

NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

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THE TOURISM CAFE

Prepared for Northern BC Tourism Association

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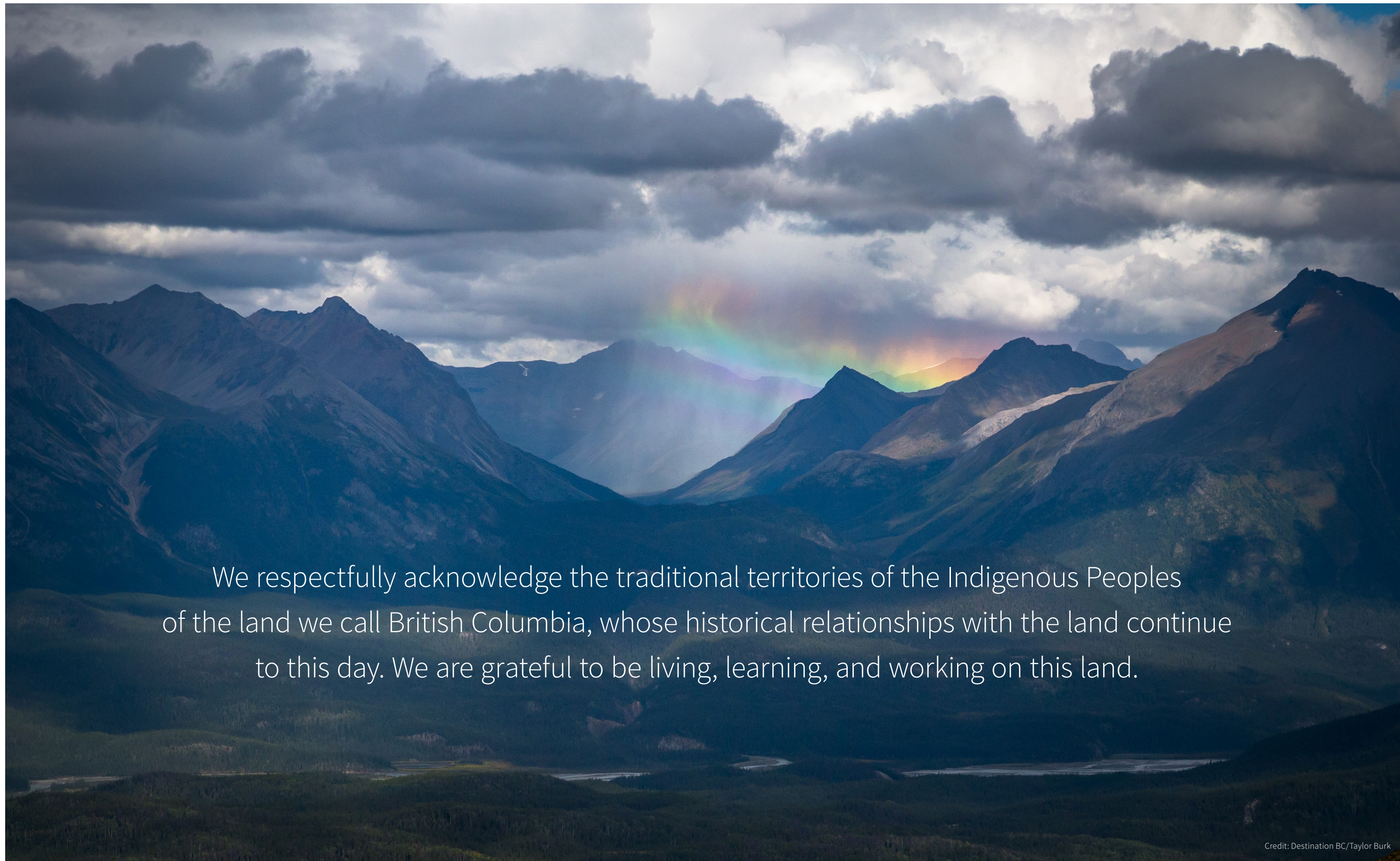
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Contents

1.0 Introduction.....	3	4.0 Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework	15
1.1 What is a Thematic Framework?.....	4	4.1 Introduction	15
1.2 Who is the Thematic Framework For?	4	4.2 Thematic Framework: Regions and Sub-Regions ...	18
1.3 Purpose of the Thematic Framework.....	4	4.3 Thematic Framework: Corridors	70
1.4 How will the Thematic Framework be Used?	5	5.0 Implementing the Northern	
1.5 What is in this Document?	5	British Columbia Thematic Framework	79
2.0 Context for the Thematic Framework	7	5.1 Alignment with Concurrent Projects.....	79
2.1 Geographic Area	7	5.2 Awareness Building	79
2.2 Tourism Development Landscape	8	5.3 Future Planning and Initiatives	80
2.3 Community Initiatives	10	5.4 Managing the Thematic Framework Over Time	80
2.4 Indigenous-Led Initiatives	10	5.5 NBCTA Action Plan	82
3.0 Plan Methodology	12	Appendix.....	84
3.1 Planning.....	12	1. Glossary of Terms.....	84
3.2 Community and First Nations Workshops.....	12	2. Sample Workshop Powerpoint.....	85
3.3 Documentation	13	3. Sample Workshop Summary.....	101
3.4 Thematic Framework Project Limitations	13	4. Sample Interview Template	102





We respectfully acknowledge the traditional territories of the Indigenous Peoples of the land we call British Columbia, whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. We are grateful to be living, learning, and working on this land.

Credit: Destination BC/Taylor Burk

1.0 Introduction

This *Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework (NBCTF)* is a foundational document that identifies the themes and topics of the Northern BC tourism region (NTR). It will guide and align future development of meaningful heritage interpretation and visitor experiences, based on authentic, inclusive and compelling themes and topics. It aims to support the development of visitor corridors and experiences that will strengthen NTR’s appeal to visitors and residents.

The *NBCTF* reflects the voices, contributions and experiences of Northern BC residents, who shared their perspectives over a year through workshops, interviews, research and conversations. The framework is flexible and will be built upon, deepened and refined over time.

It’s really important to ensure the First Nations’ stories are told and [woven] into the material.

- FORT NELSON WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT

My life has been enriched by working with others in the area.... there is always tea, coffee and conversations that are so enriching. Great stories.

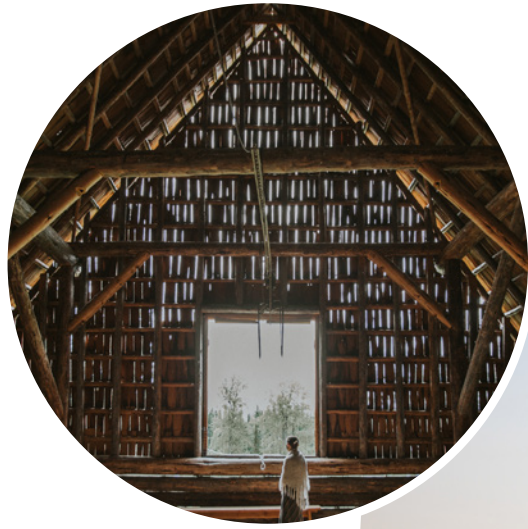
- BURNS LAKE WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT



Top: Northern BC Tourism/Shayd Johnson
Right: Destination BC/Andrew Strain
Left: Destination Vancouver/Vision Event Photography Inc.

1.1 What is a Thematic Framework?

A thematic framework is a long-term blueprint or road map used for the planning and development of heritage interpretation and visitor experiences. It uses themes to organise and conceptualise the key topics, perspectives and experiences that define a place. It aligns themes to places and topics, or in this case, regions, sub-regions and communities in NTR. In this way, the framework lays out a plan for interpreting the topics, stories and perspectives that are authentic to each area. It also makes thematic connections across larger areas, interpreting the overarching story of Northern BC.



1.2 Who is the Thematic Framework For?

The *NBCTF* was developed for Northern British Columbia Tourism Association (NBCTA), with support from Destination British Columbia (DBC). NBCTA is a regional destination management organisation working to promote Northern BC through destination development programming, media relations, travel trade and marketing activities. They work with communities, First Nations, businesses and operators to strategically develop sustainable, responsible tourism and strengthen the visitor economy.

The *NBCTF* will be referred to by many different types of organisations and individuals: tourism associations, regional districts, municipalities, communities, band councils, businesses, planners, tourism operators, interpretive facilities, funders, consultants and others. It will be shared widely, to encourage consistency of interpretive themes and messaging across NTR.



1.3 Purpose of the Thematic Framework

The *NBCTF* aims to:

- Advance the implementation of recommendations made to support the strategic growth of tourism and the visitor economy
- Guide and align future heritage interpretation and visitor experience development investments in the NTR by aligning themes, sub-themes and topics to physical areas (regions, sub-regions and corridors) with physical areas
- Provide inclusive, authentic, place-based and compelling themes, sub-themes, topics and stories that can be used to attract and present NTR to visitors, through the perspectives and experiences of residents
- Uncover perspectives and experiences that have been under-represented in the past, such as Indigenous Peoples
- Support the development of visitor corridors and experiences to strengthen destination appeal and competitiveness
- Provide a flexible and broad framework that can evolve over time
- Identify gaps needing further research that can be added to the framework over time
- Support the advancement of provincial tourism priorities including reconciliation, rural tourism growth and visitor dispersion

Top: Northern BC Tourism/Jongsun Park
Bottom: Northern BC Tourism/Andrew Strain

1.4 How will the Thematic Framework be Used?

The *NBCTF* is a tool that will guide investment in the future development and presentation of heritage interpretation and visitor experiences in the NTR. When a thematic framework is used to coordinate the planning, development and delivery of experiences, the connection and depth of the interpretive information and stories told results in a richer experience for visitors and residents alike.

The *NBCTF* will support organisations, businesses, communities and others to understand how they fit within the visitor journey. The themes provide linkages and relationships across geographic areas to help enhance the experience along travel corridors. More specifically, this framework will guide the development of signage, museums, interpretive facilities, tourism facilities and products; regional or community-specific branding and identity; and Indigenous-led projects.

The framework is not intended to provide detailed content and stories that can be directly translated into interpretive signage and experiences. Nor does it recommend interpretive design solutions or media choices. It provides guidance so that individual projects can be more closely aligned with identified regional and sub-regional themes and topics, and that there is minimal overlap and thus inform future interpretive and destination development work.

