

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

No.	2022-P67
To	Board of Directors
Date	2022-04-07

For DECISION

Subject/Title

Nepean Point Redevelopment – Part 1 Implementation – Site Plan Amendment including Relocation of Champlain Monument and Reintegration of Anishinabe Scout Statue

Purpose of the Submission

- To obtain design approval for an amendment to the site plan for the Part 1 Implementation phase, including the relocation of the Champlain Monument and the reintegration of the Anishinabe Scout statue on Nepean Point.

Recommendation

- That the Federal Design Approval for the Site Plan Amendment, Relocation of the Champlain Monument and Reintegration of the Anishinabe Scout Statue of Part 1 Implementation of the Nepean Point Redevelopment project be granted, pursuant to Section 12 of the *National Capital Act*; and
- That the signature of the Federal Design Approvals documents be delegated to the Vice-President, Capital Planning Branch.

Submitted by:

Alain Miguelez, Vice-President, Capital Planning Branch
Name

Signature

Submitted by:

Pierre Vaillancourt, Vice-President, Design & Construction Branch
Name

Signature

1. Authority

Section 12 of the *National Capital Act*.

2. Project Description

Background

The Nepean Point Redevelopment Project was the object of an international design competition in 2017. That November, the National Capital Commission's (NCC) Board of Directors endorsed "Big River Landscape", the concept prepared by Janet Rosenberg & Studio (JRS) as competition winner.

The design for the Nepean Point redevelopment focuses on the creation of a contemporary urban green space that provides opportunities for engagement and interpretation, while creating physical links for a pedestrian-friendly environment. The approved concept plan included:

- Park improvements: new walking paths, plantings, landforms, site furnishings and lighting, as well as the Whispering Point architectural feature, the elevated "Outlook" with the Samuel de Champlain Monument, and integration of existing National Gallery of Canada (NGC) art pieces;
- The replacement of a section of the existing perimeter fence with a ha-ha (recessed landscape feature);
- Three (3) new entrances to facilitate access to Nepean Point, namely:
 1. A pedestrian bridge linking Nepean Point with Major's Hill Park;
 2. An improved entrance along St. Patrick Street;
 3. An improved entrance from Sussex Drive, on NGC property, via the Op-Art Pathway;
- The potential for a physical connection between the Nepean Point perimeter pathway and the cafeteria area of the NGC.

Part 1 Implementation, for which construction completion is anticipated in 2023, includes the majority of the plan features with the exception of the St. Patrick Street and Sussex Drive entries. These entrances will form part of a future implementation phase and will be subject to a separate review and federal approval process at a later date.

As the project evolved, it has returned to the Board of Directors for Federal Land Use and Design Approval (FLUDA) at several key milestones, namely:

- September 2019 – Level 2 FLUDA for demolition of the Astrolabe amphitheatre, the ticket-booth building, and the bleacher seating (IAMIS #21584)
- April 2020 – Level 3 FLUDA of the revised concept plan and 50% developed design of Part 1 Implementation (perimeter wall/landscape ha-ha and pedestrian bridge) and

temporary relocation of the Champlain Monument, the Anishinabe Scout statue, and two smaller monuments (IAMIS #18742 and #22752)

- January 2021 – Level 3 FLUDA 95% design development of Part 1 Implementation (remaining park elements – perimeter pathway, Whispering Point structure and ancillary landscape features) (IAMIS #23052)

Interpretation Plan Progress & Site Plan Amendment

Following this series of approvals, and as demolition/construction works have been initiated, NCC Design & Construction (D&C) staff have continued to work on the development of an interpretation plan for the site. Ultimately, the ongoing development of the interpretive plan has prompted an amendment to the site plan, a significant change for which Board of Directors approval is being sought through this submission.

Stakeholder Consultation

As part of the development of the park's interpretation plan, the NCC has moved forward in consultation (see Section 5) with two stakeholder groups, namely:

- Federal stakeholders
- First Nations stakeholders

During these sessions, the NCC and its consultants presented the site design and the outline of the interpretation plan with the purpose of receiving initial thoughts on the proposal and its potential interpretive themes. As part of an iterative process, stakeholder groups have been consulted multiple times through 2021 and will be re-engaged prior to completion of the plan so that their feedback may be incorporated in terms of final refinements. The comprehensive plan is anticipated to be completed and submitted to the Board of Directors as a separate Level 2 federal approval request in summer 2022.

Throughout these consultation sessions, similar issues and themes were raised by both groups of stakeholders. Primarily, they identified a clear need to provide counterpoints and balance on the site, particularly in relation to the Champlain Monument situated at the apex of the site which serves as a visually and symbolically dominant element within the plan. Similarly, both groups raised the desire to incorporate multiple perspectives and cultural viewpoints on the site, including communicating Algonquin history, stories and experiences, which would be extremely challenging to express given the dominant presence of the Champlain Monument on the site.

Interpretation Plan Development

In order to integrate this feedback into the interpretation plan in a meaningful way, it was determined that the interpretive approach to the site should look to the landscape as providing the organizational datum, rather than relying on traditional means of recounting

history (e.g. solely re-installing prior monuments/information panels). “Big River Landscape”, the core concept of the original winning design proposal, is the vision and basis for the interpretive plan; this is manifest in the relationship that visitors will have with the stunning views from the park onto the *Kichi Sibi*, or Ottawa River, and the surrounding Capital core area. The overarching theme of the interpretive strategy is *Wayfinding*, not in the form of typical signage, but symbolically in the way visitors navigate through the site, utilizing physical landscape features such as the pathways, groves of trees and the river to orient themselves as they move from one area of the park to the next. It is an opportunity for reconnection with nature, and a return to the river as the primary feature. This focus on the landscape will allow for a neutral common ground as a basis for storytelling about this place, and enable a holistic experience of the site while promoting a balance of perspectives to be expressed and clearly heard by the site users.

This approach was inspired by feedback provided by the First Nations community members to use stories about human beings and natural elements to situate the Ottawa River and the broader landscape. As a result, the interpretive elements on site will involve minimal panels and instead rely on features depicting human, natural and animal relationships to the river to tell the story of this place. These elements are intended to be poetic for storytelling and entice curiosity from visitors. Further details on the proposed interpretive features are still under development and will be submitted to the Board of Directors within the upcoming Level 2 approval request anticipated in summer 2022.

The audio component originally proposed as part of the “Big River Landscape” proposal is still under development in consultation with the stakeholder groups. This artistic element, which will allow the expression of a diversity of voices and perspectives, is perfectly compatible with the current direction of the interpretation plan. Currently, base amenities for this future installation are accounted for in the construction plans; a budget has been reserved for specific equipment and the development of content to deliver this installation at a future date, after completion of the Part 1 park implementation works.

Site Plan Amendment – Relocation of Champlain Monument and Reintegration of the Anishinabe Scout Statue

In the meantime, in order to follow through on the interpretive approach and to provide a more balanced integration of perspectives within the park interpretation, NCC staff and the consultant team reviewed the park design. As a result of this process, a significant amendment to the site plan is recommended: the re-location of the Champlain Monument from its original position at the pinnacle of the site (within the “Outlook”) to an alternative position that is more fully integrated into the landscape of the park.

Through the consultation process and internal discussions, the NCC came to the realization that replacing the Champlain Monument back in the exact same area that it previously occupied and maintaining its height is sending a strong message, and one that is not inclusive and representational of all Canadians. This position promotes a

singular interpretation of history, one that overshadows alternate perspectives, detracts from the site experience and the desired emphasis on the landscape, and is fundamentally incongruous and at odds with the feedback received during stakeholder consultations and the direction of the interpretation plan.

Given the outcome of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and its 94 calls to action (2015) in working towards reconciliation between Canadians and Indigenous people, it was determined that an alternative location for the monument be put forth as a genuine gesture to allow for the incorporation of other voices into the site's interpretation and messaging. After review, consideration and dialogue with the stakeholder groups, the NCC has proposed the current location of the Champlain Monument, amidst the wooded area along the winding pathway leading up to the "Outlook". This location provides for a clear view towards Parliament Hill, linking this first European arrival to the institutional core of the nation, while making space on the site for the emergence of other narratives, including the Algonquin people's stories both before and after contact.

Originally installed at Nepean Point in 1918, and relocated to the north end of Major's Hill Park in the 1990s, the Anishinabe Scout statue and its proposed reintegration has been an ongoing topic of discussion for the NCC and its stakeholders since the onset of the park redevelopment project. The proposed pedestrian bridge landing and the construction machinery required for the implementation of this new structure have disrupted the north end of Major's Hill Park and precluded leaving this statue in-situ. In turn, this prompted a reconsideration of the Scout and how it could be re-integrated into the redevelopment and new vision for Nepean Point.

In April 2020, NCC Board of Directors approval was granted for the temporary relocation of the Scout statue to facilitate construction work on the new bridge. Accordingly, the statue was temporarily moved from its former location that November. This inevitable disruption prompted the NCC and its stakeholders to explore a new location for Anishinabe Scout.

Through the feedback received from First Nations community members and federal stakeholders at the ongoing engagement sessions, along with internal review, it was determined that the Scout statue should be returned to Nepean Point. The proposed final location, along the park's north perimeter pathway, brings the statue in close proximity to the *Kichi Sibi* (Ottawa River) and its confluence with two tributaries (Gatineau and Rideau), thereby reaffirming the Scout's role to observe these waterways, witness incoming traffic and flag any dangers, and ultimately reinforcing the primacy of the landscape at the basis of the "Big River" concept. Additional benefits for its placement at this location include:

- Enhanced animation along the northern seating bays of the perimeter pathway;
- Increased visibility from the park's lawn area and stepped pathway;

- Compatibility with current park design features including the presence of surrounding paving to maximize visitor interaction with the statue, as well as an adjacent seatwall and wooden bench which offer an appropriate balance in terms of scale; and
- Placemaking opportunities through the integration of interpretation panels for the statue located within the seating bay.

Ancillary changes to park to accommodate the adjustment are also part of this amendment. These include:

1. Changes related to the proposed new location of the Champlain Monument, namely:
 - Additional paving and bench seating to provide an appropriate setting for the monument;
 - A smaller, modified base adapted from the stone of the former base to allow the statue to sit lower in the landscape, to promote a more human scale; and
 - Integration of the Surveyors Monument and the International Boundary Marker, as well as interpretation panels related to the contact period of history and the arrival of Europeans to the region.
2. Changes to the “Outlook” (the former location of the monument), namely:
 - Reconfiguration of this area to provide ample seating opportunities facing the river; and
 - A focal point planting feature consisting of a pine grove with low perennials, harkening back to the pre-development landscape of Nepean Point, returning focus to the “Big River Landscape” theme while moderating the climate at the “Outlook”.

