging to the image or conflict with messages of the site and its owners/managers.

The Management Committee would also determine the application process, permit fee, and fees for any use of on-site services, facilities or staff in support of a film production.

6.2.3 Additional Programming

There are opportunities to extend the use of Fort Selkirk for special programs (if desired) such as culture camps, Elders' retreats, educational or training programs. Facilities in the work camp could be utilized in the shoulder season of operation for special programs. It is recommended that special programming that is allowed on the site shall be directly associated with the significant heritage and history of Fort Selkirk Historic Site. Programs that do not have a link to the site shall be considered carefully and are probably better suited to be offered at other locations.

Should there be interest to develop and implement the special programs for delivery at Fort Selkirk in the off-season, these may provide various contracting opportunities for SFN citizens or businesses.

The Fort Selkirk Management Committee shall develop a policy and permit for the use of the site for additional programming, including consideration of the operational costs for proposed special programs and may recommend the permit fee to address these costs and the appropriate security deposit.

Prior to any special program proposal being submitted to the Management Committee for review, the proponent shall be required to conduct an impact assessment to assess the impacts on heritage resources. The impact assessment would consider:

- Water and waste disposal;
- Fuel requirements and power generation;
- Communication requirements;
- Accommodations and shelter requirements;
- Cooking and food storage;
- Site access (regular and emergency access);
- Fire suppression;
- Program use and impacts on resources across the site (for example, if a heritage building is to be used);
- Caretaker staffing requirements to operate and monitor the site during special programs;
- Benefits to the site and messaging associated with the site; and,
- Public benefit.

The impact assessment will determine the feasibility of special programs and shall recommend the requirements for planning (human resources, capital, and operations). Extending the use of the site for special programs impacts the site, the infrastructure, and the management costs to keep facilities operating longer. All programs must be developed based on the principles and guidelines of the Fort Selkirk Historic Site 2021 Management Plan. All programs must be supported/approved by the Management Committee.

Use of the site by third party organizations shall include a contract or permit with Terms of Use. This shall include fees, the provision for a Fort Selkirk staff person to be on site during the event to monitor use, and a security deposit to insure against unforeseen damages to the site.

6.2.4 Fall and Winter Access to the Site

Off-season access to Fort Selkirk by snowmobile, skiing or hiking may offer economic opportunities for SFN. The Management Committee may consider proposals from Yukon businesses or organizations interested in promoting Fort Selkirk as a destination for off-season visitation.

The use of the site off-season must be carefully planned and managed to protect resources. Partner agreements would ensure that the Management Committee identifies trusted to grant access to the site. The committee shall determine the terms and conditions for use of the site off-season by the partners. Partners would be required to present a feasibility study for their proposed activity to the Management Committee for review and approval.

It is recommended that the Management Committee develop a policy for the use of Fort Selkirk off-season. The policy should consider the types of access that are compatible with the site; the application process for an outfitter/guide wishing to market the site as a fall/winter attraction; the messages that are to be used by the partner in their marketing of off-season access; and the permit and fees to be paid for access.

6.3 Recommendations for Economic Opportunities

The Management Plan recommendations for economic opportunities associated with Fort Selkirk are summarized as:

- Employment of SFN citizens as seasonal staff:
 - Ongoing training and skills development for staff to develop capacity for conservation activities on site or elsewhere in Yukon.
 - Continue mentoring program for a new generation of interpreters.
- Boat service and day excursion feasibility study:
 - Business plan and feasibility study.
 - Survey of highway travellers to collect data to inform planning of excursion tours.
- Filming and Special Events Permits:
 - The Management Committee shall develop a policy for the use of Fort Selkirk for filming.
 - The Management Committee shall determine the application process, permit fee, and other fees for any use of the site.
- Use of Fort Selkirk for additional programming contract opportunities, or fall and winter access by tourism partners:
 - The Management Committee will develop a policy for the use of the site off-season, including allowable activities and permit fees.
 - Impact assessments will be required by a proponent prior to any special program proposal being submitted to the Management Committee for review.