A Living Document

The research and workshop process for the *NBCTF* identified strengths and gaps in stories, places, assets and interpretation that have been flagged for further research, engagement and inclusion. This framework is a living document that can be added to over time. As organisations, businesses and communities work towards bringing heritage interpretation and visitor experiences to life using the *NBCTF* to guide them, stronger relationships can be built, deeper engagement can take place, and the *NBCTF* can be updated and enriched.

1.5 What is in this Document?

- The *NBCTF* document is broken into five sections and an appendix:
- **Section 1: Introduction.** This section provides definitions and answers the questions: what is a thematic framework, what is the project aim, what will it be used for, and who will use it?
 - **Section 2: Context for the Thematic Framework.** This section provides an overview of the project context, including the geographic area of the work, the tourism development landscape, and community and Indigenous project considerations.
 - **Section 3: Plan Methodology.** The methodology describes the project timeline, process, documentation and limitations.
 - **Section 4: Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework.** This section is the thematic framework itself. It is divided into regions and related sub-regions, and corridors.
 - **Section 5: Recommendations for Implementing the *NBCTF*.** This section provides recommendations for implementing the framework over different time scales: immediate actions, future planning and updating the *NBCTF* over time.
 - **Appendix.** The appendix includes a glossary of terms, sample workshop powerpoint, interview questions and workshop summary, and a template for tracking additional information for inclusion in the *NBCTF* over time.



Credit: Destination BC/Andrew Strain



Context for the Thematic Framework

Credit: Destination BC/Grant Harder

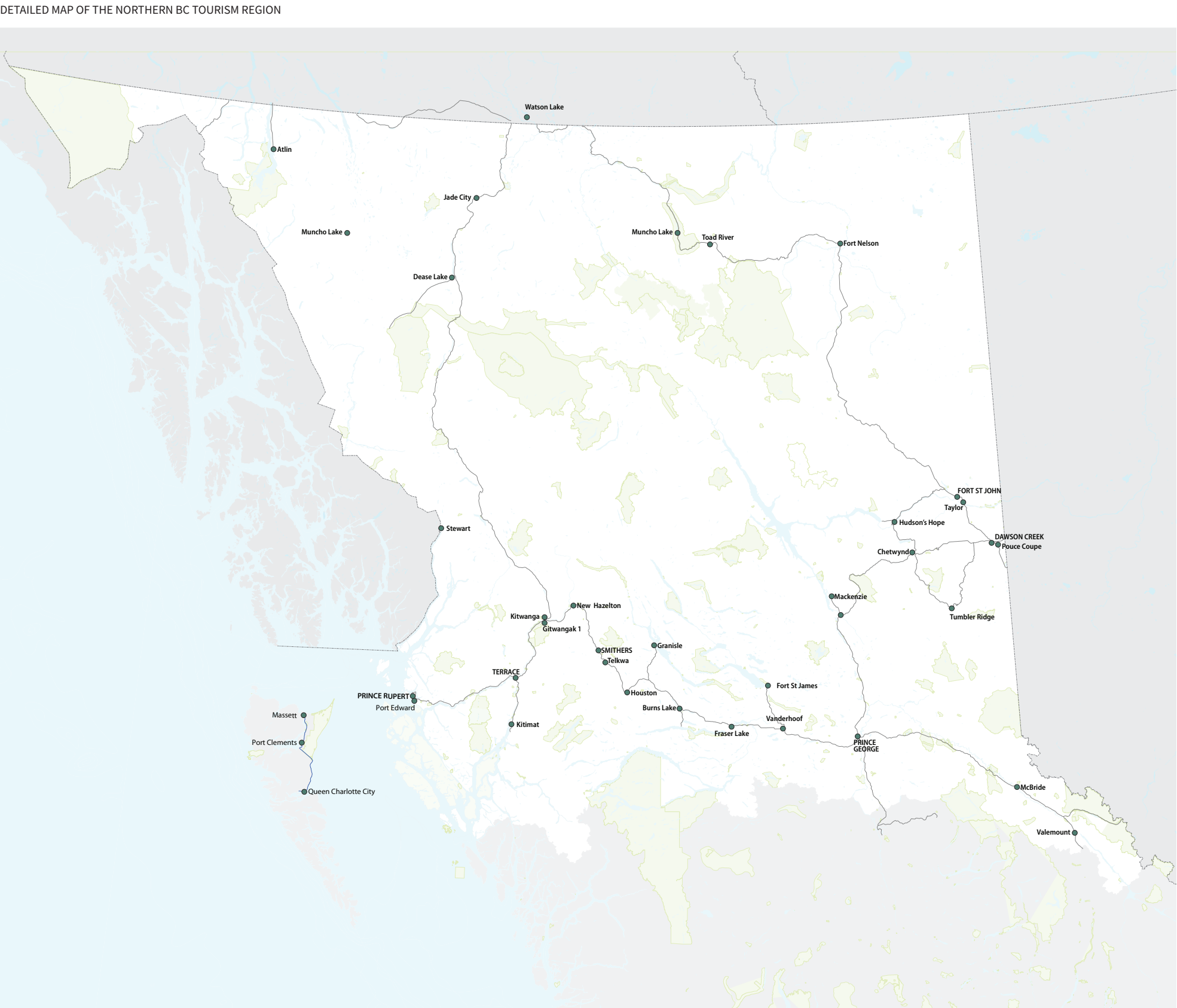
2.0 Context for the Thematic Framework

The *NBCTF* was developed for *NBCTA*, with support from DBC. The framework is an outgrowth of previous tourism development planning and was developed in alignment with several other projects. It reflects the current tourism landscape of the NTR, provincial initiatives, and community and Indigenous-led initiatives. It supports the advancement of provincial tourism priorities, including reconciliation, rural tourism growth and visitor dispersion.

2.1 Geographic Area

The *NBCTF* covers the jurisdiction of *NBCTA*. It is a vast area that spans Highway 16 from Mount Robson west to Haida Gwaii, and north to the Yukon and Northwest Territories border—over 60% of the province geographically. It is one of the six tourism regions within the province.

The insights contained within this document apply to all of the NTR, with the exception of Haida Gwaii. The framework is flexible and can be adapted to include Haida Gwaii at a later time.



2.2 Tourism Development Landscape

How does the NBCTF fit into tourism development work?

The NBCTF advances the implementation of the *Northwest* and *Northeast DDS*.^{1,2} These documents represent two of 19 strategies created by DBC in collaboration with NBCTA between 2016 and 2019 and contain recommendations on strengthening the supply side of tourism (see diagram) to support the three provincial goals to:

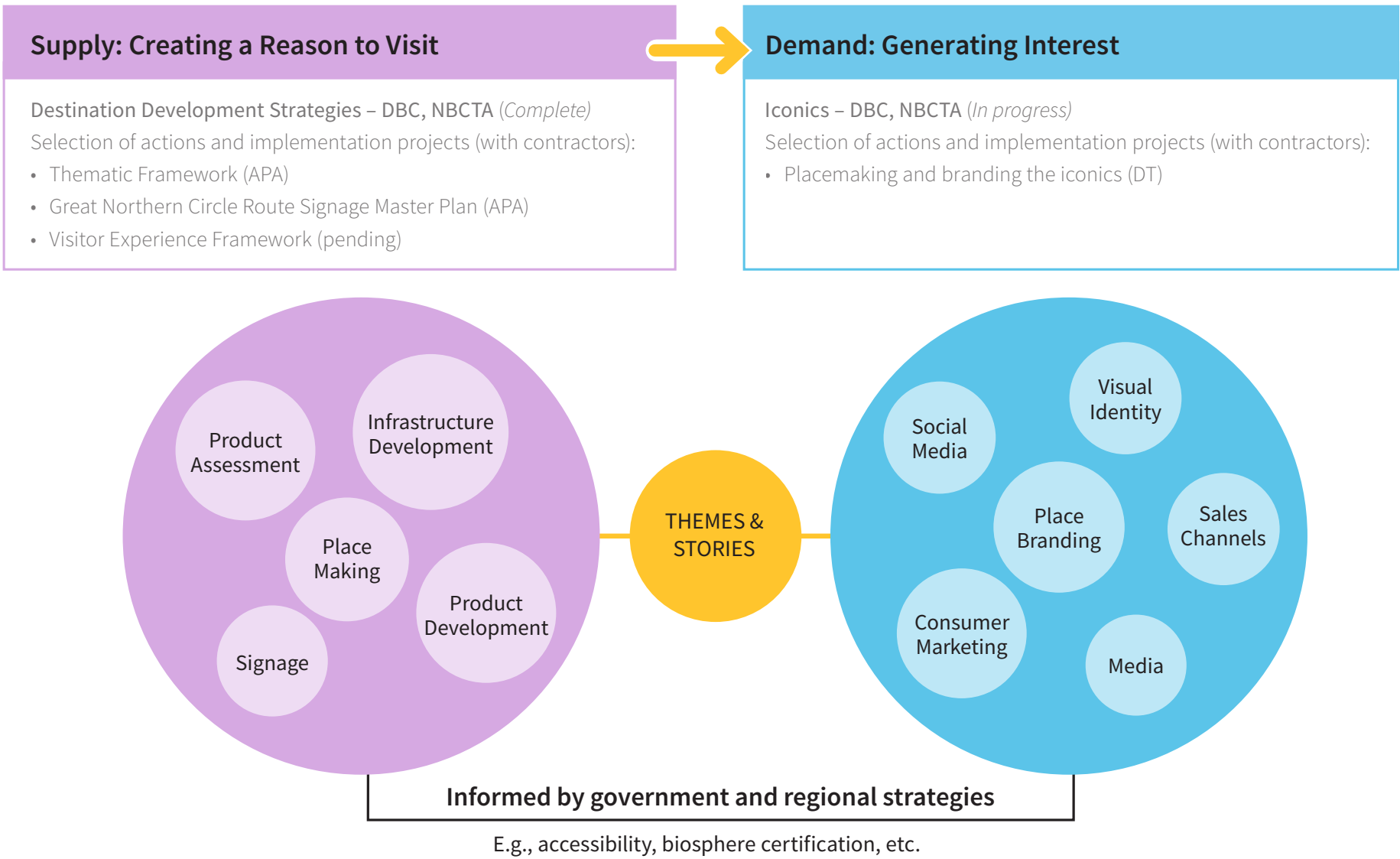
1. Make British Columbia the most highly recommended destination in North America.
2. Create strategic plans for tourism development and improve return-on-investment for government and private sector investments in tourism assets.
3. Elevate British Columbia’s ability to compete as a premium destination while making the province more attractive for investment.