Park Naming Process

To further extend the re-envisioning of the park, a renaming process is currently running parallel to the site development and interpretive plan processes. Led by the NCC’s Public and Corporate Affairs division, this initiative will involve the participation of First Nations community members and is anticipated to be concluded by summer 2022.

3. NCC Staff Analysis / Risks and Mitigations Measures

3.1 NCC Staff Analysis

- The current proposal represents a consensus between the NCC and its primary stakeholder groups, namely the First Nations communities and the federal stakeholders (Department of Canadian Heritage and NGC). The approach represents a sincere effort to integrate alternative perspectives into the interpretation of this major redevelopment project, and move beyond a singular interpretation of history so that this key core-area NCC park is truly more inclusive and welcoming to all Canadians.

- The proposal is more genuine in relation to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and its 94 Calls to Action (2015), in the spirit of working towards reconciliation within Canada and allowing both space and the opportunity for the representation of First Nations cultures and perspectives on the site.
- The proposal is also more in keeping with contemporary approaches to monuments, namely with the intent to provide a balanced presentation of history. The proposed approach allows for the Champlain Monument to be retained on site, albeit in a less prominent location, for the Anishinabe Scout to return, and for these pieces of history to be presented within a larger, more multi-faceted story as part of the site's interpretation plan.
- The Nepean Point park interpretation plan is currently in progress and is anticipated for completion in summer 2022. The final version is pending further engagement with First Nations and federal stakeholder groups. It will be subject to a separate Level 2 federal approval by the NCC's Executive Committee of the Board of Directors upon its completion.

3.2 Risks and Mitigations Measures

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
	L/M/H	L/M/H	
The execution of a design that is not ultimately inclusive in its implementation on-site.	Medium	Low	The NCC, with the assistance of the consultant team, have sought to minimize these risks through the development of the interpretation plan and by maximizing stakeholder engagement on this project.
Excluding Indigenous perspectives from the design would not address the recommendations of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and fail to promote inclusivity.	High	Medium	As mentioned above, the NCC has sought to minimize risks through stakeholder engagement and the development of the site's interpretation plan.

3.3 ACPDR Comment Resolution

- At the August 27th, 2020 NCC Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty (ACPDR) meeting (see excerpt of the minutes at Appendix C), the Committee expressed excitement for this upcoming project, and was generally supportive of the design.
- Specific comments regarding the hierarchy of design elements and Indigenous placemaking were noted and were further taken into consideration as part of this design amendment.

4. Strategic Links

- NCC mandate to “*Guide and control the use and development of federal lands in Canada’s Capital Region; and maintain heritage sites in Canada’s Capital Region, such as ... commemorative sites.*”
- NCC Corporate Plan 2021/2022 to 2025/2026 – Priority #4
- NCC Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017-2067 (2017) – Milestone Project #17
- NCC Canada’s Capital Core Area Sector Plan (2005)
- NCC Canada’s Capital View Protection (2007)
- NCC Capital Illumination Plan, 2017-2067 (2017)

5. Consultations and Communications

- Consultation sessions held with First Nations stakeholders, consisting of community representatives from two First Nations, the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn, and NCC liaisons (February 4 and December 7, 2021, and February 10, 2022).
- Consultation sessions held with federal stakeholders, consisting of a multi-disciplinary group of representatives from the NCC, the Department of Canadian Heritage and the NGC, as well as key members of the consultant’s design and interpretation teams (January 14 and December 13, 2021).

6. Next Steps

- Spring 2022 – Development of 90% Interpretive Plan and follow-up consultation with stakeholder groups (First Nations and federal stakeholders)
- Summer 2022:
 - Delivery of final Interpretive Plan
 - FLUDA for Nepean Point Redevelopment – Site Interpretation (Level 2)
 - Park renaming process to be completed
- Spring 2023 – Construction substantial completion

7. List of Appendices

Appendix A – Nepean Point: Amended Site Plan and Images

Appendix B – Excerpt of Nepean Point: Interpretation Plan, Milestone: Themes and Stories

Appendix C – Excerpt of ACPDR Meeting Minutes (August 27-28, 2020)

Appendix D – Summary of Nepean Point First Nations stakeholders’ meetings (February 4 and December 7, 2021, and February 10, 2022)

Appendix E – Summary of Federal stakeholders’ meetings (January 14 and December 13, 2021)

8. Authors of the Submission

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NEPEAN POINT - Interpretation Plan

Milestone: Themes and Stories

April 1, 2021



ERA



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1 INTERPRETATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Interpretation plans have various purposes and meanings, with content shaped by the nature of the site, who is developing the plan, why it's being created, and what the project entails. For the purposes of Nepean Point, the interpretation plan:

- lays out **what themes and stories** are being presented at the site; and,
- **how this will be done through interpretation opportunities.**

Interpretation plans are necessarily an iterative process that involves multiple perspectives from stakeholders, custodians, designers, and experts. In taking into account many different viewpoints, this document is an initial articulation of the **themes and stories** for the interpretation plan of Nepean Point. The second component of the interpretation plan, **interpretation opportunities**, are not explored in depth and preliminary ideas contained in this document are only included for visualization and clarification purposes.

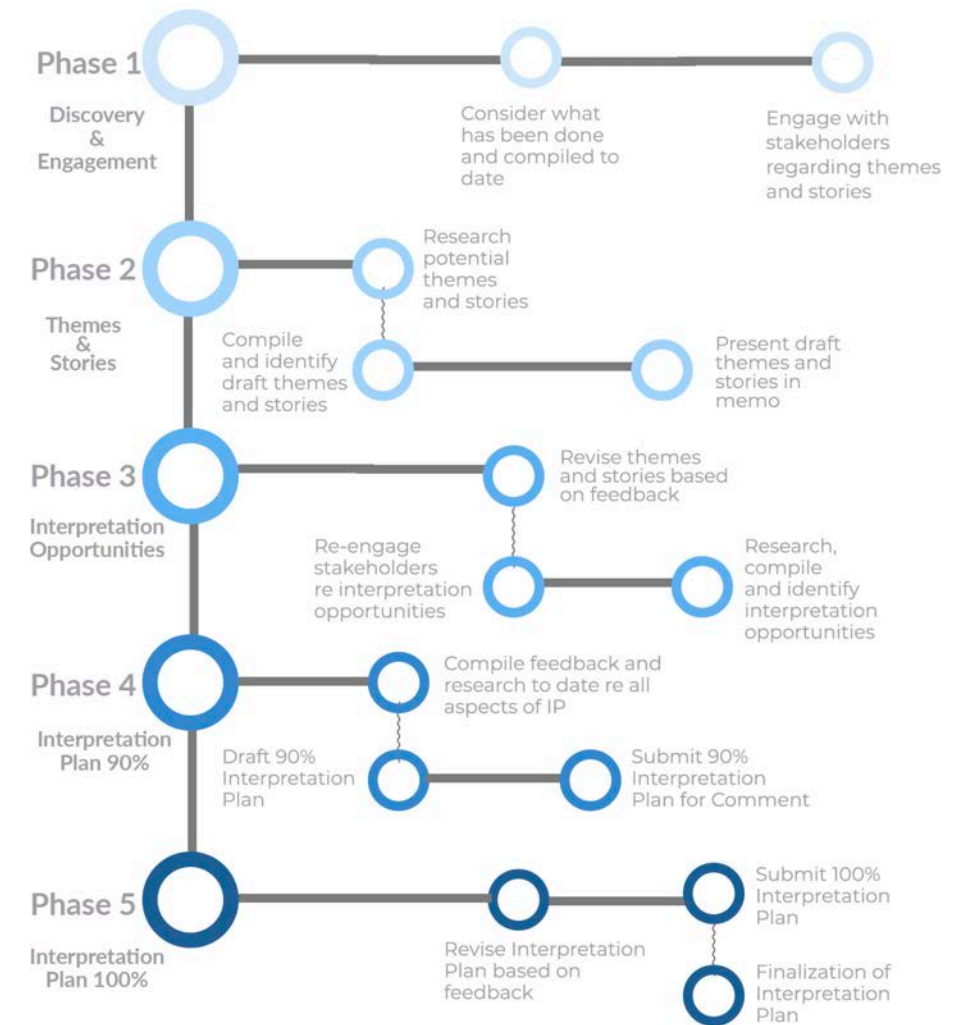


1.1 Phases

For the purposes of this project, the interpretation plan process is divided into five fluid and overlapping phases:

- **Phase 1:** Discovery and Exploration
- **Phase 2:** Themes and Stories
- **Phase 3:** Interpretation Opportunities
- **Phase 4:** Interpretation Plan 90%
- **Phase 5:** Interpretation Plan 100%

This document is being delivered at the end of Phase 2; however, the shaping of themes and stories is ongoing and content will be further iterated and refined through subsequent engagements, research, workshops with the design team, and further exploration.



1.1 Approach to Theme Generation

Within the context of the interpretation plan, “theme generation” is a method of organizing information about the site into “buckets” to ultimately develop a coherent and holistic visitor experience. The themes and stories for Nepean Point were generated using three inter-connected sources:

- **Site design**, informed by both the Big River Landscape concept and design.
- **Site context**, including its history and position in the capital.
- **Stakeholder feedback**, from both First Nations and federal stakeholders.

This document outlines the “buckets” for interpretative content at Nepean Point, while also demonstrating thematic connections to multiple components of the site.



2 THEMATIC APPROACH

An important goal in developing the interpretation plan for Nepean Point is ensuring visitors to the park have a holistic experience, where the many parts of the design and interpretation are interconnected. The themes and stories are intended to assist in the organization of ideas, concepts and, eventually, the content of the interpretative experience. However, the holistic experience of the visitor is always the primary goal of the interpretation plan, where elements of the design, features of the landscape, and the interpretative layer seamlessly come together in a unified way. Therefore, the design is one of the most important components in developing the themes and stories for the interpretation plan.

2.1 Reconnecting Humans with Nature

Many components of the new park at Nepean Point are focused on reconnecting humans with their natural surroundings and bringing elements of the Ottawa River to the urban landscape. The innovative ‘ha-ha’ that allows an unobstructed view of the river, the careful selection of trees for their audio qualities, and the use of indigenous plants in many areas of the site are some of the ways the design encourages connections between all living things. Very positive reactions to these features, in particular, were noted during stakeholder consultations.