7.0 Site Administration

7.1 Management Plan Performance Measures

Measuring progress is an important part of the plan implementation. The plan is a guide that shall serve as a regular reference for making management decisions.

The applicable performance measures are:

- Degree of compliance with the terms and conditions of the SFNFA Chapter 13.
- Degree of compliance with site management goals, objectives and work plan priorities set out in the 2021 Management Plan, and the previously adapted Preservation Plan (1992) and Interpretation Plan (1994, updated 2004) or the subsequent updates of other planning documents.
- Level of visitor use, and impacts associated with visitor use are consistent with management guidelines.
- Visitor satisfaction levels are consistent or improving based on the annual data collected through survey and/or register comments.
- An annual “report card” is prepared, assessed and acted upon prior to the following season.
- Evidence that Management Plan recommendations have been implemented on schedule and within budget.
- Level of partner funding support is consistent with plan priorities.

7.1.1 Operations and Annual Work Planning

The Management Plan recommends the continuation of the planning and reporting structure and format for Fort Selkirk Historic Site based on previous years’ templates, including:

- Annual Work Plan;
- Annual Budget;
- Conservation Plan; and
- Interpretive Plan.

It is recommended that inventory and documentation be extended to include the character-defining cultural landscape elements in the Historic Zone as a baseline for future planning.

8.0 Action Plan and Budget

The Fort Selkirk Historic Site Management Plan is a living document which can be adapted to changes within the Historic Site, to take advantage of new opportunities, to address unforeseen events, and to accommodate the availability of resources required for its implementation. This section presents the Action Plan and Budget.

8.1 Action Plan

The action plan is organized by management recommendation activities will be implemented over the next 10 years. Ongoing actions are listed first, followed by activities which will be timed in increments of year 1-2; year 3-4; year 4-5; year 5-6; or later years.

8.1.1 Management Committee and Administration

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Ongoing	Implement the Management Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manage and operate the site based on reasonable funding expectations and human resource capabilities - Continue to provide monitoring of site management effectiveness and reporting within resource capabilities. 	Management Committee SFN/YG	All sections	All goals
Ongoing	Meet a minimum of two times per year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annually monitor the implementing of the Management Plan, annual work plans, annual budget, and any other plans associated with the conservation of the site (e.g. updated Conservation Plan and Interpretive Plan). 	Management Committee SFN/YG	7.1	8
Ongoing	Communication from SFN and YG governments to the Management Committee on issues or actions requiring advice (as required).	Management Committee SFN/YG	4.1	7, 8
Yr. 1-2	Develop guidelines for land use and development in the Management Area buffer to ensure the heritage values of Fort Selkirk are respected in all decisions regarding the site.	Management Committee		2, 8

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Yr.2-3	Develop a filming or special event policy and guidelines. - Determine the application process, permit fee, and other fees for any use of the site.	Management Committee	4.6	4, 8
Yr.2-3	Develop a process for the review of proposals for new development or additions for SFN cabins or camps in accordance with the management plan guidelines.	Management Committee	4.4.6	5, 8
Yr.2-3	Develop a process for the review of proposals and planning for new additions or alterations to existing built heritage resources in accordance with the management plan guidelines.	Management Committee	4.4.6	5
Yr.2-3	Develop a risk assessment report that will assess, identify and document appropriate measures associated with hazards within the historic site.	Management Committee		
Yr.3-4	Develop economic activities, programs and off-season use policy and guidelines. - Develop a policy for the use of the site for business, programs and off-season use, including allowable activities Determine the application process, permit fee, and other fees for any use of the site.	Management Committee	6.2	4, 8
As Required	The Management Committee will review proposals and requests for change as they arise to ensure that the heritage resources are protected.	Management Committee	4.0	8