Each DDS guides the resources, investments and tourism destination development planning activities that support creating reasons to visit and the delivery of the on-the-ground visitor experiences as part of increasing BC’s destination appeal to travellers.

The NBCTF project most closely aligns to implementing actions D-4-1 in the *Northwest DDS* and E4 in the *Northeast DDS*: to develop thematic corridors and circle routes that tie to other areas (Haida Gwaii, the Cariboo, Chilcotin Coast and Vancouver Island). It also supports advancing other DDS recommendations related to enhancing wayfinding and interpretive signage, increasing the development of new products and visitor experiences and strengthening collaboration between Indigenous Peoples, communities and destination management organisations.³

Where supply-side destination development focuses on creating reasons to visit, the demand-side represents investments and activities that generate awareness and interest amongst visitors to travel to the NTR and British Columbia. Themes and stories are the connection point between supply and demand: marketing and promotion tell the stories of the destination that inspire interest to come, and destination development creates the experiences that bring the themes, topics and stories to life for visitors.

THEMATIC FRAMEWORK PROJECT COORDINATION BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND-SIDE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



¹ Destination British Columbia. (n.d). Northeastern BC destination development strategy: Prince George Area, Highway 97 (John Hart Highway), Alaska Highway Corridor. Retrieved from <https://www.destinationbc.ca/what-we-do/destination-management/destination-development/northern-british-columbia/>

² Destination British Columbia. (n.d). Northwestern BC destination development strategy: Including Highways 16 and 37. Retrieved from <https://www.destinationbc.ca/what-we-do/destination-management/destination-development/northern-british-columbia/>

³ There are a variety of relevant strategic priorities that the Thematic Framework project supports. In the Northwestern DDS, strategic priorities and actions connecting to the Thematic Framework project include D-4-1, B-3-1, B-6-1 and in the Northeastern DDS actions A1-1 and 2, D3, D7 and E4.

Coordinating Development Activities Across Multiple Projects

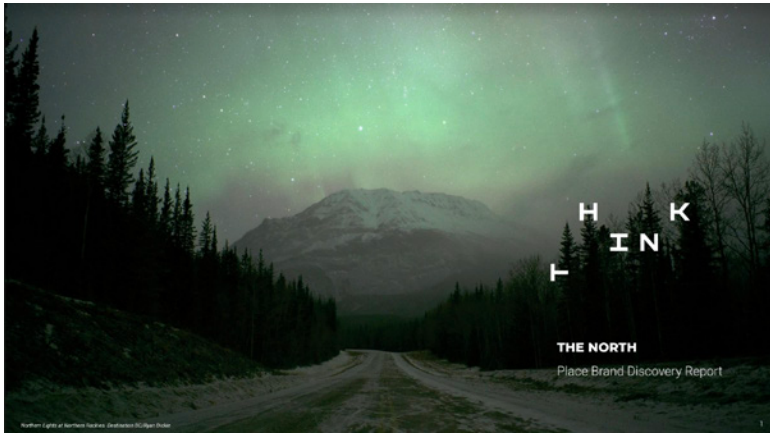
The *NBCTF* identifies interpretive themes, sub-themes, and topics that unite, guide and align demand and supply-side activities for greater impact and a seamless guest experience, where visitor expectations are matched by the visitor experiences available in communities.



1. Great Northern Circle Route (GNCR) Signage Master Plan

The *Great Northern Circle Route (GNCR) Signage Master Plan* applies information from the *NBCTF* to develop a family of signs for use across Northern BC. The master plan will locate wayfinding and interpretive signs, specifically at designated rest stops, visitor centres, airports, entry points and iconic destinations around the GNCR, in order to enrich the visitor journey. The regions, sub-regions, corridors and thematic structure developed in the *NBCTF* are reflected in the *Signage Master Plan*.

NBCTF research activities, findings and outputs have been shared between the multiple organisations involved in supply and demand-side projects to optimise time, resources, workflow and alignment of the projects’ outcomes. Coordination and integration activities between the *NBCTF* project and other *DDS*-related projects are highlighted below:



2. *Iconics*: Place Making and Place Branding Initiatives

- Destination Think⁴ and AldrichPears Associates co-hosted regional workshops in the Northeast, Northwest and Prince George regions to streamline gathering stakeholder input and uncover regional connections and stories.
- Representatives from the *Iconics* project team participated in several *NBCTF* workshops to ensure alignment between the two projects.
- Insights gathered from the *NBCTF* project were shared with Destination Think to inform their Place Making and Place Branding activities
- There has been communication and coordination between the *NBCTF* and *Destination Think* project teams to ensure findings gathered through the workshop process inform and align with progress being made as the *NBCTF* program advances.



3. Visitor Experience Development

- Stakeholder feedback, themes, topics and stories presented in this report will help inform ongoing visitor experience development, where funding has been secured locally or regionally.
- Relationships developed with Indigenous communities through these integrated project activities established a stronger understanding of Indigenous Peoples’ culture and traditions to support the growth of Indigenous tourism experiences.

⁴ Destination Think is the consulting firm contracted by Destination BC to lead the Place Making and Place Branding activities being used to inform the development of the *Invest in Iconics Strategy*.

2.3 Community Initiatives

Communities across Northern BC have their own heritage-related plans, assets, interpretive facilities and visitor experiences in place. They are in different stages of updating or developing heritage-related plans, facilities, trails, signage, etc. Wherever possible, the *NBCTF* has identified the current major initiatives in the planning and development stage as of publishing, but these listings are not comprehensive. Going forward, the *NBCTF* will be available to all communities to support their projects and encourage coordination across Northern BC in a collaborative manner.

2.4 Indigenous-Led Initiatives

The *NBCTF* acknowledges that the themes, topics and stories developed under this umbrella have been done so on ancestral lands, in the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples. The *NBCTF* includes Indigenous Peoples’ perspectives, experiences and stories, wherever permission has been given to share them for the purposes of interpretation.

Indigenous Nations have distinct heritage attractions and visitor experiences across the NTR. NBCTA works closely with Indigenous Tourism British Columbia (ITBC), through the *NBCTF* project work and other projects, to support reconciliation and grow and promote Indigenous tourism in Northern BC. ITBC is a non-profit, stakeholder-based organisation. It is regarded as a world leader in the development and promotion of authentic Indigenous cultural tourism products and experiences and is actively supporting the province in becoming a leading global destination for Indigenous tourism. They provide training, information resources, experience development and marketing programs.



Top: Destination BC/Andrew Strain
Bottom: Destination BC/Grant Harder



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Nick Trehearne

3.0 Plan Methodology

The *NBCTF* project was developed through three phases:

- 1. Planning
- 2. Community And Indigenous Community Workshops
- 3. Documentation

The key tasks and steps for each phase, and the project limitations, are described on the following pages.

3.1 Planning

April – August 2021

This phase included:

- Background research on communities and regions in Northern BC
- Review of existing tourism-related documentation and initiatives
- Engagement and information sharing with DBC and Destination Think regarding workshop dates and attendees, and approach to workshops to avoid duplication and stakeholder confusion with the Place Making and Place Branding process
- Introduction of the project to Northeast and Northwest *DDS* Advisory groups and other stakeholders
- Designing and planning of community workshops for 20+ communities
- Coordinating and identifying participants for all workshops
- Coordinating with ITBC to plan Indigenous-focused workshops
- Development of survey questionnaires to capture residents who did not attend a workshop session, interview or other, and for workshop participants to add further comments
- Launch of project portal
- Progress reporting

3.2 Community and First Nations Workshops

September 2021 – June 2022

This phase included:

- Co-facilitation of three regional workshops with Destination Think to gather perspectives on themes that unite communities across Northern BC and support the *Iconics* project
- Facilitation of 19 workshops for the following communities and regions:
 - » *NE Workshops (5)*
 - North Peace
 - South Peace
 - Tumbler Ridge
 - Mackenzie
 - Fort Nelson/NRRM
 - 146 community members were invited
 - 26 attended workshops
 - » *NW Workshops (9)*
 - Atlin
 - Stewart/Dease Lake
 - Smithers/Hazelton
 - Prince Rupert/Kitimat
 - Burns Lake
 - Prince George
 - Robson Valley
 - Terrace/Kitimat
 - Vanderhoof/Fort St James
 - 390 community members were invited
 - 73 attended workshops
 - » *Indigenous community workshops (8)*
 - Nisga’a Nation
 - Stellat’en First Nation
 - North East Native Advancing Society
 - Gitxsan Nation
 - Lheidli T’enneh First Nation
 - Prophet River and Halfway River First Nations
 - Kaska Dena Nation
 - McLeod Lake Indian Band
 - 90 community members were invited
 - 67 attended workshops

Workshops provided participants with background information on NBCTA’s projects (the *NBCTF* and *GNCR Signage Master Plan*) and engaged them in a series of activities to encourage conversation that focused on the perspectives, experiences and stories of participants and their connections to their territory. Conversations were centred around the local landscape and the values, features and events that really make each community unique. Notes and summaries were distributed to all participants and shared with DBC to help inform the *Iconics* project.

Follow-up interviews and questionnaires were conducted with key contributors as identified through the workshopping process to help fill gaps and provide deeper insight into a region.



Bottom Credit: Destination BC/Dave Silver

3.3 Documentation

During this phase, all information gathered from the workshops, interviews and research was compiled and synthesised into the *NBCTF*. This document was shared with all workshop participants and other project stakeholders for review and comment through the project portal and by way of a participant survey. In the survey, reviewers confirmed or suggested changes to the themes developed through the workshop process.