With this in mind, the themes and stories were developed to softly interpret the natural elements of the park and its surroundings while still encouraging flexible discovery by the visitor. Renewed appreciation for natural spaces within the urban environment is a driving force behind the design and is a key component of the interpretation plan.

2.2 Big River Landscape Design

The “Big River Landscape” Design Statement, submitted in September 2017, offers insight into the design intent and its connection with the surrounding landscape. The following page features some passages that inspired the development of themes for the interpretation plan.




An important part of the Big River landscape is bringing people closer to the river and its very diverse natural and urban landscapes.

Above: The Ottawa River and the skyline of urban Ottawa, as seen from the north shore of the river.

Left: A lightning storm over the National Capital Region.

Right: A large sturgeon, one of the many indigenous and endangered fish species of the Ottawa River.





“The Big River Landscape serves as a gateway that reinterprets the river landscape and is the medium to discuss and celebrate our layered histories. Where historically goods and products were traded, the proposed reinterpreted ‘river’ is now a choreographed journey of exchange: of ideas, beliefs, dialogue and new cultural memories.”

“Our design for Nepean Point draws from the River’s heritage as a landscape of journey and exchange, by adapting these themes to contemporary uses. The design offers visitors several choreographed ‘journeys of discovery’ within the Nepean Point landscape, and creates places for dialogue and cultural exchange.”

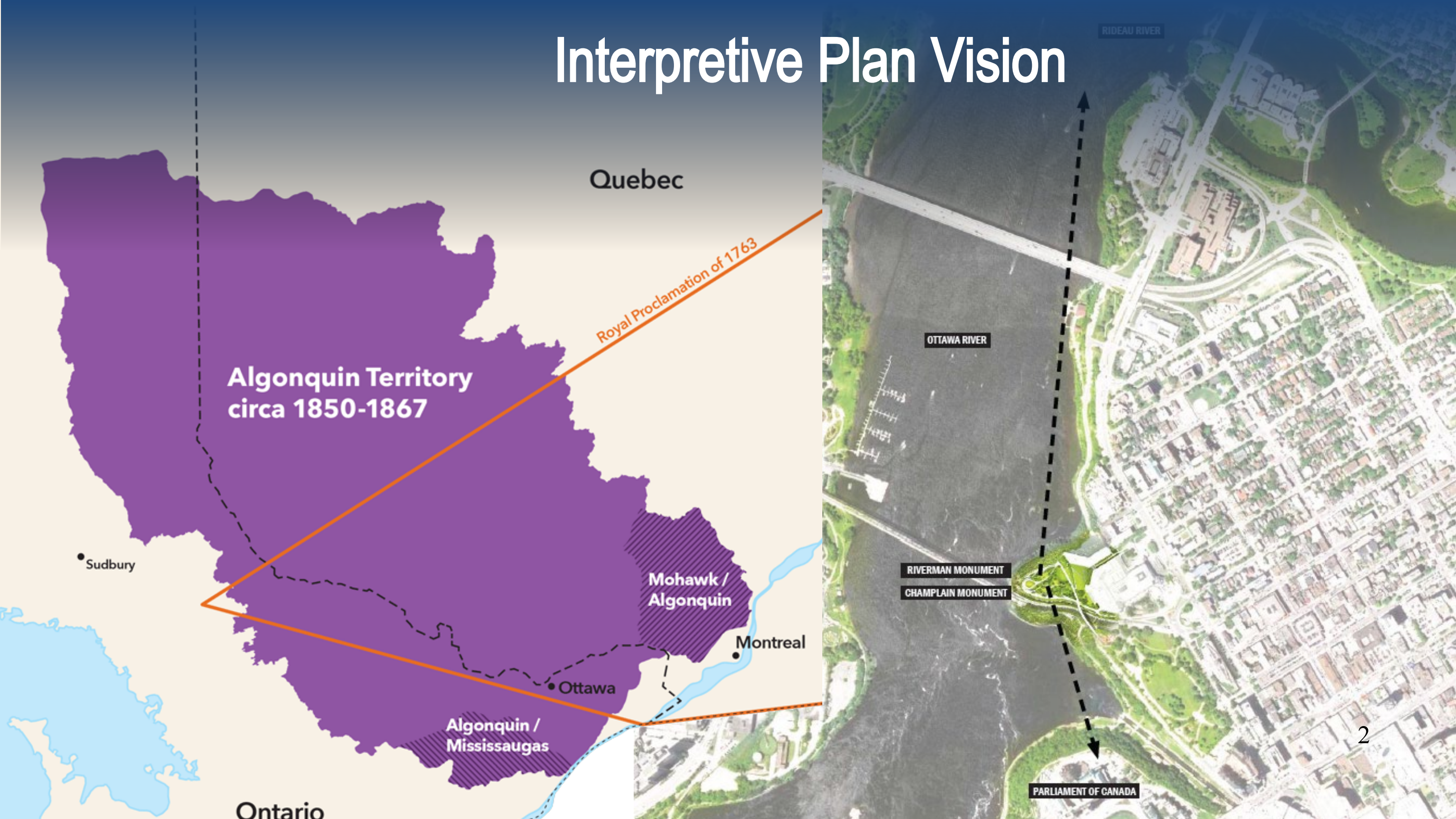
“In order to connect to the past, we envision a park where a visitor’s journey through the landscape is punctuated by moments where they can listen to the ‘voices’ of others and contribute their own voice to a dynamic conversation.”

Set within the final design, interpretative opportunities should supplement the existing journeys of discovery, places for dialogue and cultural exchange, and reinterpreted river. The primary goal of the interpretation plan is to develop a sensitive approach that works with the design to enhance existing interpretative opportunities in the landscape.