8.1.2 Conservation

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Ongoing	<p>Continue annual conservation work of each of the buildings and built structures in the Historic Zone. Reference the Management Plan guidelines, and the <i>Standards and Guidelines</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue stabilization and weatherproofing work on existing built heritage features to ensure the buildings and structures continue to stand for the future. - Continue maintenance and restoration (as required) of gravesites, cemeteries and burials. - Continue reporting practices on field season annual work plan based on regular inspections and monitoring. - Maintain inventory records of heritage resources including detailed photos, written descriptions of the resource and work completed, and recommendations of future work to be completed. 	Management Committee SFN/YG	4.0	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8
Ongoing	<p>Stewardship – promote stewardship of Fort Selkirk as a key message to preserve, protect and manage the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote to SFN members, Yukoners, and all third-party interests that access the site 	SFN/YG	5.4	1, 3, 6
Ongoing	Continue to research Fort Selkirk's heritage resources, cultural and natural history, and significant personal stories.	SFN/YG	4.0 and 5.0	1, 2, 5

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
	- Utilize traditional knowledge			
	and undertaking research as required to enhance the management, conservation and interpretation of the site.			
Ongoing	<p>Archaeological Surveys:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue archaeological investigation and research to increase understanding of the site. <p>Complete archaeological surveys prior to undertaking preservation or rehabilitation work, adding new structures on the site, or actions that may require land disturbance.</p>	Management Committee SFN/YG	2.3.1, 4.3, 4.4.2 and 4.4.6	1, 2, 5
Beginning in Yr. 1-2 and ongoing	<p>The recommendations of the Museum Unit Site Visit report be implemented (for the inventory and display of moveable artifacts and cultural landscape features).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority: Historic Zone - As resources permit: Natural Zone and Visitor Services and Maintenance Zone 	Management Committee SFN/YG	4.4.3 and 4.4.4	1, 2, 5
Yr. 1-2	Locate and document the First Nation graves areas in the forest to the southeast of the St. Francis Xavier Church.	SFN/YG	4.4.5	2

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Yr. 4-5	Update the Conservation Plan for Fort Selkirk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Include the recommendations for artifact conservation. - Add documentation and inventory of cultural heritage landscape features to the annual Conservation Plan monitoring and reporting. - Apply best practices and guidelines in conservation for built heritage and cultural landscapes, to retain the heritage values 	Management Committee SFN/YG	4.4	1, 2, 5

8.1.3 Site Maintenance and Operation

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Ongoing	<p>Annual Site Maintenance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain all built heritage and cultural landscapes. - Complete annual work planning cycle. - Remove or mitigate hazards and safety issues. - Complete water quality testing of wells. - Maintain campground. - Manage site vegetation: mowing and vegetation removal around built heritage. - Maintain forest fire cuts in the Natural Zone and FireSmart as required. - Maintain all trails in the historic site boundary - Maintain the Field Force Cemetery, First Nation Graveyard, unmarked graves, and burial sites within the historic site boundary 	<p>Management Committee SFNG/YG</p> <p>Work Crew/ staff</p>	4.0	1, 5, 6, 7
Ongoing	Continue training Fort Selkirk Staff (work crew, watchmen and interpreter) to increase skills in conservation, interpretation, site management, and/or safety.	SFNG/YG	4.8 and 5.0	4, 6, 7
Ongoing	Continue to provide all visitors to Fort Selkirk with an exceptional experience while maintaining the heritage values of the site.	<p>Management Committee SFN/YG</p> <p>Work Crew/ staff</p>	4.3.3 and 4.6	3, 6
Ongoing	Continue to monitor for safety hazards and act to protect human safety and the security of resources.	<p>Work Crew</p> <p>SFN/YG</p>	4.9	6

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Ongoing	Erosion: Continue ongoing monitoring of the river bank edge.	Work Crew SFN/YG	4.3.1 and 4.5.2	1