Credit: Destination BC/Andrew Strain

3.4 Thematic Framework Project Limitations

Within the scope, timeline and budget of every project, limitations exist, this project is no exception. Some of the limitations included:

Workshops:

- Workshops were limited by schedule—between September 2021 and June 2022—and in number:
 - » *One workshop for each of the 19 aforementioned communities was offered. Some key stakeholders/contributors were not available on the date of their community’s session. Efforts were made to identify and follow-up with these people to gather their input through interviews and surveys. Invitees were sought out that we thought to represent their larger communities well.*
 - » *Nine First Nations hosted workshops. Indigenous participants were also invited to contribute by attending one of the other 19 community workshops. NBCTA will continue to seek their input in the future.*

Interviews and Surveys:

- Interviewees were sought out at the suggestion of workshop participants and NBCTA. Interviews were limited to the timeframe of the project and by responses. Seven interviews were conducted.
- Invitations were extended to participate in surveys and provide feedback through the project web portal. Surveys were limited to the timeframe of the project. Two responses were secured.

Historical Research Scope:

- The *NBCTF* has not been reviewed by historians or experts in Northern BC history, nor was this the intent of the project. It relies on the knowledge of workshop participants and interviewees, background research (web) on communities and regions, current emphasis by interpretive facilities, and other planning documents provided by NBCTA.



Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework

Credit: Destination BC/Andrew Strain

4.0 Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework

4.1 Introduction

This *Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework (NBCTF)* brings together the major themes and topics of Northern BC into a comprehensive structure that can be used to guide the future development and presentation of interpretation and visitor experiences across Northern BC.

Interpretive planning uses themes to organize and develop stories, perspectives and messages. This ensures that interpretive content is communicating the main ideas that we want travellers to understand. A theme is the underlying message we are aiming to communicate through interpretation—the “moral of the story”—or in this case, the essence of each region, sub-region and corridor in Northern BC. Themes express larger ideas or concepts related to a place, culture, idea or concept that helps us understand a place.

The *NBCTF* reflects the voices of northern BC residents—the workshop participants, interviewees and survey respondents—who shared what makes their communities and landscapes unique and special. Through the project workshops, the landscape of Northern BC returned again and again as a central theme. Many participants shared their connection to the land, whether they have deep ancestral ties to the place or have arrived in recent times. That emphasis is reflected in the way that the *NBCTF* is broken down geographically, and in the guiding questions and principles that were used to develop the themes and organize the topics.

Geographic Approach

The *NBCTF* is organized geographically into 6 regions, 16 sub-regions and 4 connecting travel corridors. Several factors were used to determine the boundaries: shared perspectives, histories and stories; regional district boundaries; highway connections and common travel routes; geographic features; and the distribution of iconic destinations.

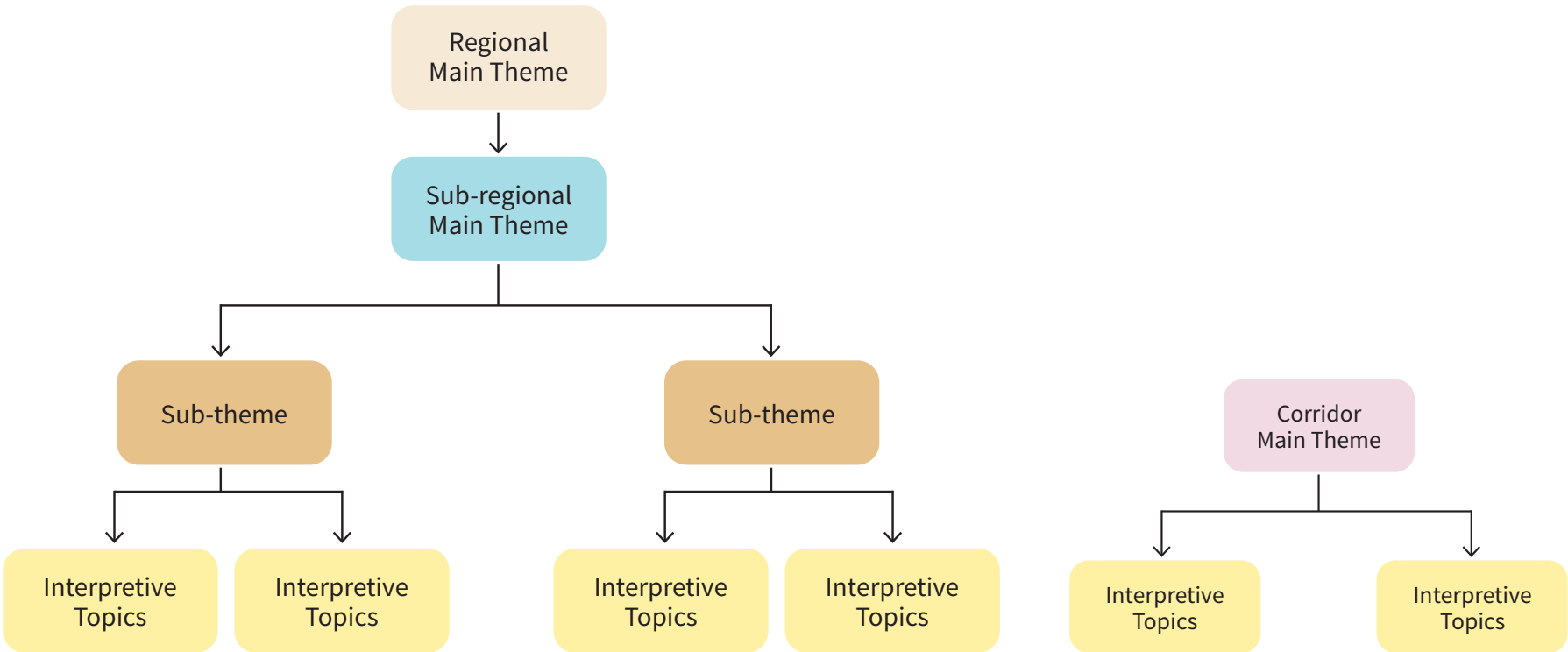
The boundaries of these regions and sub-regions are not definitive lines on the map. Nor will visitors need to understand these boundaries to grasp the essence of each area. If the *NBCTF* is fully realised in all regions of Northern BC, visitors will experience the most important themes and topics, helping them understand the area and its people.

Iconic destinations for Northern BC were developed by NBCTA and chosen because they are timeless, are different from other shortlisted iconic destinations in the NTR, have the potential to build experiences, and have past and current engagement with tourists.

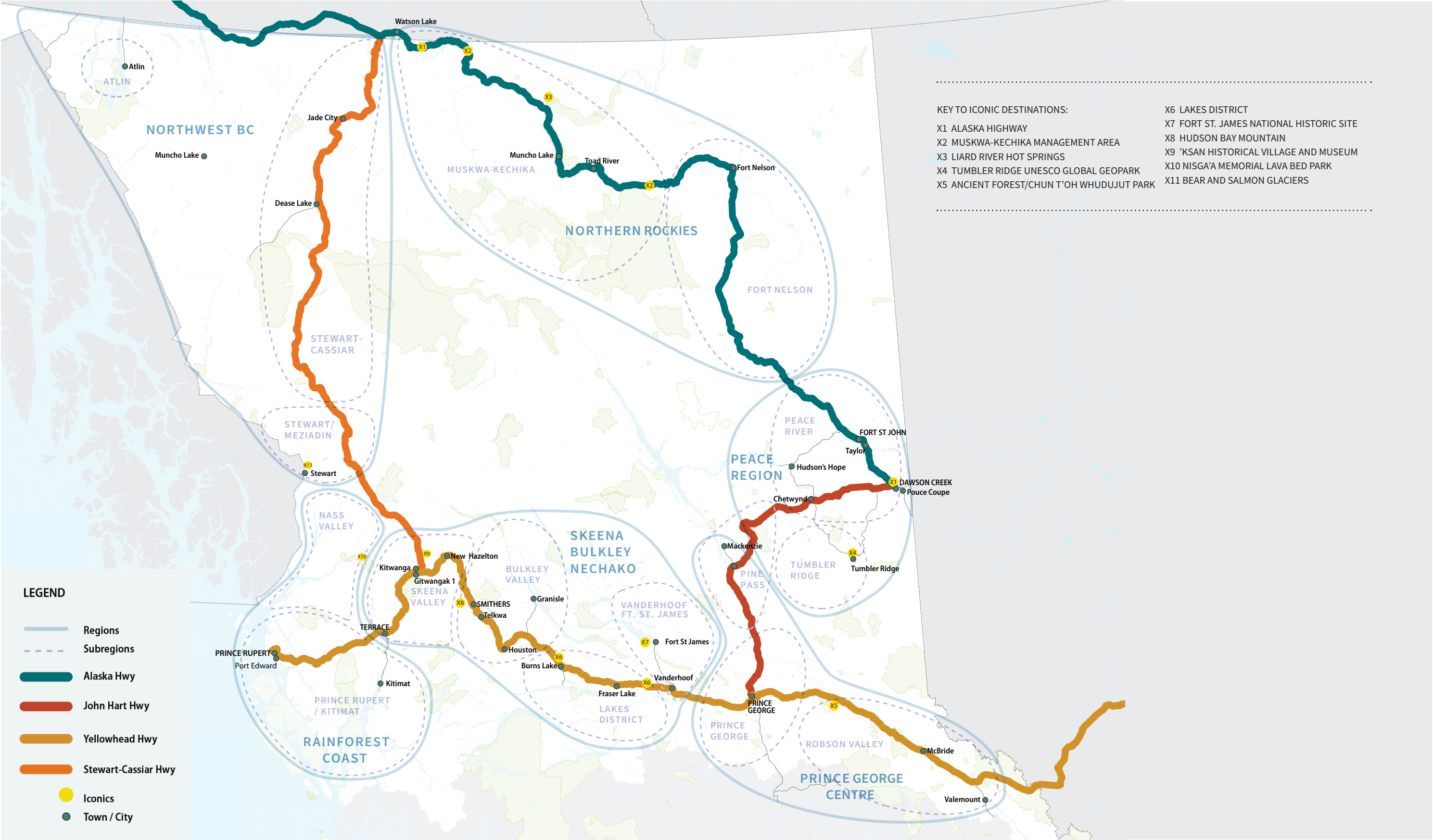
Hierarchy of Themes

The *NBCTF* themes are presented in a hierarchy. Regional themes sit at the top of the hierarchy and describe the overall regional emphasis. Sub-regions have a main theme and sub-themes that support and expand on the regional theme and delve deeper into each area. Each sub-theme has potential topics to be explored by interpretation.

Corridor themes and topics help to tie the emphasis from regions and sub-regions together, through the lens of travel over time and across distance.