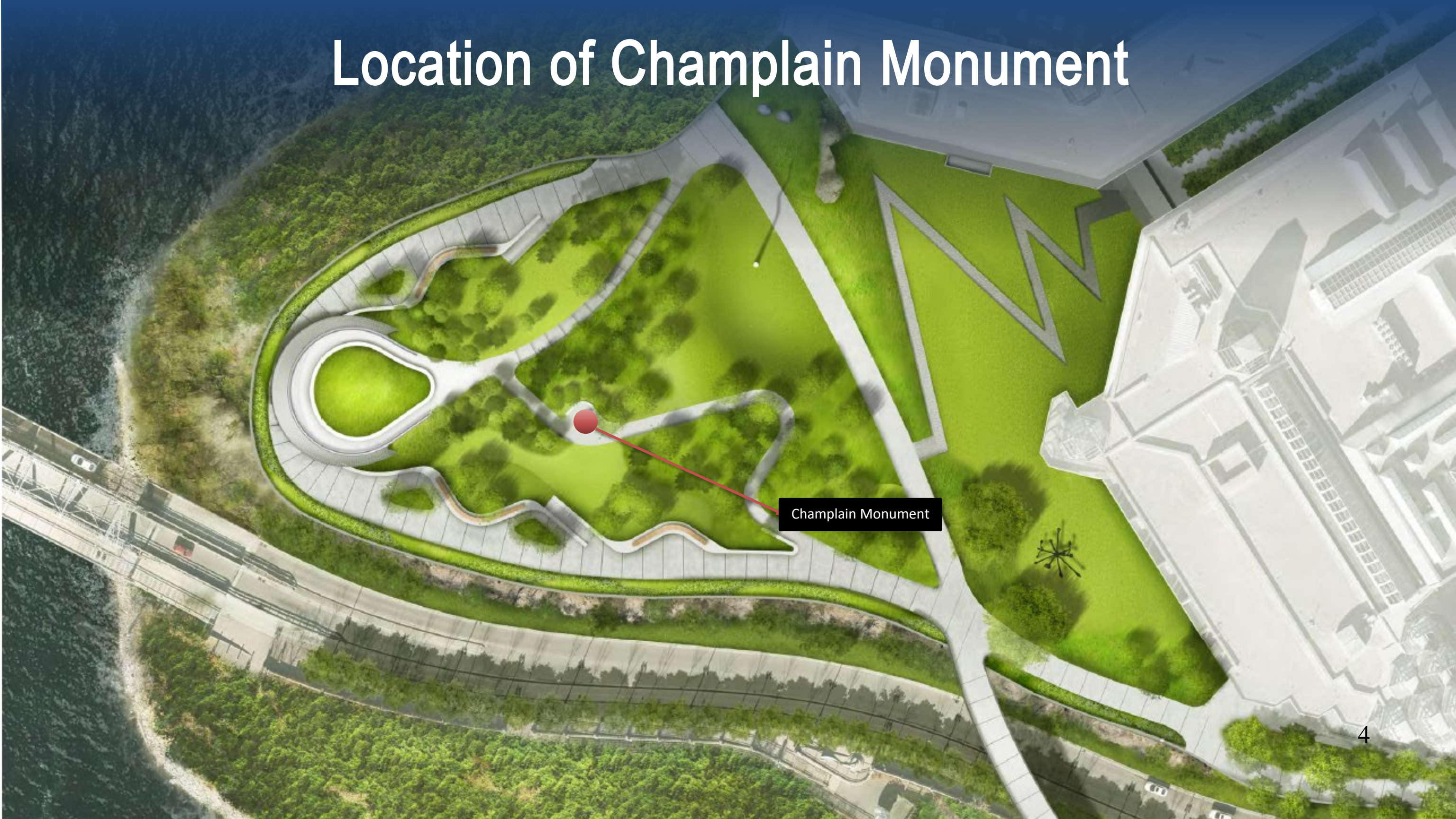
Nepean Point - Amended Site Plan



Interpretive Plan Vision



Location of Champlain Monument

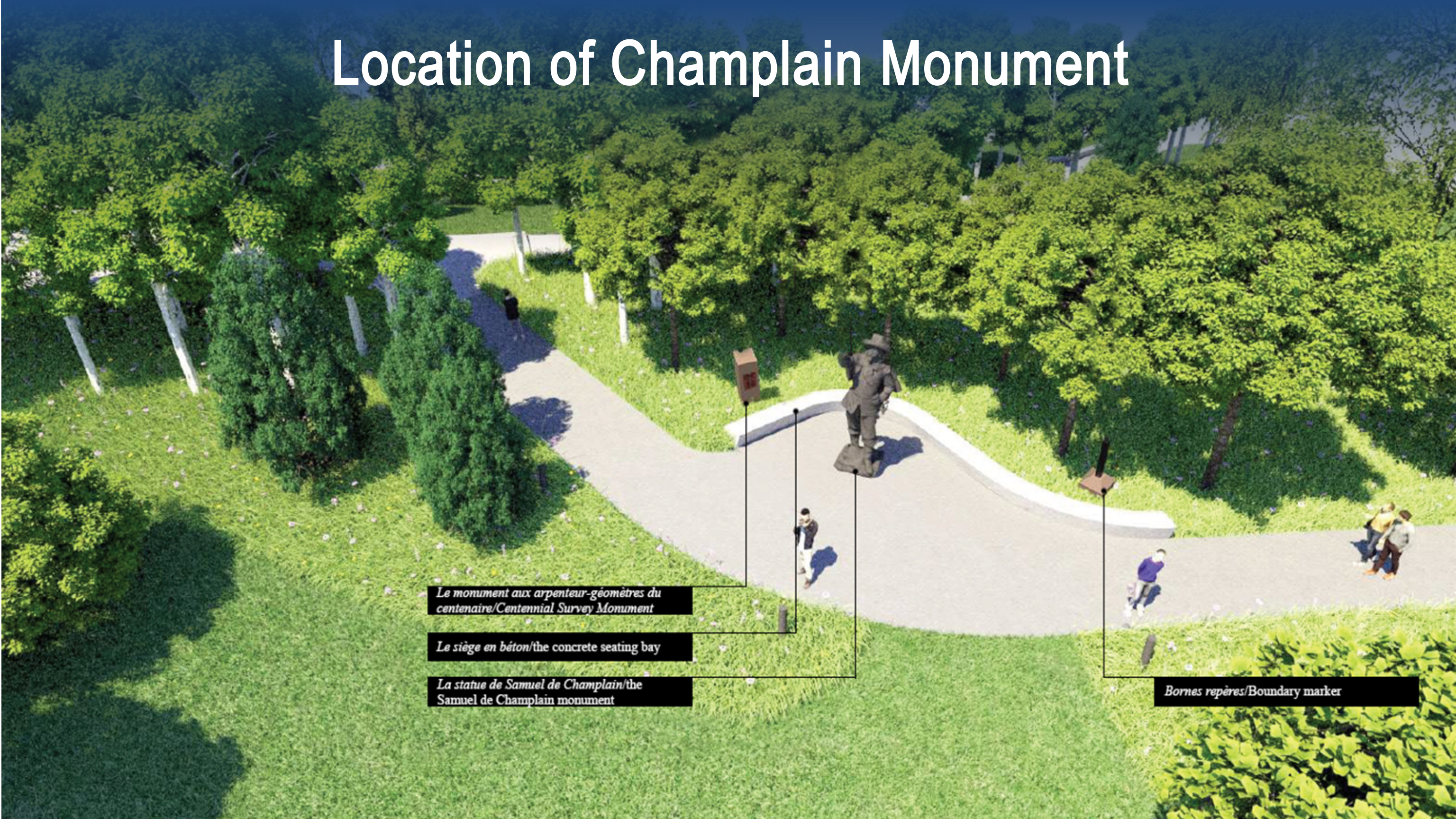


Champlain Monument

Location of Champlain Monument



Location of Champlain Monument

An aerial photograph of a park area featuring a winding paved path. A central monument depicts a man in historical attire. The path is bordered by a low concrete wall. Several small wooden posts are placed along the path. People are seen walking on the path. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and grass.

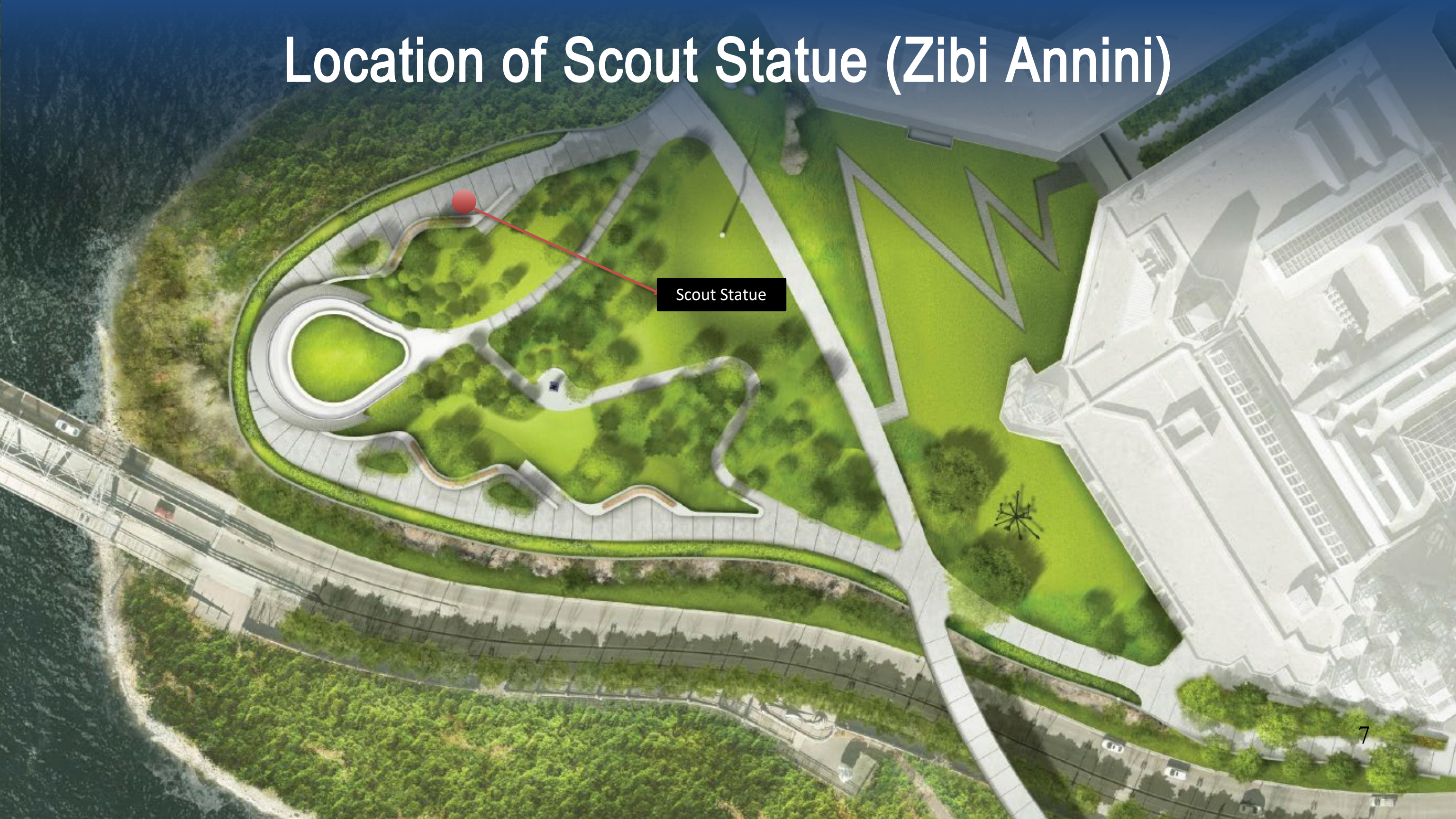
Le monument aux arpenteur-géomètres du centenaire/Centennial Survey Monument

Le siège en béton/the concrete seating bay

La statue de Samuel de Champlain/the Samuel de Champlain monument

Bornes repères/Boundary marker

Location of Scout Statue (Zibi Annini)



Scout Statue

Location of Scout Statue (Zibi Annini)



Location of Scout Statue (Zibi Annini)



Outlook Amendments

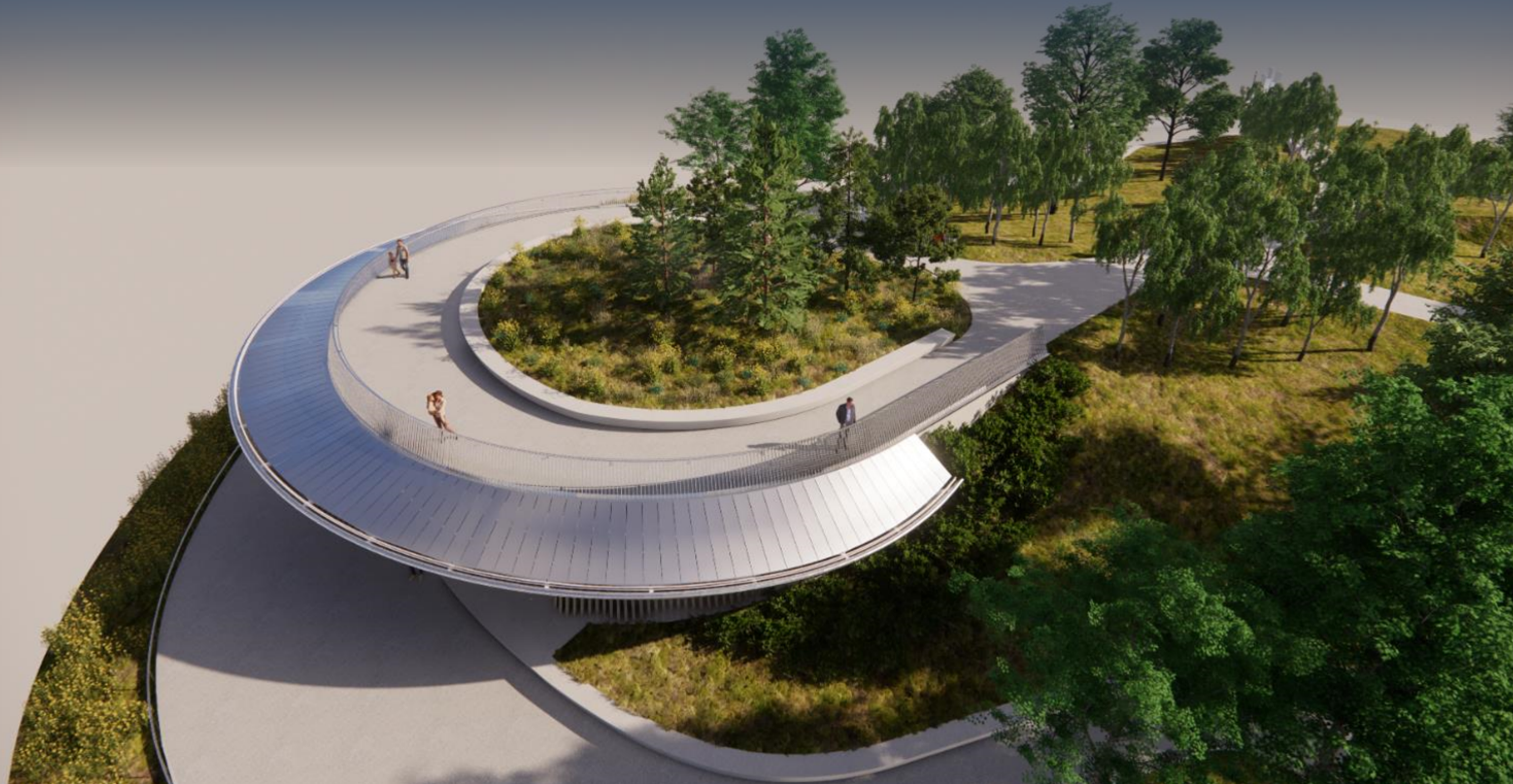


Outlook

Outlook Amendments

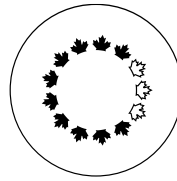


Outlook Amendments



Interpretive Elements - Perimeter Pathway





NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Excerpt of the Minutes of the