8.1.4 Development

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Ongoing	Conservation, use, maintenance or development at Fort Selkirk will be implemented within the management guidelines for each zone and type of resource as described in the Management Plan.	Management committee SFN/YG	4.0	1, 2, 5, 8
As required	Proposals for new development or alterations to SFN cabins at Fort Selkirk in the Natural Zone will be reviewed by the Management Committee. New construction of permanent or temporary buildings in the Historic Zone will be addressed through annual planning and available resources from both governments.	Management Committee	4.3.1, 4.3.2 and 4.4.6	5, 8
As required	Proposals for special events tent frames or temporary camps will be reviewed by the Management Committee and may be acceptable for special events or purposes. These would best be located in the vicinity of Big Jonathan's House.	Management Committee	4.3.1 and 4.4.6	5, 8
Ongoing	Monitor campground occupancy levels. If visitation increases, plan the future campground expansion to the south of the campground. Campground expansion will not encroach on the pathway and visual corridor for St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.	Management committee SFN/YG	4.3.3 and 4.6	5, 6, 7, 8
Yr. 1-2	Plan and develop a wash house for the work camp.	Management Committee SFN/YG	4.3.3 and 4.4.6	5

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Yr. 3-4	Plan and rehabilitate the Wilkinson's cabin to accommodate a recreation room for the work camp staff.	Management Committee SFN/YG	4.4.6	5

8.1.5 Visitation and Tourism

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Ongoing	Encourage continuing use by SFN and Yukoners as a 'living cultural heritage site' through traditional use and visitation.	SFN/YG	4.6	1, 3
Ongoing	Promote Fort Selkirk as a destination for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents of Yukon - River travellers - Tourists - Organizations including school groups, Scouts, Canadian Rangers, etc. 	SFN/YG	5.5	1, 4, 6
Ongoing	Ongoing planning and support for Parks Day and other special events at Fort Selkirk.	SFNG/YG	4.6.1.1	4, 6
Yr.4-5	Tourism Surveys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey river travellers and site visitors to collect data to inform planning for visitation. - Survey highway travellers to collect data to inform a feasibility study for a boat service and day excursion business. 	YG Tourism and Culture/SFN	6.2.1	6

8.1.6 Economic Opportunities

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Ongoing	Use available resources in Pelly Crossing and area during conservation, management and operation.	SFN/YG	6.2	2, 4
As required	Boat service and day excursion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage and support SFN businesses or individuals to develop a business plan and feasibility study. 	Management Committee	6.2.1	2, 4, 6
As required	Use Fort Selkirk for film and special events to generate revenue, where these activities do not harm the site and its resources: subject to a policy and guidelines.		6.2.2 and 6.2.3	4, 6
As required	Use of Fort Selkirk for additional programming contract opportunities for fall and winter access by partners: subject to a policy and guidelines.	Management Committee Proponent	6.2.2, 6.2.3 and 6.2.4	4, 6

8.1.7 Interpretation and Education

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Ongoing	Continue delivery of the interpretive and educational programs at Fort Selkirk and at the Big Jonathan House Visitor Centre in Pelly Crossing.	Interpreter and SFN	4.6	2, 3, 6
Ongoing	<p>Oral History:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue collection of oral histories. <p>Identify gaps in the existing information that should be researched and identify SFN citizens and other Yukoners to record.</p>	Management Committee SFN/YG	4.7.1 and 5.0	1, 2, 3
Yr.1-2	<p>Update the Fort Selkirk Interpretive Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expansion of the interpretive themes. - Identify locations and design of new interpretive infrastructure. - Plan for the use of new technology to share the interpretive messages. 	Management Committee	5.2 and 5.5	2, 3, 6
Yr. 5-6	Update and publish the Fort Selkirk booklet and the Fort Selkirk Archaeology booklet.	YG Tourism and Culture	5.5	1, 3, 6
Yr.2-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan, fabricate and install informational and regulatory signage in the campground to inform visitors of site rules and stewardship 	YG Tourism and Culture/SFN	5.0	3, 6