MAP OF THE REGIONS, SUB-REGIONS, CORRIDORS AND ICONIC DESTINATIONS



Guiding Principles for Developing Themes

The themes and sub-themes presented in the *NBCTF* are guided by a number of principles. They:

- Focus on the connections and relationships between the land and the people
- Draw connections across travel corridors and regions as well as emphasise what is unique in each sub-region and community
- Are designed to help visitors connect to the area and to resonate with locals—they are based on the authentic stories of an area
- Are flexible and inclusive and can be refined and added to over time as interpretive projects are developed and as more Indigenous communities or other groups become involved
- Will support DBC to develop branding for the Iconics project
- Delineate and inform interpretive messaging for the Great Northern Circle Route
- Support and strengthen the advancement of the provincial Strategic Framework for Tourism 2022-2024
- Empower communities to develop and tell their own stories through visitor experiences, investing in their culture and heritage
- Can guide decision-making and investment in visitor experiences at the community, regional district and provincial level
- Endeavour to include and raise awareness of Indigenous perspectives and connections to the land that can help visitors better connect and understand the place.

This framework is designed to be flexible and adaptable so more input from communities can be added seamlessly over time.

How to Read the *NBCTF*

The *NBCTF* presented in sections 4.2 and 4.3 can be read as a whole or in sections. Section 4.2 includes the regions and sub-regions. Each region is presented first, and sub-regions within that area follow. Section 4.3 presents the corridors, which cut across several regions and/or sub-regions. As an example, a reader may wish to zoom in on their own area. To get a full picture of their area, readers should review their region, sub-region and the associated corridor(s).



Right: Destination BC/Taylor Burk
Left: Northern BC Tourism/Jason Hamborg

4.2 Thematic Framework: Regions and Sub-Regions

Each region and sub-region section of the *NBCTF* begins by identifying the traditional territory and treaty lands of the region. This is followed by a short narrative description of the region’s highlights, as identified by residents through the workshop process, pertinent *DDS* goals for that area, iconic destinations and other Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources: in the area that support the *NBCTF*. The associated corridor is listed for reference. The themes, sub-themes (if applicable) and potential interpretive topics follow.

Regional themes emphasise the unique characteristics of the region as a whole and answer the question:

- How does the landscape shape the communities, key visitor destinations in and experience of the region?

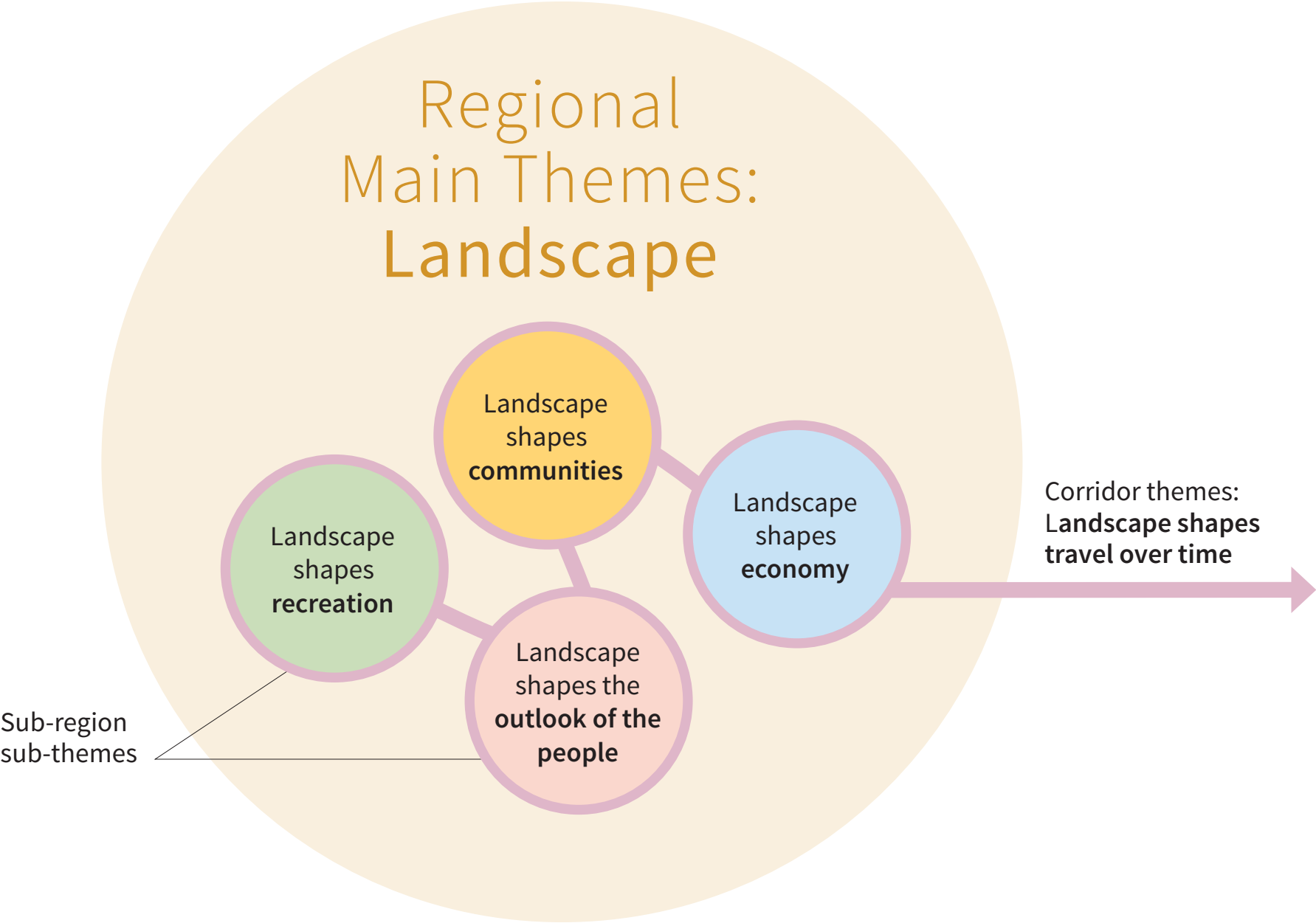
Sub-regions break down the larger regions into two or more sub-regions. Sub-regional themes focus on highlighting the unique perspectives, experiences and characteristics of a sub-region, answering the questions:

- How does the landscape shape the communities?
- How does it shape recreation?
- How has it shaped the economy?
- How does the landscape shape the outlook of the people?

Potential interpretive topics are listed under their related theme or sub-themes.

In some cases, the *NBCTF* includes separate details for communities and/ or Indigenous Nations. These sections are related to their sub-region theme and sub-themes, but provide more detail, sometimes listing community-specific stories. This has been included in cases where a separate community or Indigenous community workshop has taken place. These sections capture the emphasis in the workshop. They detail the unique stories that support the sub-region themes, the stories that only they can tell, and the stories that the community is in support of relating to visitors.

At the end of each section, “Moving Forward” lists some next steps, concurrent projects or other notes on Indigenous perspectives for future consideration that came out of the workshops and research.



NORTHERN ROCKIES

4.2.1 Northern Rockies

Associated corridor: Alaska Highway

The Northern Rockies region includes the traditional territory of the Kaska Dena and Carrier-Sekani Peoples, and treaty lands of Treaty 8 Nations. Before this area was touched by the fur trade, gold discoveries and the signing of Treaty 8, this region was fully occupied by Indigenous Peoples, sustained by their intimate knowledge of the landscape.

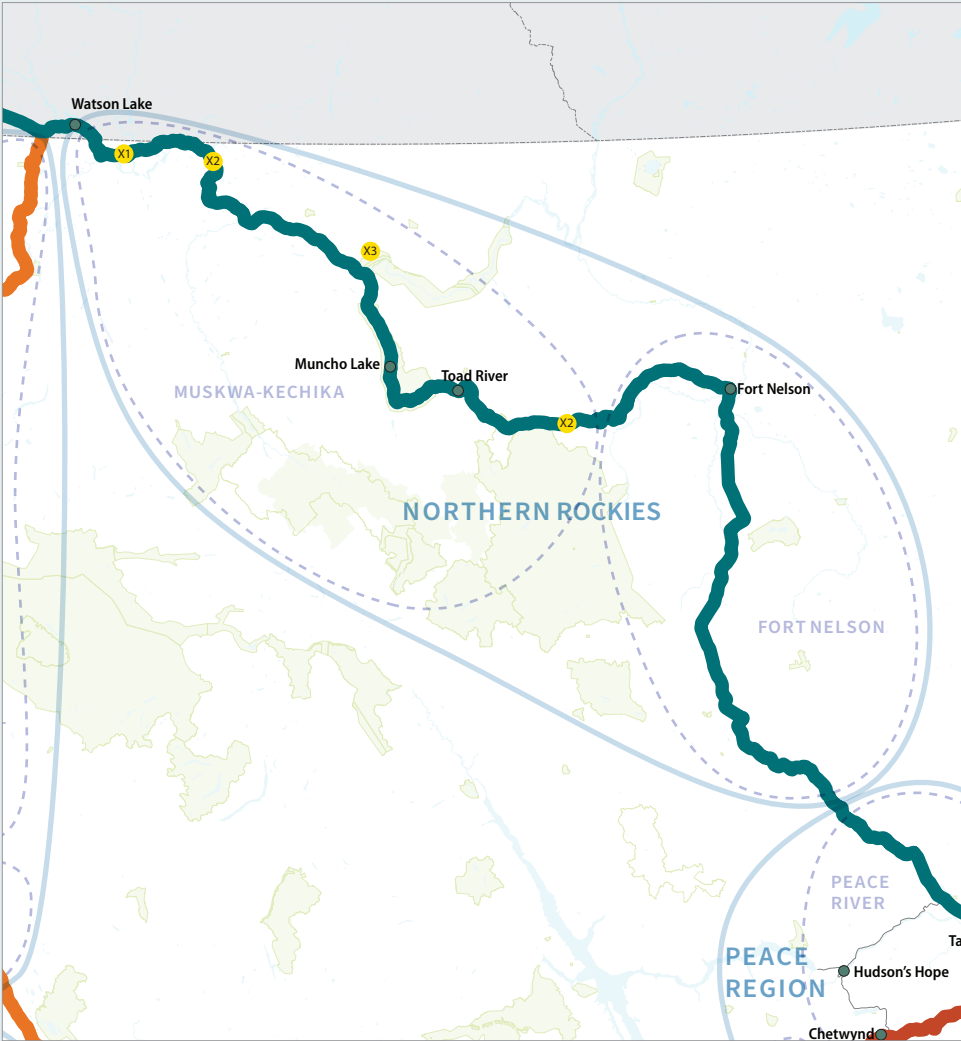
The building of the Alaska Highway brought more people, communities and industrial development. Today it is the region’s “main street”. Those who live along the highway are welcoming to travellers and are known to help each other out. Many visitors to this area have come to drive the Alaska Highway. Travellers that get off the highway and explore will spot hints of historic Indigenous People’s presence, trapping and Alaska Highway building.