Advisory Committee
on Planning, Design and Realty

Meeting of August 27, 2020

2020-P67 - Nepean Point Redevelopment -
Part 1 Implementation - Remaining Park
Elements 70% Design Development (C)

Members received a presentation on the 70% Design Development of the remaining park elements of the part 1 implementation for the Nepean Point redevelopment project. They made the following comments:

Overall Scheme

- The scheme has been refined and simplified. It is elegant and interesting.
- The richness of the site is missing and could be brought back with simple moves.
- Patterns should be softened with more transitions, and pathways and landscape equally balanced.
- What is being emphasized is not clear: Champlain, the wood structure, or the fence. There is a need to clearly highlight the focal point and the hierarchy between the elements of the scheme.
- Night lighting should be aligned with the Capital Illumination Plan.

Extrait du procès-verbal du

Comité consultatif
de l'urbanisme, du design et de l'immobilier

Séance du 27 août 2020

2020-P67 - Réaménagement de la pointe
Nepean – Éléments restants du parc et
concept finalisé à 70% pour la mise en œuvre
de la partie 1 (C)

Les membres assistent à une présentation sur les éléments restants du parc et le concept finalisé à 70% pour la mise en œuvre de la partie 1 du projet de réaménagement de la pointe Nepean. Ils font les commentaires suivants :

Plan d'ensemble

- Le plan a été redéfini et simplifié. Il est élégant et intéressant.
- La richesse du site est manquante et pourrait être restaurée à l'aide de gestes simples.
- On devrait adoucir la configuration grâce à plus de transitions, et d'un meilleur équilibre entre les sentiers et les aménagements paysagers.
- Ce que l'on veut mettre en valeur manque de clarté : Champlain, la structure de bois, ou la clôture. Il faut clairement souligner le point focal et la hiérarchie entre les éléments du plan.
- L'éclairage de nuit doit s'aligner avec le Plan lumière de la capitale.

2020-P67 - Nepean Point Redevelopment -
Part 1 Implementation - Remaining Park
Elements 70% Design Development (C)

2020-P67 - Réaménagement de la pointe
Nepean – Éléments restants du parc et
concept finalisé à 70% pour la mise en œuvre
de la partie 1 (C)

Whispering Point

- The elevation is not yet resolved with the white square in the middle of the grassed incline.
- Narratives should be included, maybe Indigenous, for a more poetic interpretation, not just signs.

Gathering Circle

- The prominence of the Champlain statue in the location of the gathering circle leaves no opportunity for an Indigenous narrative.

Ha-ha Concept

- The fence behind the ha-ha ditch should be lower than eye level, so the view is not hindered for seated people.
- Border planting along the ditch would prevent people from getting too close.
- The fence is prominent and should be mitigated.

Circulation

- Circulation needs more work and should be resolved.
- Single stairs in pathways are dangerous, and steps without handrails are not allowed.
- The opportunity for a link between the two levels of the park at the base of the Champlain monument was raised.
- Members did not agree on whether stairs would be appropriate at this location.

Planting

- Perennials and more colours should be considered throughout the different areas of the park.

La pointe des murmures

- La façade n'est pas encore résolue, avec le carré blanc qui apparaît au centre de la pente gazonnée.
- On devrait inclure des récits, peut-être autochtones, pour une interprétation plus poétique que si elle se limite à des panneaux.

Cercle de rassemblement

- La prééminence de la statue de Champlain sur les lieux du cercle de rassemblement ne laisse pas la place à un récit autochtone.

Concept du ha-ha

- La clôture derrière le fossé ha-ha devrait être plus basse que la hauteur des yeux, afin que la vue des gens assis ne soit pas bloquée.
- Des plantations en platebandes le long du fossé empêcheraient que les gens s'approchent de trop près.
- La clôture très apparente devrait être atténuée.

Circulation

- La circulation nécessite davantage de travail et devrait être résolue.
- Il est dangereux de prévoir des marches uniques dans les sentiers, et des marches sans main courante ne sont pas permises.
- On soulève la question de l'opportunité d'un lien entre les deux niveaux du parc à la base du monument de Champlain.
- Les membres ne s'entendent pas sur la pertinence d'escaliers à cet endroit.

Plantation

- On devrait envisager des plantes vivaces et davantage de couleurs dans chacune des zones du parc.

2020-P67 - Nepean Point Redevelopment -
Part 1 Implementation - Remaining Park
Elements 70% Design Development (C)

- Trees should be added to mitigate the heat on sunny days.

Materials

- Noble materials should be preferred: granite instead of concrete, especially when natural wood has been favoured elsewhere in the park.
- Materials, and especially wood, should be fireproof and treated to be resilient to vandalism.

Accessibility

- Stairs are not inviting for people with reduced mobility.
- A strong point was made that stairs should not be present unless accompanied by a ramp.

Committee Secretary

2020-P67 - Réaménagement de la pointe
Nepean – Éléments restants du parc et
concept finalisé à 70% pour la mise en œuvre
de la partie 1 (C)

- On devrait ajouter des arbres pour atténuer la chaleur lors des journées ensoleillées.

Matériaux

- On devrait privilégier les matériaux nobles : du granite au lieu du béton, en particulier quand on a privilégié le bois naturel ailleurs dans le parc.
- Les matériaux, et en particulier le bois, devraient être ignifuges et traités de façon à être résilients au vandalisme.

Accessibilité

- Les escaliers ne sont pas accueillants pour les personnes à mobilité réduite.
- On fait observer avec insistance qu'il ne devrait pas y avoir d'escaliers à moins qu'ils ne soient accompagnés d'une rampe.

Secrétaire des comités

Caroline Bied

CAROLINE BIED

Nepean Point – Interpretation Plan
First Nations Dialogue Meeting 1
February 4 2021 – 10am EST (virtual)

Present

Chief Dylan Whiteduck (Kitigan Zibi)
Council Member Frankie Cote (Kitigan Zibi)
Council Member Merv Sarazin (Pikwàkanagàn)
Rene Tenasco (NCC)
Kirby Whiteduck (NCC)
Luc Fournier (NCC)
Garry Meus (NCC)
Tracy Pritchard (NCC)
Nicholas Gosselin (JRS)
Janet Rosenberg (JRS)
Brittney Anne Bos (ERA)
Victoria Angel (ERA)
Lisa Prosper (consultant, ERA)

Opening Remarks

The meeting was opened by Luc Fournier (NCC) who spoke about previous meetings and building a dialogue.

Opening remarks were offered by Rene Tenasco, who recounted speaking with a Kokum about the creation story and making a place for humans. This is a first discussion to create a vision, using the talent and inspiration of the people gathered, with Algonquin people giving their perspective on cultural heritage. The creator had a vision and could not do it alone, so we need to talk about this vision and need people to make it happen. Let's work at this, create a unique vision and have success.

Opening remarks were also offered by Kirby Whiteduck, who explained that this meeting is about seeking Algonquin input, knowledge and experience regarding the development of the capital region. This involvement is a meaningful place to have a say and be part of this process, as the Algonquin people have asked for. There is a lot of history, stories and themes associate with this region and it will be a positive benefit for everyone.

Introductions

During the introductions, community representatives made points to be put on record:
-Chief Dylan Whiteduck: never visited the site because of Champlain monument and hopes that comments from last meeting were incorporated. This is a place to tell the true story of the

Algonquin people and not one of “discovery” – the land was always ours and needs recognition of unceded lands

-Council Member Frankie Cote: would like to see Algonquin presence front and centre on Nepean Point and a plaque is not sufficient – something bigger and needs recognition to give prominence to Algonquin presence.

-Council Member Merv Sarazin: There is a very rich history and presence here and we can collectively come up with the right themes for this project. It will be good to collaborate and come together on this very important project.

Opening Remarks and Presentation Content from ERA and JRS

-ERA went through the intentions of the dialogue and the proposed agenda.

-it was noted by Chief Dylan Whiteduck that it wasn't clear Algonquins could add/modify agenda and he requested this be made clear in the future. ERA acknowledged this miscommunication and pledged to make all agendas flexible in the future.

-ERA provided additional context on the interpretation plan process, scheduling, future dialogues, etc (the presentation was circulated to all participants in advance and no amendments were made before it was presented)

Sharing about the Site

-ERA introduced the geographic location of the site, while JRS provided a few design renderings and updates on the design

-participants were invited to openly share their ideas, thoughts, stories, themes, and/or reactions in a lightly moderated format with additional design renderings throughout. The following is an attributed (by initials) summary of the points raised to be put on record:

LF: Nepean Point is the river. Memories as a child looking over the river to see what was going on over there. How do we break down the barrier between us and the river? Need to do justice to the important scenery of the point.

(Council Member) MS: Design seems to be well advanced. When does this discussion get wrapped up and the project moves on to construction? We can go deep into stories - pre contact times for example. A lot of discussion about when Champlain arrived (other explorers?). Only a couple of months for discussion to go on.

(Chief) DW: Has any consideration been given to FN employment opportunities in the redevelopment?

GM: Construction to begin this year to spring of 2023.

TP: Love to know the richness of the history of the area. What are the FN stories associated with NP and the landscape that surrounds it?