Timing	Description	Responsible Party	Section Reference	Supports Goal
Yr. 5-6	Promote Land Stewardship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop key messages about the land stewardship of Fort Selkirk. - Inform and educate Fort Selkirk staff to deliver land stewardship messages to visitors. - Include land stewardship messages in future interpretive and educational media. 	Management Committee	5.4	1, 3
Yr.5-6	Education: Develop educational materials to share with Yukon schools.	YG Tourism and Culture / Education SFN	5.3 and 5.5	1, 3
Later Yr. 7+	Survey and research traditional routes that link Fort Selkirk with lands beyond the historic site.	SFN	4.4.4 and 5.5	1, 3

8.2 Operating and Capital Costs

Fort Selkirk Historic Site is co-managed by the SFNG and YG. The governments will provide the primary financial contribution for the operation of the site, which includes the resources for staffing, training, planning, preservation and implementation of the Management Plan.

8.2.1 Operations and Maintenance Budget

The annual Operational and Maintenance (O+M) funding budget is for the continuing maintenance of Fort Selkirk and conservation of built features (e.g. rehabilitation / stabilization responsibilities) and the cultural landscape. Funding allocations cover the following:

1. **Operational and maintenance activities:**
 - Contracts (equipment repairs and servicing, structural assessments, site planning).
 - Building materials, work camp supplies, tool and equipment purchases.
2. **Site Staff and Training:**
 - Staff salary (work crew, interpreters, work camp staff).
 - Staff training (heritage conservation, work place safety, trade certifications).
3. **YG Campground Operation (funding from Yukon Parks) to support:**
 - Campground maintenance (outhouses, warming shelter, garbage disposal).
 - Supply free firewood to campground.
4. **Special Events Support from SFN and YG:** Events include but are not limited to Parks Day, Selkirk Days and conservation courses or other educational activities.
 - Staff wages, event planning, advertising, refreshments, volunteer organization, providing boats and boat operators, fuel.

8.2.2 Capital Projects

Funding for capital projects and major asset purchases may vary greatly from year to year depending on the types of equipment/material purchases or planned development at Fort Selkirk. SFN and YG Tourism and Culture - Historic Sites contribute funds for the purchase of capital assets (e.g. outboard motors, side-by-sides, generators, etc.) as well as large contracts like plans or new buildings.

Campground capital costs such as new/replacement outhouses, fire rings, or picnic tables are budget items for YG Environment – Yukon Parks.

Other funding partners may be identified in the future should projects be eligible for third party funding.

The following table summarizes the key Capital Projects identified in the Management Plan and projected estimated costs. Capital Project budget allocations may be spread over multiple fiscal years. Annual work plans and budgets prepared by SFN, YG and the Management Committee will determine the timeframe and budget allocations on a project by project basis.

Table 1 - Capital Budget

Capital (one-time)		
Description	Year 1-5	Year 5-10 <i>Factor inflation at the five-year average</i>
Equipment Purchase/Replacement (as required)	\$5,000 - \$7,500 per year	
Special Project Building and structure renovation / rehabilitation / stabilization (as required based on priorities)	Costs will vary from 20,000 to 100,000 depending on the project	
Wash House (Work Crew Shower Facility)	\$40,000	
Recreation Room (Work Crew) Rehabilitation and Furnishing	\$15,000 -20,000	
Fire Suppression	\$1,500	
Oral history and traditional knowledge documentation project	\$5,000-\$10,000 per year as required for the project	
Artifact Management Plan implementation	\$5,000-\$10,000 per year as required for the project	
Interpretive Plan Update	\$25,000-\$40,000	
Stone House Interpretive Centre Display Refurbishment	\$25,000-\$40,000	
Interpretive Signage or Media Fabrication and Installation (campground, Historic Zone)	\$25,000-\$40,000	
Educational Materials Planning, Development, and Implementation	\$25,000-\$40,000	
Campground expansion (if required)		\$8,000-\$10,000
Work Camp expansion (if required)		Costs will vary based on plan.