The Northern Rockies has rare, big intact landscapes and incredible wildlife. Just off the highway, visitors can explore incredible hiking and winter backcountry recreation, parks, restorative hot springs and pristine lakes. 300,000 visitors travel the Alaska Highway each year⁵.

Some visitors may come to Fort Nelson and the surrounding area to experience northern lights, Indigenous culture and celebrations, sled dog races and other events. DDS goals for the region include expanding “ready to sell” products and packages and more winter tourism opportunities. Recently, Liard River Hot Springs, an iconic destination, was significantly upgraded.

Main theme:

The Northern Rockies is defined by big, intact mountainous landscapes, abundant wildlife and a warm welcome.



- Key regional destinations:
- Iconic destination X1: Alaska Highway
 - Iconic destination X2: Muskwa-Kechika Management Area
 - Iconic destination X3: Liard River Hot Springs

5 Northern Rockies Alaska Highway Research Project

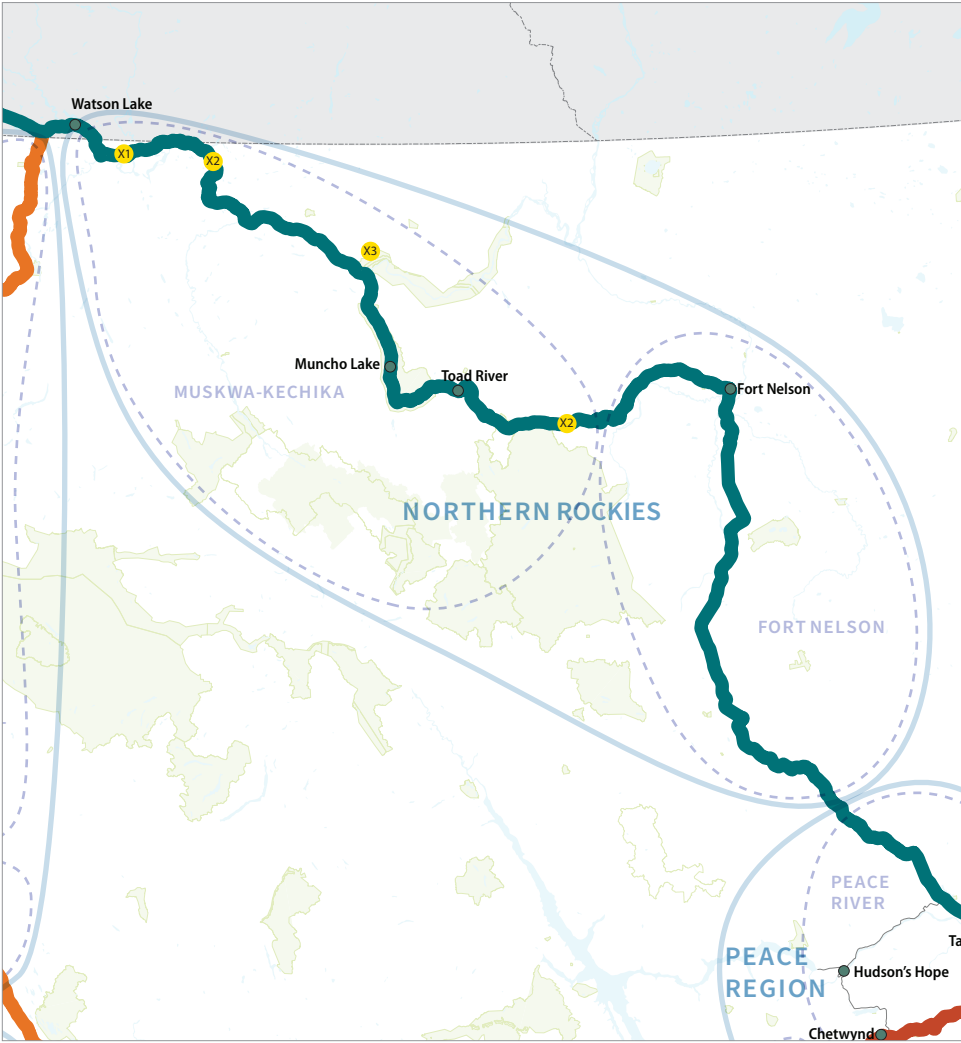
NORTHERN ROCKIES : MUSKWA-KECHIKA

MUSKWA-KECHIKA

The Muskwa-Kechika sub-region includes the traditional territory of the Kaska Dena and Carrier-Sekani Peoples and treaty lands of Treaty 8 Nations.

This sub-region is unique for its protected and managed areas. The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area is one-of-a-kind in BC, rare in the world and the size of Ireland. Travellers here—even those who never enter the management area—reap the rewards of this intact wilderness with incredible views and wildlife. It’s known as the Serengeti of the North. Travellers and locals alike need to be prepared and self-sufficient as there are few services here and they are spread out.

Before the Alaska Highway was built, the only way into the region was by plane, foot, horse or boat. Highway building brought big changes. Today, the highway allows travellers to experience an iconic trip in northeastern BC on the way to the Yukon and Alaska. Small communities and outposts that dot this landscape are connected by the highway, their self-sufficient lifestyles, love for the land and a welcoming spirit.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic destination X1: Alaska Highway
- Iconic destination X2: Muskwa-Kechika Management Area
- Iconic destination X3: Liard River Hot Springs
- Parks and Protected areas:
 - » Klua Lakes Protected Area
 - » Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park
 - » Muncho Lake Provincial Park
 - » Liard River Corridor Provincial Park and Protected Area and Liard River West Corridor Park
 - » Stone Mountain Provincial Park
 - » Sikanni Old Growth Provincial Park
 - » Goguka Creek Provincial Park
 - » Toad River Hot Springs Provincial Park
 - » Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park
 - » Dune Za Keyih (Frog-Gataga) Provincial Park
- Indian Head Mountain
- Teetering Rocks
- Fern Lake Backcountry with glaciers
- Big Lone Rock
- Northern lights
- Gotta Go Visitor information stops/kiosks (new kiosks in progress)

Main theme:

The Muskwa-Kechika region is defined by rare, intact mountainous landscapes, abundant wildlife, and culture that can not be found anywhere else in BC and are rare in the world.



Top: Northern BC Tourism/Ryan Dickie
Bottom: Destination BC/Taylor Burk

Sub-theme:

The Muskwa-Kechika Management Area has always been protected by the Kaska Dena and today is managed to ensure resource development takes place in harmony with wilderness, wildlife, ecosystems and culture.

Potential interpretive topics:

- Muskwa-Kechika Management Area: why and how it is protected, and what you can do here
 - » *World-class integrated resource management decision-making is practised, ensuring that resource development and other human activities take place in harmony with wilderness quality, wildlife and the dynamic ecosystems upon which they depend.*
- The four resource values identified by its act and regulations are: wilderness, wildlife, ecosystems and culture, all of which are critical to the social and cultural well-being of Indigenous and other peoples in the area.
- Kaska Dena have understood this land to be sacred and protected it for thousands of years, marking it so others would understand it is off-limits.
 - » *Dreamer’s visions told them what to protect, what is sacred. That land is to be preserved for a time when things are hard.*
- The Boreal black and white spruce zone forms a large part of the Northeast region.
 - » *Boreal forest is important for mitigating climate change.*
- This area has the most large mammals in North America (i.e., bears, bison, mountain sheep, moose).
- Moose and eagle are particularly important to Kaska Dena.

Sub-theme:

Before the building of the Alaska Highway, this region was fully occupied by Indigenous Peoples, sustained by an intimate knowledge of the rich natural environment that continues today.

Potential interpretive topics:

- Indigenous Peoples have thrived here for thousands of years
- Long before provincial land borders were drawn, Kaska Dena people lived in 240,000 square kilometres of BC’s north, southeast Yukon and southern Northwest Territories. The territory makes up 10% of land we now know as British Columbia.
- Before the highway was built, the only way into the region was by plane, foot, horse or boat. The rivers provided excellent transportation routes, like the Liard, Muskwa and Kechika rivers.
- Early activities in the area included hunting, guiding, outfitting, trapping, geological survey, natural history expeditions and exploring potential route development through Northern BC.
- Trapping has served as a traditional activity and livelihood for people in Northern BC since the early 1800s and continues today.
- Today, culture camps, ceremonies and gatherings continue to pass on traditional ways of life, like foods, medicines, drumming, art and language
- Important foods and medicines include moose, salmon, trout, pike, grayling, lake trout, char, raspberries, blueberries, high and low bush cranberries.
- Kaska Dena artists reflect their culture and territory in painting, carving, beading, moccasins, jewellery, clothing and other art forms. Some are created with moose hide and furs.

Sub-theme:

The building of the Alaska Highway brought large changes to this region: it connected communities and resource industries to the rest of BC and brought new settlement and tourism to the area.

Potential interpretive topics:

- The fur trade, gold discoveries and signing of Treaty 8 reduced the region’s isolation, but the building of the highway was a more major force of change.
- Alaska Highway history [see Alaska Highway Corridor section]
 - » *The highway was built on Kaska Dena trails and knowledge.*
- Following the completion of the Alaska Highway, a few small settlements developed, including Toad River and Muncho Lake.
- Increased economic activity with the building of the highway: outfitting, forestry, oil and gas, farming, transportation and tourism
- The highway brought significant change to the Kaska Dena.
- Travel times greatly reduced, from original ways of travel like dog team to Fort Nelson

Sub-theme:

Area residents and travellers who venture off the historic Alaska Highway are rewarded with uncrowded, restorative and adventurous recreation.