(Chief) DW: perhaps rename Nepean point Tessouat Park; and replace Champlain statue with his (Tessouat) statue

(Council Member) MS: KW story of Chief Tessouat. When developing cultural/pow wow grounds asked to identify prominent leaders. KW wrote this story of Chief Tessouat. Great for educational purposes to know Algonquin history on the Ottawa River. KW synthesized the story into 2 lines. [Read synthesis]. Mentoring with William Commanda - many stories to share. But this is only part of the story. Could go deeper into archaeology and pictograph sites. For example, talk about recently found projectile. Talk about pre-contact to contact. Including Jesuit.

KW: Focussed on Algonquin history in the area. More recently on archaeology of which there is a lot of work. Significant use of the portage / gathering area for trade and interaction. View from NP show a good distance up and down river. NP likely used as a look out as there continued to be skirmishes with other Peoples. Champlain's interpreter was living among Algonquin before Champlain's arrival. Algonquin met Champlain in Tadoussac. Champlain and Tessouat met - Tessouat diplomatically forbade him to proceed up river. Champlain assisted the Algonquin in pushing back the Iroquois. Battle with the Mohawk that resulted in some peace. Champlain kept his eye on the resources available along the river for the King of France. No known complaints about Champlain by the Algonquin. A long history of Algonquin presence in the area over time since contact up to the present i.e. Grand Chief Pinesi hereditary Chief in 1800s and many more examples could be researched.

(Chief) DW: Negative history of what Champlain brought to the Algonquin People. Brought gun powder, the catholic church, disease, etc. True story and wrongdoing should be made known. Supports renaming of the point.

KW: Agrees with the symbolism of Champlain being put forth as the contact person that leads to today. Recognizes Champlain's role in the colonizing technique of the era.

MS: Pleased with the selection of the White Birch. Important tree in Algonquin culture as it allowed for the building of canoes. Spruce roots and gum were also used in canoe building. Cedar is also important. Many master canoe builders in both communities. Largest birch bark canoe built by Matt Bernard in Museum of History. Efforts to repatriate it. The canoe ties the communities together.

(Council Member) FC: Eye is drawn to Champlain. Despite efforts to mitigate him in the design, don't understand why he can't be moved somewhere else. No reason why he can't be removed now.

(Chief) DW: Difficult to interpret Algonquin history at NP while he (Champlain) is still there.

(Council Member) FC: I bring up Champlain because, during KZA's Council's initial discussion, this became an issue and will most likely continue to be an issue. The rest of the design is beautiful

Continuing the Conversation

-ERA presented some questions for consideration for the communities, if willing, to continue the conversation after this dialogue.

-these questions circulated by email following the meeting and open to hearing other suggestions, additions or amendments moving forward.

DRAFT

Second Engagement Session with Algonquin First Nations re Nepean Point Interpretation Plan – DRAFT Notes

December 07, 2021

NOTE: this version of the meeting notes has NOT been verified by participants

Present:

Doug Odjick (Council member, Kitigan Zibi)
 Merv Sarazin (Council member, Pikwakanagan)
 Rene Tenasco (NCC)
 Kirby Whiteduck (advisor, Pikwakanagan)
 Luc Fournier (NCC)
 Yoland Charette (NCC)
 Garry Meus (NCC)
 Justin Nadeau (NCC)
 Kim Geoffrion (NCC)
 Steven Sdraulig (NCC)
 Janet Rosenberg (JRS)
 Nicholas Gosselin (JRS)
 Brittney Anne Bos (ERA)
 Lisa Prosper (ERA)

MS	Honouring spirit of Chief Tessouat and introduce him into the story Grand Chief Pinesi of the Partridge Band accolades from British in 1830 and fought in War of 1812 Without Anishinabe participation, Canada would be an American state Here or elsewhere place making and the Algonquin perspective needs to be heard
JR	As much information as possible so we can dig a little deeper and make the story richer
LF	Background – visit to KZ and site visit Calls between NCC CEO and two Chiefs Champlain hinder our ability to move forward – decision to move him off the apex to the side and remove the base Co-develop text for Champlain and First Nations at base of statue Decision to include Tessouat can be made together with FNs Nepean Point needs a new name – work together on this at this table Merv’s idea re names to be decided by this table – need to figure out how to go about doing this Merv and Doug can help us to reach consensus Association between interpretation plan and name Interpretation plan should include perspective of Algonquin Nation How to weave the story into the point so that the visitor comes away with an appreciation of nature and the views but also the people who were here originally
NG / BB	Looking for feedback on scout sculpture
NG	Review of site Blur the boundary between park and river
BB	Review timeline
GM	Construction update Highlighted aggressive timeline – hoping to open late summer 2023

	Currently under construction – closing site up in three weeks for winter, begin again on pedestrian bridge in spring
JN	Described how the park is coming together Pathways are the way to feel and experience the site and to take in as many experiences as possible Pedestrian bridge is crucial to making a fluid connection between NP and MHP without the interruption of traffic Facilitating ability of people to experience the park and the views unimpeded by traffic
BB	Interpretation plan update Key themes and stories Big buckets for ideas and stories River – focus of design, but what does it mean in Algonquin culture Who are the key figures; cultural exchange; role of the river; keepers of the river; many types of leaders Key spot to survey and navigate the river; can view the Tessouat statue; integrate portage route across the river Overarching theme is wayfinding; very flexible; key figures, the river and key cultural practices; What can we tell with the theme; central to Algonquin culture and Ottawa Valley Subthemes help to tell the stories; how to interpret these subthemes What are we going to tell and how are we going to tell it? Keen to learn more about Algonquin culture centred on the river ex. the canoe Gathering and listening re Algonquin culture Elements in the site that we can use to tell those stories Open discussion around meanings of the river
DO	Kichi sibi means Big River; not sure it was called that back in the day Goes a long way; near Val D'or makes a big circle near Temiscaming and Mattawa; Ottawa to St. Lawrence
GM	Submission of winning design named 'Big River'; consistent with Algonquin name
MS	Info of the river Champlain would never have around here Story of Tessouat explains relationship to land Champlain speaks of Algonquin Nation and communities and tombstones at that time Give it some land acknowledgement Water is essential to our life, mother earth – water is all life giving, clean water as life giving, cultural significance beyond Fish – American eel (food staple in winter, hide of eel used in bow hand grip and to strengthen bow, meat was important) – central to life Moving along the river from place to place; River is way of life Development (dam) destroyed cultural significance of land Importance of Chaudiere – shape of pipe bowl – and place of ceremony (all tribes travelling waterways stopped to give ceremony) Dam took that significance away and destroyed the habitat of the eel Eel was a food source for the winter months; used skin/hide of the eel for the base of bow to strengthen it Significance of river – critical to history and way of life Land base that the river runs through; acknowledge that land somehow Not just the river, but also the land base that river runs through (unceded territory)

	What are people looking at; how did Champlain get there; what was he looking for; who did he meet – what did he tell about the Algonquins too
LF	Land acknowledgement is important; future conversation How does a visitor understand that; where? At the base of the foot bridge; on a sign; or carved into a rock? Needs to be physically present on site in some way; figure out how to do that
MS	River used to be drinkable; polluted now – could consider environmental impacts on river Channel for water supply has to be treated, species have gone extinct
RT	Value of river travel; many burial sites along the river Ceremonies at these places done seasonally (ceremonies with relations, ancestors) People has caches where they kept food for themselves and others travelling the river Family groupings would know to replenish these
KW	Boundaries between nations and peoples are described by rivers; the Big River describes the boundary of the territory (Algonquin) by drainage and where people occupied the territory River sets the basis of the territory (internal); not external plot lines and grid Champlain in 1613/1615 met those Algonquin on the river; not necessarily those groups living deeper inland or on smaller watersheds
MS	June 06, 1835 petition describes the unceded territory; look up exact text;
BB	Understand Algonquin culture through the river? Can we use the river; how to navigate the river?
GM	Importance of petition should be shared and displayed
LF	Feeds into land acknowledgement; this petition and other expressions of territory Unknown to visitors; how to communicate this on site Doug, Merv and Kirby help us to figure out how to tell this
JR	River meanders; you could only go so far and then you hit the rapids; so there was a forced stop because of the rapids at the museum How the river was used historically FN travel on the river and guided by topography Not about Champlain towering over, but about everyday travel and patterns of use by FN Visualisation of the river and land; being able to visualize
KW	Another petition from 1824 (?); attached map that Algonquins had with petition (but map has been lost) – description potentially more detailed; map was given about territory External people kept coming into the territory; many proclamations were made; post 1763 Royal proclamation Lake of two mountain in Quebec described in petitions, but now provided to representatives of lower Canada and Upper Canada creating confusion and each ignored proclamations of the other; starting writing two petitions; one to each No treaties because of this Trace trail of petitions for description of territory
RT	Signatories to petitions were some family relations; Original names are very important for what we put in the stories By language identification – Mi'kmaq and Algonquin are part of the Anishinabe Nation Use the original name of Algonquin; studies today referred to more as a language not a tribe Importance of original name Our sense of our imagination of the past very different from modern day values; need to be clear and truthful as possible Like if you find an arrowhead or an artefact and we interpret that wrong Visualization of storytelling