	Year 1-2	Year 3-4	Year 5-7	Year 8-10
Annual Inflation Factor Estimate*	2.1%	2.3%	2.6%	2.9%

* Inflation factors are estimates based on the 2016-2021 Economic Outlook for Canada, Treasury Board of Canada.

Cost estimates are a projection of the future financial requirements for management implementation. These cost estimates are organized as multi-year estimates to allow budget planning flexibility.

Cost estimating is typically based on a specific “class” of estimate. The cost estimates used in the Management Plan are defined by the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat as “Class D Estimates (Preliminary)”. Class D is a low order of magnitude estimate based on a conceptual description for a treatment that is considered accurate within plus/minus 30% of the actual costs for the recommended treatment. The cost estimates required to implement the Management Plan at the time of contracting or detailed planning shall be based on the actual cost/quotes received from contractors.

9.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Previous Vision Statements

Fort Selkirk Vision Statement – 1990

“Fort Selkirk is a living cultural heritage site. As a meeting place it has a long tradition of multicultural human use. To the Selkirk First Nation it is part of their homeland, a special place for spiritual and cultural renewal. To the visitor, Fort Selkirk provides a rare glimpse into the native way of life and is a striking reminder of the history of trade and settlement in the north. This heritage must be protected.

The native way of life will be respected at Fort Selkirk, and the Selkirk First Nation will be able to foster the growth of their culture. Cultural and educational activities planned by the Selkirk First Nation would be encouraged. Visitors will seek understanding through interpretation, education, and self-discovery. Native youth will learn from their Elders.

Heritage structures and sites will be protected and maintained according to guidelines set out in the plan. Reconstruction of some buildings could help recreate a setting from earlier times, as well as be useful in the present. In time, the interior of some heritage structures may be restored to interpret the past. Other buildings will be left as they are, some used for services or others for display. New buildings or shelters for use by Selkirk First Nation members or tourists shall be located and designed to complement the heritage character of the site.

All visitor activities and development will be compatible with the heritage resources and character of the site. A balance must be found between visitor services and the need to protect the peaceful and spiritual aura that is at the heart of the Fort Selkirk experience. In the short term, visitors will be self-sufficient, but the future sale of food, crafts, or guiding services would be in keeping with the trading history of the site. A more complete interpretive story will help visitors gain an appreciation of Fort Selkirk. Signs and guiding services may be provided, but ample room shall be left for individual exploration.

The plan will be implemented in stages, using a community development approach. Growth in tourism will be gradual and in keeping with the Fort Selkirk setting. Training, education, business and employment opportunities will occur at a pace determined by the Selkirk First Nation. Where possible, cooperative funding and management arrangements will be used to implement the plan.

Fort Selkirk will grow as a place of renewal, and a place to strengthen connections with the past. It will also be a place for visitors to see and hear firsthand the heritage left from early settlement and trade.”

Fort Selkirk Vision Statement – 2000

Fort Selkirk represents a continuum of life in the past, present, and future. The history provides the context of the place and sustains the connection to the present. Fort Selkirk is a “living cultural heritage site”. It remains a meeting place, full of opportunities to learn., educate, and share. Fort Selkirk will evolve as peoples’ needs and aspirations change. There is a clear consensus that the original management plan goal remains as valid today as it did in 1990. The vision statement, goals, and objectives also reflect the Selkirk Final Agreement.

Appendix 2

May 1, 1990 Selkirk First Nation Council letter of clarification to the Fort Selkirk Management Plan

RE: FORT SELKIRK MANAGEMENT PLAN CLARIFICATION

TO: Steering Committee Members

As agreed, the study team presented the Fort Selkirk Management Plan to the Selkirk First Nation Council on May 1, 1990. Questions were asked regarding "Preservation Area A" described on page 31 of the main report. This letter clarifies the intent of Preservation Area A, without changing the content or context of the plan.

