



# *Wanuskewin* Heritage Park

Public update on progress and developments of Wanuskewin Heritage Park



*February 2018*



# Wanuskewin Heritage Park

On December 20, 2017, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Catherine McKenna, announced the addition of eight new sites to Canada's Tentative List for United Nations Scientific Educational and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage. Wanuskewin Heritage Park was thrilled and honoured to be included on this prestigious shortlist. This marks the first time in Saskatchewan's history that a site has been considered for international heritage designation.

Parks Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites is a national inventory of exceptional places in Canada that are considered to be of value to all of humanity. Places as diverse as the Pyramids of Egypt, Yellowstone National Park in the United States and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia are examples of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. To be nominated, Wanuskewin will need to put forward a full application dossier demonstrating how we meet at least one of ten internationally-selected criteria.

According to Parks Canada, since 1976 when Canada joined the World Heritage Convention, 18 of our country's most cherished heritage sites have met the requirements to be inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. They represent some of humanity's most outstanding achievements and nature's most inspiring creations.

The archaeological resources at Wanuskewin are among the finest examples of occupation of the Great Plains of North America and are an exceptional testament to traditional human settlement on the Northern Plains. Nineteen archaeological sites have been identified on the terraces, point bars and coulee depressions that form Opimihaw Valley.

This complete and intact record of cultural development in the region from 6,400 years ago to present day includes habitation sites, bison jumps, tipi rings, and the most northerly Medicine Wheel recorded in North America. There is evidence of nearly every cultural group recognized across the Plains having gathered at this site; and contemporary Indigenous nations affirm the significance of Wanuskewin as a spiritual place. Considered a sacred site and gathering place, Wanuskewin continues to be relevant as a place for peaceful co-existence, education, ceremonies and reconciliation for all nations.

The World Heritage criterion that best supports this site is:

(iii) The archaeological resources at Wanuskewin are a complete and intact record of human settlement and cultural tradition as a gathering place from 6,400 years ago to today.

For more information about Wanuskewin's application for World Heritage designation, please contact Tara Janzen, Development Manager at [tara.janzen@wanuskewin.com](mailto:tara.janzen@wanuskewin.com).





# Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Project Update January 2018

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is under construction!

January began with awarding roofing, cladding and window contracts that will see cedar shingles on the roof, windows in the peaks and some cladding replaced during the winter months to kick off construction. The contracts were awarded based on prior project experience, price as well as employment of Indigenous workers. Two of the three companies are promising 100% Indigenous labor force, while the third is promising 30-50%. Our intent is to continue with detailed design during the next few months and begin construction of the north addition this spring.

Wanuskewin is also moving forward on the development of the new exhibits that will be installed in the newly expanded/renovation building (dates to be announced), as well as the grassland reclamation and planning for the Cultural Bison herd to arrive at Wanuskewin.

Wanuskewin project team will be presenting to the Meewasin Valley Authority Board of Directors on February 2nd to obtain final approval to move forward with the Thundering Ahead Project. This is another great achievement in the process.

Of Note:

The cedar shakes being removed from the iconic Wanuskewin roof spires, will be repurposed for future playground structures and for mulch on trails.