DO	<p>The cliff; lookout place over all the rivers that are coming in to the Ottawa – Rideau, Gatineau Falls are a point where you must portage; a control point; for example, Tessouat would have used that to control travel and collect dues from foreigners, not from Algonquin</p> <p>From the Algonquin perspective, to portage</p> <p>Called ? falls; water swirling and making a whirlpool; vapors go up making it look like smoke</p> <p>Burial sites; offerings and falls</p> <p>Didn't use churches, but used places like the falls for spiritual places</p> <p>Clear view of falls from Nepean Point; place of worship; prayer; lay offerings there</p> <p>All visible from the cliff of NP; visual connection to the falls; a place of worship</p> <p>You can see who is going up and down the river</p> <p>Falls play an important part in the area</p>
BB	See the landscape and many point of the culture
MS	<p>Vision for Victoria Island; spiritual centre; Commanda</p> <p>People/ancestors offer tobacco and other gifts at this site</p> <p>Also called Asticou</p> <p>Before NP became what it is was altered at the time of building the bridge</p> <p>Whole area was shaped as a turtle; tip was blown off to build the bridge</p> <p>Going to research if this is true</p>
LF	NCC has a history file on the bridge; might have visual representation of this in the archives; will let MS know what he finds
MS	<p>Have there been other shapings of the cliff?</p> <p>Found the artefact and pushed for more and better understanding of what it was</p> <p>5 archaeologists determined it wasn't a projectile point, but a knife; the story changed at this point</p>
DO	<p>PSPC reached out to both communities; Rob Wright met with groups who wanted to find out more about the find; wanted more information</p> <p>Met again with multiple archaeologists including some from WSP who were the ones who found it; and Ian Badgely (NCC) and other including prof. from Montreal</p> <p>Identified it as a worn-down knife; 3500-4000 years old</p> <p>Explained what it would have looked like; how it would have been used; why it looks like it does now</p> <p>Determined it originated from the Hill area due to soil evidence; had been traded from elsewhere in Ontario or New York; maybe traded as raw material</p> <p>Because of rivers; Ottawa was a trade hub; proven through archaeological find</p>
BB	Anishinabe Scout
JR	<p>Originally at the foot of Champlain</p> <p>Have we explored whether it should be put on site?</p> <p>Question of scale; should he be elevated?</p>
MS	<p>Scout's job was as an outlook; best at the height of land looking at all directions</p> <p>Role of scout to warn of danger NOT to guide Champlain</p> <p>Algonquin are a peaceful people not a war people</p> <p>Algonquin are big and strong; can he be enlarged?</p> <p>Algonquin looked after their territory well</p> <p>Could we add a new sculpture of Chief Commanda or Pinesi on site?</p>
RT	Scout stand high on the cliff; but a sniper would take you out (joke)
NG	Hearing that there is an appropriateness to keeping the sculpture on site
MS/DO	Can't put him where he cannot see; he's a scout; move rocks in a way to get there in a climbing fashion; must have a lookout

SS	Guide in French; scout in English – meaning to show you the land Works in both languages
LF	Homecoming for the sculpture; originally built in an inappropriate way
DO	Guides are for those who don't know the way or don't know their way around; used today to guide in hunting; to get people back to where they came from
RT	Scout/guide like tomato/tomatoe Why not just accept him with name we've all given him; Riverman; back to original name
SS	Place for new interpretation at this point
KW	Anishinabe scout; outside on the perimeter looking out at the river at the height of land; looking for enemies or friends providing hand signals to the other side of the river Don't want him to be bigger necessarily because that's not in line with his role; if he were symbolic, then he would be bigger
JN	Mature trees; vista looking out at other two rivers more natural setting Point out that the height of land is artificial Do we want him to remain in relationship to Champlain? Or does he have his own story during his own time? Scale plays a factor in the interpretation
BB	Opportunity to tell his own story; separate from Champlain
MS	Uncomfortable with them together; glad they are separated What did Champlain do when he arrived; took the land 1603-1613 – stories of Champlain His second visit used an Algonquin guide who could speak French but not on his first visit Scout and independent; up top looking at him Champlain had to acknowledge Algonquin land; thinks his new position in the park is right Scout on top where he needs to be
KW	Likes JN idea to put him higher No connection between Champlain and Riverman
SS	Put into relationship between the three sculptures; how do we bring them into the same scale; is NCC willing to open the Champlain can of worms again?
MS	Another sculpture of Champlain across the river; is it smaller; should they be swapped?
LF	It was considered, but the sculpture doesn't belong to the NCC; final position of Champlain was agreed upon Thank you everyone Homework to do; how we've interpreted this conversation Schedule a meeting in January to build on momentum; want to continue the conversation and respect the timeline Finding a new name; at least get the ball rolling on a common consensus on how we do that Homework to Doug and Merv; if talking to elders over the holidays find out more or new information; finding the truth would be very much appreciated
MS	Share something about Champlain Quote...
BB	Incredibly valuable; honoured to hear what you said; email with questions or we can have a side conversation Would love presentation from Merv
All	Goodbyes

Nepean Point Interpretation Plan
 Algonquin Stakeholders Meeting
 Videoconference
 February 10, 2022 - 10:00AM to Noon

Meeting Summary

Attendance:

NCC:	Algonquin Nation:	ERA Architect and JRS:
Justin Nadeau, Project Manager	Chief Wendy Anne Jocko	Brittney Ann Bos (ERA)
Garry Meus, Senior Landscape Architect	Merv Sarazin, Councilor, AOPFN	Nicholas Gosselin (JRS)
Steven Sdraulig, Senior Industrial Designer	Douglas Odjick, Councilor, KZA	
Luc Fournier, Director, PCA		
Rene Tenasco, Liaison Officer, PCA		
Kim Geoffrion, Senior Advisor, PCA		
Kirby Whiteduck, advisor to the NCC		

Purpose of the meeting:

The NCC organized this meeting to continue the dialogue with the Algonquin Nation stakeholders respecting the interpretative plan for Nepean Point. Further, Councilor Sarazin requested to use some of the meeting time to present information relating to Grand Chief Constant Pinesi [Pinency]. The meeting was used to provide an update on the location of the scout (now called zibi annini or river man) as well as an update on the status of the interpretation plan

Meeting Material:



Nepean Point_Progress Upd.



Nepean Point - Interpretation - Feb.

The presentation and meeting agenda were shared with participants on January 31, 2022.

Key points:

The NCC provided introductory remarks and presented the Agenda for the meeting. It was noted that for the agenda item respecting renaming of Nepean Point, the NCC was looking for insights on the process to follow.

Participants were then invited to introduce themselves.

Agenda item 1 – information respecting Grand Chief Pinesi [Pinency¹]

Councilor Sarazin presented information on Grand Chief Pinesi. In his remarks, Councilor Sarazin explained how Nepean Point, as well as the city of Ottawa is located on the Algonquin Nation territory. The Algonquin Nation relied on lands on both sides of the Kichi Sibi since time immemorial.

Councilor Sarazin explained to the participants that AOPFN has undertaken much research into Grand Chief Constant Pinesi. Some of the research was initiated by Ron Bernard from AOPFN. Councilor reports learning that Grand Chief Pinesi was probably born towards 1768, and had his territory towards Oka. His territory was apparently vast and well known at the time, as evidenced by numerous petitions from the late 1700s and early 1800 to the British Crown. Grand Chief Pinesi would have fought in the war of 1812. His territory was home for approximately 64 families on the south of the Ottawa river towards the Rideau river. The Grand Chief would have died in 1834 during a cholera epidemic. In addition, historical research points to the idea that Chief Jocko as well as Councilor Sarazin are descendants of Grand Chief Pinesi. Councilor Sarazin indicated that Grand Chief Pinesi was a Nation builder. He travelled throughout the territory and had relations from Mattawa to the Algonquin Park to Oka.

Chief Wendy Jocko added that AOPFN was interested in a type of recognition of Grand Chief Pinesi. She added that the name was brought forward a while back when there was no process for renaming requests. Chief Jocko read a Band Council Resolution which speaks to the history behind Grand Chief Pinesi and includes a request for some honorific mention of the Grand Chief (for instance, by renaming an asset after him).

Councilor Sarazin mentioned that from his understanding of the historical research, Nepean Point location was a sacred area. The Point looks like a turtle and the head of the turtle was destroyed to make way of the Alexandra Bridge footing.

Councilor Odjick recalled when AOPFN conducted some of the historical research. He indicated that AOPFN reached out to KZA Chief and Council as well as Elders to find out if they knew or had information about Grand Chief Pinesi. Councilor Odjick mentioned that at the time, KZA did not have information. KZA mentioned they were interested in the research conducted by AOPFN and some material has been shared amongst the communities. Chief Jocko confirmed that additional findings will be shared with KZA as they become available. Councilor Sarazin added that the draft findings are circulating with academia to ensure accuracy.

Councilor Sarazin mentioned that AOPFN was still conducting research. He noted they reached out to the Canadian War Museum as well as to the Canadian Museum of History to find more information, including images. AOPFN stated they would be

¹ Historical sources refer to “Grand Chief Pierre Louis Constant Pinency” while some other references use the spelling “Pinesi”.

interested in commissioning a statue for Grand Chief Pinesi once research has been completed.

To conclude, the NCC agreed to consider this information.

Agenda Item 2 – Riverman / Zibi Annini

An overview of the 3 options was presented. Councilor Sarazin explained that the riverman would have been a warrior and his position on the Point should reflect the tactical/military aspect. He added that it would make sense for the riverman to look towards potential dangers, so towards the confluence of the Gatineau, Rideau and Ottawa rivers.

Councilor Odjick agreed with the strategic/military storyline and that the riverman should be depicted as a warrior.

Kirby Whiteduck agreed, and added that the riverman should be facing the river, where potential threats could be coming from. He added that it could be interesting to have him look to Parliament, but preferred to have him looking towards the river.

Councilor Sarazin added we could explore placing the statue in vegetation and wondered how the statue got his name of “riverman” or Zibi Annini². The NCC mentioned that we would want visitors to be able to interact with the statue.

Participants asked to see pictures for them to understand how the location would look on the site. Chief Jocko asked if a site visit would be feasible. The NCC will explore this request, noting the site was an active construction zone.

Agenda item 3 - Renaming of Nepean Point

The NCC introduced the subject by reminding participants that the NCC was committed to renaming the site in collaboration with KZA and AOPFN. The commitment was silent on process. The NCC indicated that we were hoping to obtain guidance on how we could approach renaming of Nepean Point and who should participate in this process. Finally, the NCC mentioned that we would need a new name by June 2022.

Chief Jocko mentioned that Kirby Whiteduck was appointed to the Advisory Committee on Toponymy and that he could also be involved in the renaming of Nepean Point considering his expertise as an Elder and Knowledge Keeper. She added that Ron Bernard could also assist as his expertise would be valuable.

The NCC welcomed these nominations.

² Rene Tenasco had a follow up conversation with Councilor Sarazin where he explained how the statue got his name. Rene Tenasco mentioned that Annie Smith from KZA went to Ottawa and gave him his name. He noted there was a ceremony, and his name was given. Councilor Sarazin was pleased to learn about this and agreed that riverman or Zibi Annini was an appropriate and meaningful name.

Councilor Odjick advised he was going to check with Chief and Council and will get back to the NCC with appointees for both the Nepean Point renaming process as well as the Advisory Committee on Toponymy³.

Agenda Item 4 – Update on Interpretation Plan

Brittney Ann Bos provided an update of the Interpretation.

Participants seemed appreciative of the work completed thus far. Councilor Sarazin mentioned an audio component for the interpretation of the site would be an interesting addition. He added that the site is important as it connects the river with genealogy and history.