The text for Preservation Area A in the plan suggests a more restrictive management approach than was intended. Note that the use of specific buildings would always be decided by the management group. The clarification for this area reads:

Preservation Area "A":

Objective:

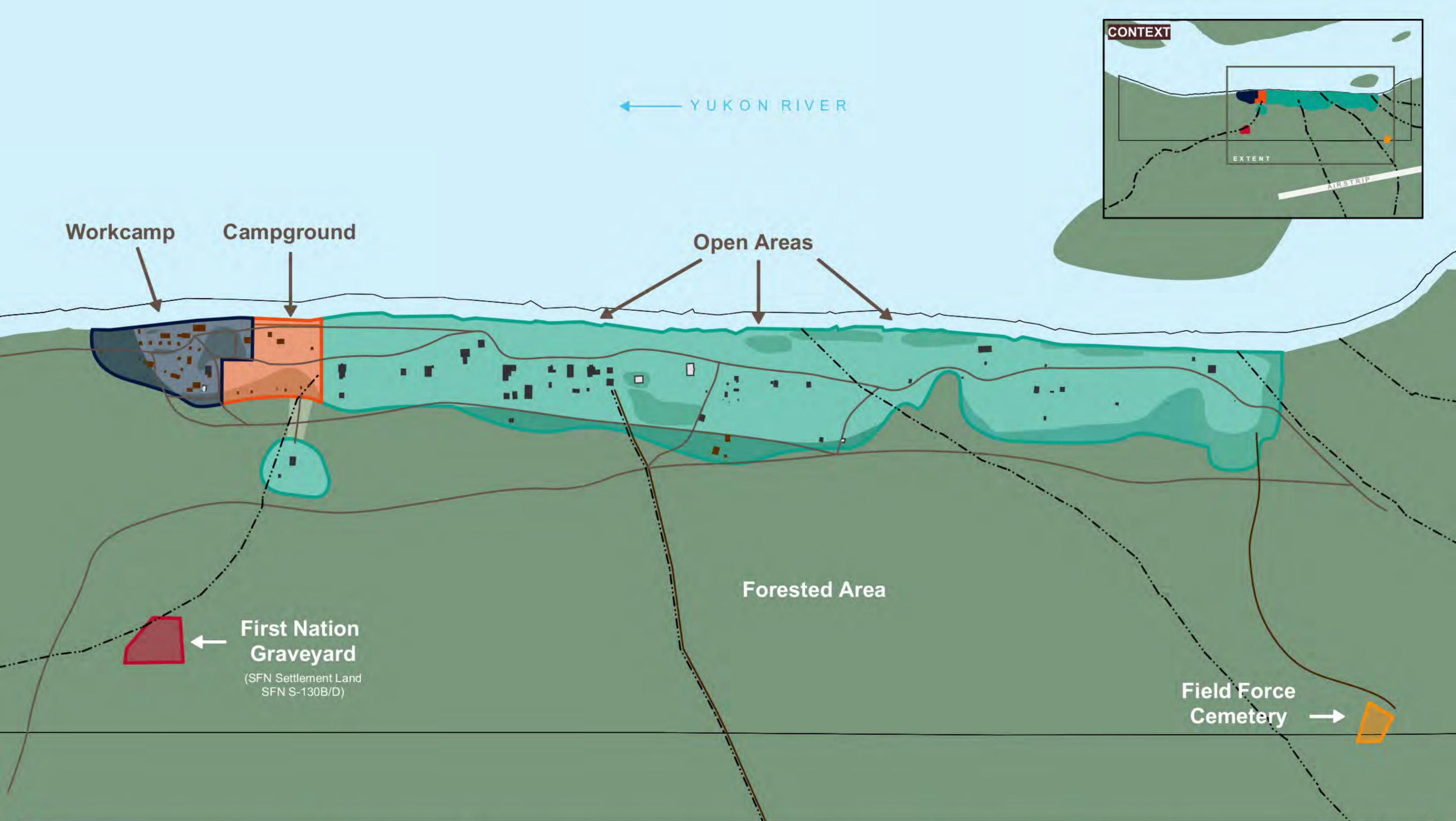
Preserve the context of, and provide a buffer for, major archaeological sites and buildings.