Potential interpretive topics:

- Recreation opportunities: BC Parks, outfitters and backcountry lodges, biking, hiking, skiing, ATV, snowmobiling, wildlife watching, horseback riding, water sports, northern lights viewing
- Raw landscapes and spectacular mountains: Indian Head Mountain, Teetering Rocks, Fern Lake Backcountry with glaciers, Big Lone Rock
- Hot springs: Toad River and Liard
- Davie Trail: a traditional trail that follows the Rocky Mountain Trench and Kechika River Valley from the Kwadacha community of Fort Ware to the Kaska community of Lower Post
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging



Credit: Destination BC/Taylor Burk

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- Continued input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors
- Kaska Dena First Nations have expressed an interest in restoring the Davie Trail for future use
- Kaska Dena First Nations have proposed the Dene K’éh Kusān Indigenous Protected Area, which would include much of the Muskwa-Kechika sub-region

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines
- Workshops and interviews identified that much of Muskwa-Kechika and Provincial Parks signage is missing or needs to be updated

Gotta Go:

- Plans are underway to upgrade three rest stops with visitor information signage along the Alaska Highway. We understand that First Nations are involved in the design process. This involvement could address a gap in the interpretive offerings in this region as well as help to fill in missing detail in the NBCTF

Kaska Dena Workshop

One Kaska Dena workshop participant described their territory as “naturally beautiful and naturally brutal at the same time.” Kaska Dena Territory is vast and encompasses 10% of the province of British Columbia. This workshop included members living in northeast BC. Kaska Dena territory also includes areas in the northwest of the province (Dease River First Nation), but members from this part of the territory were not in attendance.

Stories and perspectives shared at the workshop have been included in the Muskwa-Kechika sub-region themes and topics. More meetings and engagement going forward would be beneficial to refine and expand the potential interpretive topics.

Workshop participants spoke about the importance of moose as a food source, and as having potential for ecotourism rather than for hunting. Their territory is rich with boreal forest, large mammals, and foods and traditional medicines like berries, salmon, pike, char, trout and more. Traditional ways of life, drumming, language, foods and art are actively passed on to the next generation, particularly through culture camps and gatherings. Workshops participants spoke about their artists as hidden. There are many that could be showcased, perhaps in the new multi-purpose building in Lower Post.

Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources: (mentioned in the workshop):

- Iconic destination: Muskwa-Kechika Management Area
- Iconic destination: Liard River Hot Springs
- Proposed: Dene K’éh Kusān Indigenous Protected Area
- Parks and Protected areas:
 - » Liard River Corridor Provincial Park and Protected Area and Liard River West Corridor Park
 - » Toad River Hot Springs Provincial Park
- Northern lights
- Boreal forest
- Gotta Go Visitor information stops/kiosks (new kiosks in progress)
- Boya Lake (NW region)—to be renamed by Elders
- New multi-purpose building (could be a place for interpretation and/or art)

NORTHERN ROCKIES : FORT NELSON

FORT NELSON

This is the traditional territory of the Fort Nelson First Nation, located just south of Fort Nelson, and other Treaty 8 nations.

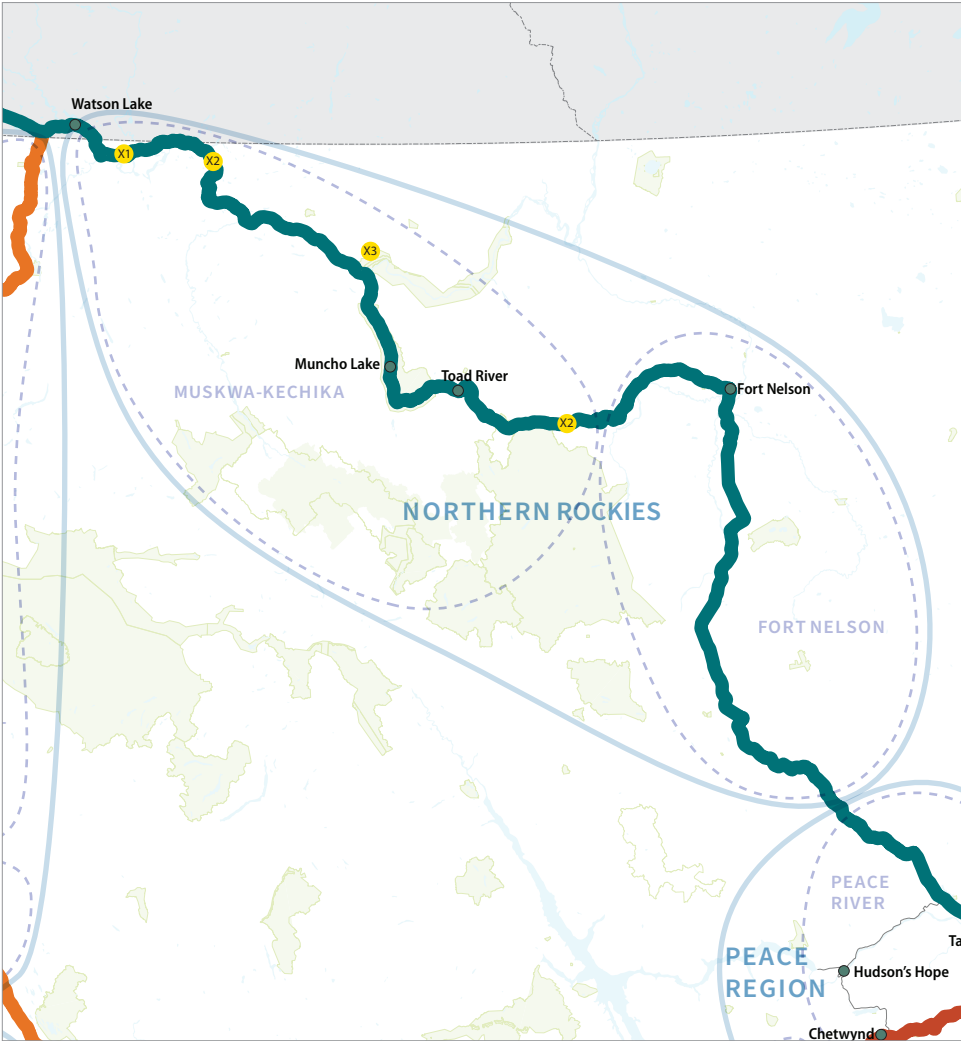
Fort Nelson is the gateway to the Northern Rockies, Mile 300 on the Alaska Highway and the largest community in the Northern Rockies. It is the business and service centre for the region and has diverse residents: those that have been here for generations and those who found economic opportunities here more recently. This is a family- and recreation-oriented community full of pride, events, local groups and volunteer opportunities. The recent start-up of the Northern Lights Festival showcases this community in winter, with northern lights viewing, dog sled racing, Dene hand games and cultural celebrations, musicians and more.

Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic destination X2: Alaska Highway
- Fort Nelson Heritage Museum
- Northern Lights Festival (dog sled races, Dene hand games, trappers rendezvous)
- Stone Mountain Provincial Park
- Sikanni Old Growth Provincial Park
- Goguka Creek Provincial Park
- Northern Rocky Mountains Provincial Park
- Kwadacha Wilderness Provincial Park
- Recreation: biking, hiking, skiing, ATV, snowmobiling, wildlife watching, horseback riding
- Liard River Hot Springs

Main theme:

Fort Nelson lies at the confluence of the Fort Nelson, Muskwa and Prophet rivers and is surrounded by the striking Rocky Mountains—an idyllic family-focused community with strong connections to the land.



Caribou near Fort Nelson along the Alaska Highway
Left: Northern BC Tourism/Ryan Dickie

Sub-theme:

The building of the Alaska Highway brought large-scale changes to the area and economic development.

Potential interpretive topics:

- Before the building of the Alaska Highway, the area around Fort Nelson was almost wholly occupied by Indigenous Peoples
- Fort Nelson was originally established as a North West Trading Company Post in 1805
- Alaska Highway history [see also Alaska Highway Corridor section]:
 - » Before the Alaska Highway there was a road constructed between Fort St. John and Fort Nelson
 - » During World War Two, Fort Nelson airport was an airbase for the United States Airforce and Royal Canadian Air Force
 - » Staging of highway construction in Fort Nelson
 - » Road building

Sub-theme:

Residents and visitors alike have abundant recreation choices in summer and winter, taking advantage of the area’s rivers, mountains, lakes and wildlife.

Potential interpretive topics:

- Hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, dog sledding, birdwatching and hiking
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging
- ATVing, large scale river boating experiences
- Cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing , mountain biking, horse riding , hunting

Sub-theme:

Following the Alaska Highway construction, the community grew with oil and gas exploration, spurring other industries.

Potential interpretive topics:

- Early oil and gas exploration (1950s) and field and rig development
 - » Fort Nelson is on the southwest edge of the Greater Sierra oil and gas field
- Natural gas
 - » The region’s natural gas industry centres around the Horn River Basin, Liard basin and the Cordova basin, which all contain vast amounts of gas in shale rock formations
 - » Natural gas power plant (now closed)
 - » Industry is in decline
- Railway line developed in 1971 allowed lumber and gas industry transportation
- Forestry development and collapse
- Farming
- Current initiatives:
 - » 2021: wood pellet plant
 - » Fort Nelson First Nation Clarke Lake Geothermal Project
- Tourism development
 - » Approximately 300,000 visitors, most of whom are retired RV travellers heading to or from Alaska, visit Fort Nelson on an annual basis

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- More input from Indigenous communities (including Fort Nelson First Nation) is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors. What are the effects of development of the Alaska Highway and more recent industrial developments?

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines

Gotta Go:

- Plans are underway to upgrade three Gotta Go Visitor information stops along the Alaska Highway, which will benefit Fort Nelson. We understand that First Nations are involved in the design process. This involvement could address a gap in the interpretive offerings in this region as well as help to fill in missing detail in the NBCTF



PEACE REGION

4.2.2 Peace Region

Associated corridor: Alaska Highway and John Hart Highway

The Peace Region includes the traditional territory of Saulteau First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, Halfway River First Nation, Doig River First Nations, Blueberry First Nations, Kwadacha Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Tsay Keh Dene Band. Some bands and nations are part of Treaty 8. There are also many Métis people here.