Closing remarks

It was agreed that the NCC will follow up with AOPFN and KZA to start the renaming process.

³ In follow up discussions, KZA advised that Anita Tenasco would be appointed to the Advisory Committee on Toponymy as well as for the renaming of Nepean Point. Joan Tenasco is also appointed to discuss renaming of Nepean Point.

Nepean Point – Interpretation Plan

Federal Stakeholders Engagement Meeting 1

January 14, 2021 – 1pm EST

Proceedings of the Meeting

- meeting began with opening remarks and setting the context of the project
- the original and current designs were introduced by Janet Rosenberg and Studio
- the interpretation plan process was presented by ERA Architects
- a moderated discussion was held re: various design elements and interpretative themes

Summary of Subjects Raised and Voices Heard

- there was a very productive discussion about **counterpoints and balance**, with particular attention paid to the Champlain monument and possibilities for how it can or cannot be integrated within the interpretation plan
- there was considerable discussion regarding the **inclusion of Algonquin history, viewpoints and experiences** on the site (historic and contemporary) and what that might look like
- many people agreed that it was important to consider **what we want people to feel** in this place and how the visitor's journey is then presented/unfolds
- many participants urged the interpretation plan to consider **how we view the site** from multiple perspectives, primarily from different cultural viewpoints, and some people spoke about what this might look like with a view to the past, present and enduring future
- some participants encouraged others to think about **what is unique about Nepean Point** as a site and capitalize on those opportunities in the interpretation plan
- there were many questions raised about how can we **integrate the art work and other physical markers** already present on the site and it was agreed that these must run parallel with the overall interpretation plan (and many can be leveraged)
- based on the discussion, a few possible keywords emerged:
 - *Discovery* – historical but also user experience
 - *Land* – the land of this place but also the emphasis on landscape in design, what land means to people/cultures, this land, etc
 - *Contact* – contact between cultures, people, but also contemporary contact
 - *Vantage Point* or *Lookout* or *Views* – interpreting what is seen from this site
 - *Time* – past, present and future, passage of time, seasons, etc
 - *Experience* – what the users will experience, but also experiences of the past
 - *Gateway* – park as a way to understand the region, the River, etc
 - *River* – how the Ottawa River is situated in the NCR (physical and symbolic)

Moving Forward

- the interpretation plan team intends to re-engage stakeholders during Phase 3 (interpretation opportunities) in the next few months. During this re-engagement, we will discuss provisional themes/stories and consider the opportunities for interpretation
- if stakeholders have further questions or comments before the re-engagement, feel free to reach out via email
- members of the working group will be contacted separately about deliverables, meetings, etc, moving forward

Second Engagement Session with Federal Stakeholders re Nepean Point Interpretation Plan

December 13, 2021

Present:

Richard Palmer (PCH)
Greg Hill (National Gallery)
Stephanie Milligan (PCH)
Sandra Richards (PCH)
Rene Tenasco (NCC)
Kirby Whiteduck (advisor, Pikwakanagan)
Luc Fournier (NCC)
Yoland Charette (NCC)
Garry Meus (NCC)
Justin Nadeau (NCC)
Kim Geoffrion (NCC)
Steven Sdraulig (NCC)
Janet Rosenberg (JRS)
Wayne Swanton (JRS)
Victoria Angel (ERA)
Brittney Anne Bos (ERA)
Claire Forward (ERA)

AGENDA

Introductions

- Opening remarks from the NCC
- Participant introductions
- Agenda
- Brief re-introduction to the project
- Timelines and Deliverables

On Site Updates

- Champlain monument
- Construction update

Interpretation Plan Updates

- First Nations Engagement – February 2021
- Interpretation Plan Themes
- First Nations Engagement – December 2021
- Where we are now

Precedent Considerations, Next Steps

- Inspirations and Precedents
- Working Towards Interpretation Plan 90%
- Re-engagement

DISCUSSION NOTES:

RP (comments):

- Orientation rather than wayfinding is really key- then the interpretation would follow the landscape design → then the key themes would be predetermined and expressed through the landscape design, then the following elements would come after
- Walking through the landscape: questioning the arrival and location of the bridge and direction of view, pathway along property line seems arbitrary – how does that support overall treed landscape into lookout and discovery point?
- Relationship of the art pieces to the overall site meaning / the integration of those pieces? How will these comments be resolved?

BB:

- Terminology: looked at navigation, discovery, and orientation – how does someone position themselves within the landscape?
- How can we ask self-reflective questions? Still considering other terms and drawing on elements of different terms

GM:

- Design portion of RG comment: may look like an arbitrary pathway – 2 elm trees that are the focus of how the pedestrian bridge arrives to Nepean Point, and how that bridge path continues on northbound
 - o Bridge landing area is there in order to preserve those 2 mature elm trees
 - o Creating landing area to not disturb those 2 elms, and to continue on a path
- Route is also a part of the bigger NCC pathway project/development

RP:

- Is the angle necessary on the route? Pathway interrupts lookout...

SM:

- Questions around approach to the site – what is that looking like? The visitor experience team within Canadian Heritage relies on walking tours – Nepean Point has been a difficult point to direct visitors towards
 - o Hoping new landscape architecture will be able to help rectify that
- Any plans to put something where Champlain was? Usually people would wander that way with a visual draw to the site?
- Canadian Heritage interpretation standpoint – we have not been part of many discussions and we are looking forward to being engaged in the strategy going forward

BB:

- Nepean Point has been a hidden place – we understand that sentiment, hopeful that the interpretative elements will be that draw and landscape design will be too
- NCC has considered different ways to bring more people to Nepean Point

GH:

- Access – pedestrian bridge is one of the largest options having that connection from Major Hills Park guiding the visitor traffic to Nepean Point, access point from National Gallery
- Pedestrian bridge would be the key point to enhance / direct visitors
- Outlook – with community and first nation members: different ideas floating right now about how to enhance the area

LF:

- Is the gallery still contemplating an access to Nepean Point from the rear of the building?

GM:

- Rear of building is cafeteria space – it is an area of coordination where the NCC team in collaboration within National Gallery to see how the connection could transpire / transform and ease the type of transition from the gallery space to Nepean Point
- The gallery in its own right has gotten the services of its own consultant team to look into how that connection would come about – have not heard recent updates on this yet
- Other connections are also viable

GH:

- Confirm that the gallery remains enhancing access to the site, as more and more artworks are situated there – how do we interrupt this site in conjunction with what we are being given as far as design?
- Champlain Monument was big part of this interruption – don't see how it works with the site that is premised as highlighting the landscape? From the National Gallery's point of view – the site currently with the artworks creates sites of contemplation and thinking about different ways of things vs. what is a colonial monument – seems very oddly placed
- Interested to know what First Nation stakeholders believe – we don't hear more detail on what their feedback is, and that would be very helpful to know to also consider their views in our comments and helpful suggestions to an interpretation plan
- Any way that more information can be shared between stakeholder groups?

BB:

- Luc Fournier can answer: summaries of both engagements can be shared? Could be very helpful for everyone.

LF:

- Without speaking for the AOO – this has been an ongoing dialogue for years, we have been told that we have to move the monument – it should not be the main focal point, should be moved somewhere secondary, and there should also be sufficient interpretation at the base of the monument so a visitor could understand the shared history

BB:

- Circulate notes back to those who were currently present, need to ensure that all participants are ok with circulating them

GH:

- Has it ever been presented that the monument go to a different place all together?

LF:

- Yes there have been suggestions about where the monument should go – varying locations in the capital – what we have achieved in the last few months is the result of years of dialogue
- You mentioned something about thinking in things in different ways – so we have the opportunity to express this through interpretation together – so we will think about Champlain in a different way

KW:

- Monument it has been an issue for a long time – AOO wanting some movement – significant compromise that is no longer a focal point – quite a lower profile, would be accepted by the AOO
- Special interpretation tools – gives us a better idea of what can be doable
- The bridge will enable a lot of the visitors to the site, greater access and greater interest – this project is going to produce a major visiting point in the capital
- There is a lot of opportunity for input and inclusion of the indigenous people

SM:

- Any seasonal rotating pieces? EX: Chateau Laurier terrace – every summer we do different themes? Could something like this be co-developed with us?

GM:

- Lots of opportunities to develop – NCC has moved away from being able to focus their attention on different types of events – need to figure out the parameters with which we are working with and be part of a coordination to be able to make something happen

BB:

- Are there plans developing for whispering point? (GH)

WS:

- Whispering Point is under construction – lots of ongoing discussion on what will be happening on the plateau at the top and what you see now is the consensus starting point and whether there are more opportunities to envision things, time will tell

GH:

- What is the physical infrastructure? What will the media component be?

GM:

- The media piece will be to have an audio component – worked into the way of having stories and a flavour Canadianism to how the whispering point is experienced
- Murmurs would be a type of art in its own way to have that be a part of the entire experience
- Running into budgetary issues as to how to make these different pieces work; seeking how to be able these items be apart of the audio component (the stories) – we are aware of our budget, a larger conversation about how this piece is going to move forward is going to take place and how to formalize itself is also ongoing

GH:

- When is that going to happen? It is a really great opportunity for interpretation.

RP:

- Are subthemes available?

BB:

- Deliverable for just the NCC – back in April 2021, not sure about further distribution of these subthemes.

SR:

- For the Scout – what are the timelines for that? His location is still up in the air?

BB:

- Received feedback from First Nations last week – timeline still under development.

LF:

- Will be somewhere on the site – I think – opportunities for dialogue about vision and the decision point is one we will want to make together.
- Design team have provided a few options to start the conversation, more options have come through dialogue – up for discussion at the end of January
- Main point was giving it more importance, not sticking the art piece where it would be more prominent and not hidden

JN:

- Would a site visit be helpful in the New Year for people to get a handle on how things look now?

GM:

- Possible to plan for the spring? Let the winter break happen then have everyone gather round early spring to basically catch a glimpse of how things are progressing. Fantastic if people were able to join.

JN:

- With the plan for 90% - is there any reason to have it sooner?

BB:

- We are working with timeline with the board of directors – when we get feedback on certain elements – spring could work, or if it does need to happen earlier we can work on that.

JN:

- Feeling of the place / being there is really important! Rene would you go again?

RT:

- I would come again – it is a good idea. Need to take the opportunity to also invite other communities / cultural resource people that would help us with the name change of Nepean Point at a later date.

----End of meeting----