Within these areas, permanent or temporary buildings would not be constructed. Tent frames and temporary camps would be acceptable for special events or purposes. These would be best located in the vicinity of Big Jonathan's House.

Many different uses such as gatherings, special events, games, interpretation, sale of goods or services could occur in this area. Existing buildings could be used according to their category, as explained in Section 14.1 Heritage Structures and Sites (p. 33-35). Use of buildings would be set by the management group, in consultation with families who may still have connections with these structures. For example, Big Jonathan's House and the Stone House have been called 'Supporting Structures'. Commercial use or special events might be held in these buildings. In contrast, the rectory, school, churches, and Luke or Jonathan Cabins have been called "Landmarks". Use of these buildings would be decided by the management group, but would be carefully controlled. Interpretation would be appropriate. Consultation with families would be needed.

Appendix 3: Fort Selkirk Collection of Maps

Map 1 - Fort Selkirk Historic Site Context Map 3
Map 2 – Fort Selkirk Historic Site Boundary and Buffer area. 5
Map 3 - Fort Selkirk Historic Site Setting (Full size map can be found in Appendix 3)..... 11
Map 4 - Fort Selkirk Management Zones. (Full size map can be found in Appendix 3) 34
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Map 6 - Fort Selkirk Interpretive Signage. (Full size map can be found in Appendix 3)..... 69



Fort Selkirk Historic Site: Setting

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| New Buildings | Historic Building Concrete Foundation | Maintenance Trail | Site Trails | Forest Edge | Unmanaged Regrowth |
| Historic Buildings | Partially Standing Historic Buildings | Field Force Cemetery Trail (2018 - Not Surveyed) | Traditional Routes (Not Surveyed) | Managed Regrowth | Open Space |



← YUKON RIVER

Development Area in the Natural Zone

Visitor Service and Maintenance Zone

Historic Zone

Natural Zone

Development Area in the Natural Zone

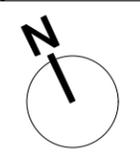
First Nation Graveyard
(SFN Settlement Land SFN S-130B/D)

Field Force Cemetery

AIRSTRIP

Fort Selkirk Historic Site: Management Zones

- Traditional Routes (Not Surveyed)
- Site Trails
- Maintenance Trail
- Field Force Cemetery Trail (2018 - Not Surveyed)



Data Source: Yukon Lands Viewer, YG Tourism and Culture - Historic Sites Unit

← YUKON RIVER

Clearing of vegetation to reveal historic feature / former Sternwheeler ramp.

Clearing of vegetation to maintain views from the site.

Maintain Forest Edge

Vegetation maintenance to preserve view.

Maintain vegetation clearing to preserve the character of the area.

Vegetation maintenance to protect built features.

Vegetation clearing to protect archaeological features.

First Nation Graveyard
(SFN Settlement Land
SFN S-130B/D)

Field Force Cemetery

Fort Selkirk Historic Site: Vegetation Management

--- Traditional Routes
(Not Surveyed)

— Site Trails

— Maintenance Trail

— Field Force Cemetery Trail
(2018 - Not Surveyed)

Data Source: Yukon Lands Viewer, YG
Tourism and Culture - Historic Sites Unit



← YUKON RIVER



Fort Selkirk Historic Site: Interpretive Signage

--- Traditional Routes
(Not Surveyed)

— Site Trails

— Maintenance Trail

— Field Force Cemetery Trail
(2018 - Not Surveyed)

⌘ Interpretive Signs
Inside Building

* Interpretive Signage

* Potential Signage Areas
(Exact location to be determined
in the updated Interpretive Plan)

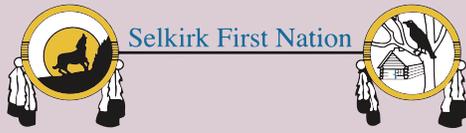
▲ Yukon Field Force Memorial

Data Source: Yukon Lands Viewer, YG
Tourism and Culture - Historic Sites Unit



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