



**Alaska Highway
National Historic Site
Designation
Nomination Project**

October 11, 2011

**Alaska Highway National Historic Site Project
Work Begins!**

Fort St. John, British Columbia - The Alaska Highway Community Society is pleased to announce start-up of the project to nominate the Alaska Highway as a National Historic Site of Canada. The intention is to submit the nomination to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (administered by Parks Canada) in 2013. The long-range goal of the Alaska Highway Community Board and key stakeholders is to achieve national historic site status by 2017 in order to coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Alaska Highway and the 150th Anniversary of Canada.

The Ottawa-based public history firm, Contentworks Inc., has been engaged to assist with the research, development and preparation of the nomination with input from the communities and stakeholders associated with the Alaska Highway. Contentworks has extensive experience working on similar projects for other clients, as well as knowledge of the history of the Alaska Highway. The work will be managed out of Northern British Columbia Tourism Association's Fort St John office with April Moi as the main contact.

Two members of the Contentworks team, Tascha Morrison and Alice Glaze, will be conducting the visits. Tascha, originally from Whitehorse, YT, has traversed the highway a number of times and is familiar with its history. Alice, from Saskatoon, is also familiar with the highway as she worked on a history of the bridges along the route for another Contentworks project.

At this point, the focus will be on the British Columbia portion of the Alaska Highway. The first task is to begin documenting the historical landscapes and cultural resources associated with, and located along, the route. This also includes sites or resources that pre-date the war-time construction of the highway. While some of the research will be desk and archive-based, site visits are being planned between October 11th and 18th to photograph, assess and research those located between Dawson Creek, BC and Watson Lake, YT. This includes sites such as the Alaska Highway House, Kiskatinaw River Bridge, Charlie Lake and the Alaska Highway Monument, McDonald River and Valley, Muncho Lake, Contact Creek and many others. The goal of the trip is to develop an inventory of key sites and cultural resources along the route to contribute to the coordination of achieving National Historic Site designation. Further visits will be planned for 2012.

The Peace River Regional District is the primary funder for the project. The Northern Rockies Regional District, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the City of Dawson Creek are also providing in-kind and financial support. The North East Native Advancing Society has developed a story collecting skills development and training program with a focus of gathering First Nations stories in relation to the Alaska Highway. Any work done to support the nomination will also serve tourism-related projects in the area including opportunities to improve interpretation both along the highway itself and through traditional and online media facets.



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"We are excited that this critical work for our region and the province is moving forward and acknowledge all our funding partners who recognize the value of this important project," states Bud Powell, Alaska Highway Community, Chair.

If you wish to provide Tascha and Alice with information, or possibly arrange to meet them, please do not hesitate to get in touch with them directly. In the near future, we hope to have a web presence for the project, but, in the meantime, please contact April Moi if you have any questions. Contact information is provided below.

The Alaska Highway Community has been formed by the local governments of Northeastern British Columbia with the goal to work together as a "single community" that focuses on the development of the Alaska Highway, which includes pursuing National Historic Site designation. The Fort St. John office of Northern British Columbia Tourism Association administers the affairs of the organization.

A stakeholder based not-for-profit society, Northern British Columbia Tourism Association is governed by a private sector board of directors who represent business and community tourism interests within the Northern Tourism Region. The region is one of the 6 recognized tourism regions in Super, Natural British Columbia which encompasses the top 53% of British Columbia and includes Haida Gwaii (Queen Charlotte Islands).

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