People in the Peace region have a self-sufficient spirit and an enduring connection to the landscape. Fertile soil, abundant wildlife, the majestic Peace River, plentiful forests, and even what lies under the surface have all powered the province, with furs, wood, food, hydroelectric energy, coal, oil and gas. The landscape has undergone large changes from industrial development, like hydroelectric dams, forestry, coal mining and oil and gas development. Indigenous Peoples’ way of life is greatly impacted by these changes.

Residents here enjoy easy access to the outdoors, natural spaces and parks. Workshop participants pointed out that although there are many industrial projects and changes in their landscape, they also are stewards of the land and take a balanced approach to conservation and development.

The focus of tourism in this region is touring, primarily by car, recreational vehicle and motorcycle. Small markets include backcountry adventure tourism, hunting and sport tourism. The DDS outlines opportunities such as developing circle tours and routes, more winter tourism offers and promotion, developing ready-to-sell products, ecotourism, sport and event tourism, and Indigenous-led products and experiences.

Main theme:

The landscape of the Peace Region, including its waterways, geography and geology, has made it a major economic engine for BC, providing wood, food, coal, oil and gas, and hydroelectric energy.



Key regional destinations:

- Iconic Destination X4: Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark
- Iconic Destination X1: Alaska Highway

Moving Forward

Economy:

- One gap in the interpretation in this region is the interpretation of the oil and gas industry on a large scale, which is a large driver of the economy. The Fort St. John North Peace Museum does include the start of the industry in its interpretation of the area. There has been some interest in developing this story in the past into an interpretive centre, but it was not brought to fruition

Alaska Highway:

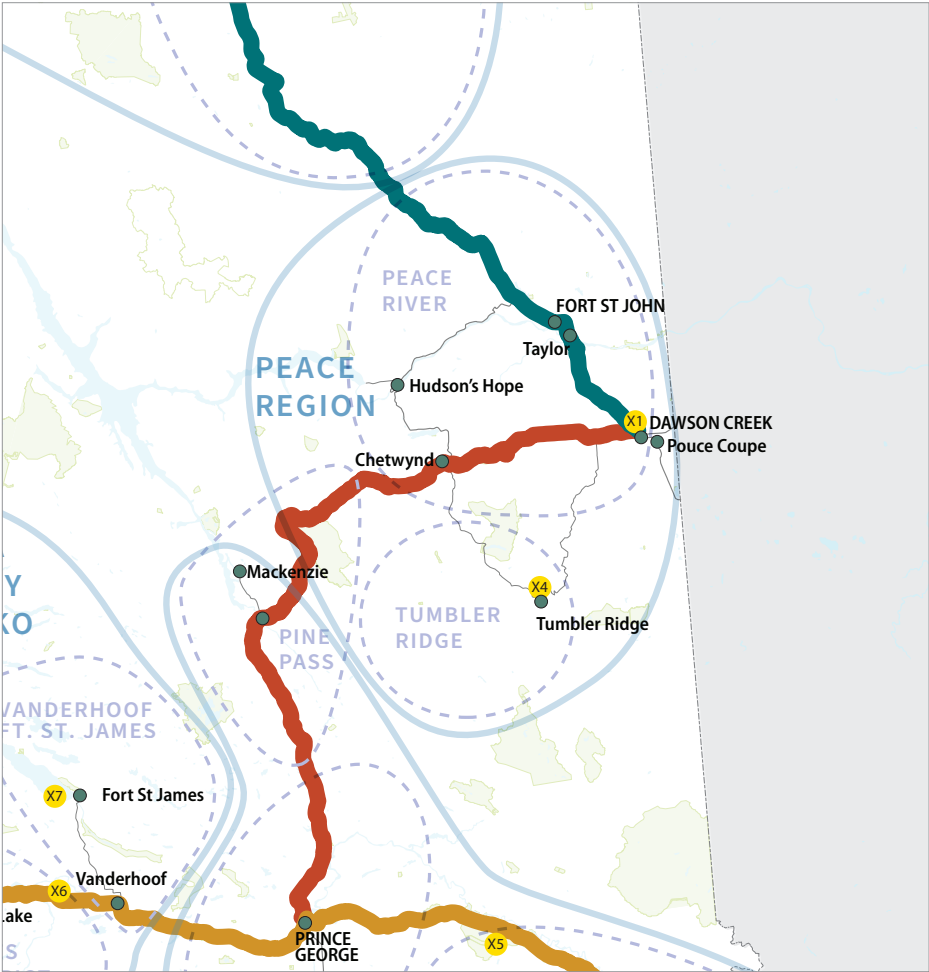
- The Alaska Highway is not currently interpreted at a central facility. At one time, the Alaska Highway House in Dawson Creek introduced visitors to highway history, but it is no longer open. The Fort St. John North Peace Museum includes the building of the highway in its interpretation of the area

PEACE REGION : TUMBLER RIDGE

TUMBLER RIDGE

This is the traditional territory of the Dunne-za, Saulteaux, Tse’Khene, Cree and Métis peoples, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Saulteaux First Nations and West Moberly First Nations, the Kelly Lake Cree First Nations, and Kelly Lake Metis Settlement Society, within Treaty 8 Territory.

In Tumbler Ridge, geology, paleontology and human history are all intertwined and celebrated by the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark. Residents live in and experience the Geopark’s themes in their everyday lives. Tumbler Ridge residents praise the quality of life here. It has a great work-recreation balance and is a good place to raise children. Visitors are warmly welcomed and will discover unique experiences to delight them for days. A one-of-a-kind experience in BC, this area exemplifies the opportunities and adventures to be found in rocks, and the secrets and stories they hold.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic Destination X4: Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark
- Dinosaur Discovery Gallery (operated by the Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation)
- Monkman Provincial Park (Kinuseo Falls)
- Monkman Pass Trail
- Wapiti Lake Provincial Park
- Bearhole Lake Provincial Park
- Hole-in-the-Wall Provincial Park
- Dinosaur Trackway Tours
- Dinosaur Camp
- Gwillim Lake Provincial Park
- Kinuseo Falls
- Hiking, snowshoeing, ice climbing, mountain biking, ATV trails
- 300 kilometres of maintained snowmobile trails and 10 kilometres of groomed cross country ski trails

Main theme:

Tumbler Ridge is famous for what’s in the ground here—fossils and fossil fuels—and they are closely related.

Sub-theme:

The Tumbler Ridge community was built on coal, but through the hard work of residents and with the support of local industry, it has expanded its story to include many other unique elements supported by its landscape.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Economy
 - » Coal industry developed the town and is an important contributor to the local economy and community benefits
 - » Other industries that rely on the landscape here include natural gas, wind energy and forestry
- Dinosaur tracks and fossils were found and researched by residents



Top: Destination BC/Dave Silver
Bottom: Destination BC/Mike Seehagel

Sub-theme:

The Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark brings together geology, paleontology and human history and reconnects people to the Earth through hiking trails, dinosaur exploration, and celebrating the stories of people who have travelled here since time immemorial.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Traditional lands of the Dunne-za, Sauteaux, Tse’khene, Cree and Metis peoples, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Sauteaux First Nations and West Moberly First Nations, the Kelly Lake Cree First Nations, and Kelly Lake Metis Settlement Society, within Treaty 8 Territory [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]
 - » *This area was a travel corridor.*
 - » *Area for exploration/research: giant animal stories as they relate to dinosaur tracks*
- Geology
 - » *Oldest rock in the Geopark is Neoproterozoic (728 Ma - 570 Ma), youngest is Wapiti Formation, sandstone and siltstone approx. 70 Ma in age.*
 - » *The Late Jurassic to late Cretaceous time interval is represented in the Geopark by alternating deposits of marine and non-marine sediments that were deposited in this foredeep, a result of transgressions (increases in ocean level) and regressions (decreases in ocean level).*
 - » *Non-marine intervals are important to the area as they relate to dinosaurs and coal.*
 - » *The geological folding caused by colliding continents is visible in many areas.*
- Paleontology
 - » *Along the margin of the Western Interior Seaway there were extensive swampy coastal plains and river deltas which were habitat for a wide variety of dinosaurs.*
 - » *Unique dinosaur experience in BC and complementary to Alberta experiences.*
- The many rivers and waterfalls coming from the various glaciers in the area are awesome.

Sub-theme:

Visitors and residents alike enjoy the recreational opportunities, many of which are accessed using coal and forestry industry roads and trails, which are unique in the Peace Region.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Recreation is unique in the Peace area with exceptional hiking, waterfalls, paddling, ATV and snowmobile trails right from town, mountain biking, rock and ice climbing, snowshoeing and trail running.
- The Geopark enhances recreation.
- Many trails and roads were built by industry and are now re-purposed.
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging

Moving Forward

Tumbler Ridge has a clear thematic focus already and community members and local industry are motivated to contribute to expanding their stories and interpretive experiences.

Indigenous perspectives:

- More input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors.
- The Geopark and museum both have relationships with Indigenous Nations and over time these relationships could be further expanded with a view to including more Indigenous stories and perspectives.

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.



Credit: Destination BC/Mike Seehagel

PEACE REGION : PEACE RIVER

PEACE RIVER

This is the traditional territory and lands of Métis people, Saulteau First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, Halfway River First Nation, Doig River First Nations, Blueberry First Nations, Kwadacha Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, and Tsay Keh Dene Band. Some bands and nations are part of Treaty 8.

People in the Peace River sub-region have a self-sufficient spirit and an enduring connection to the landscape. Fertile soil, abundant wildlife, the majestic Peace River, and even what lies underneath the surface have all powered the province: with furs, food, hydroelectric energy, and oil and gas.

Residents are deeply rooted in their agricultural history. They enjoy getting outside in all seasons, and have great career opportunities and a comfortable lifestyle, afforded to many by opportunities in the energy industries. Residents describe a misconception about their relationship to the landscape here. There have been large changes to the landscape from industrial development, but they are also stewards of the land. They live and play here too and are invested in the outcomes of development on the land.

The DDS identified Tse’k’wa National Historic Site as a key potential opportunity for Indigenous interpretation (more below), as well as Dunne-za Lodge.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic Destination X1: Alaska Highway
 - » Mile 0
- Parks:
 - » Sukunka Falls Provincial Park
 - » Gwillim Lake Provincial Park
 - » East Pine Provincial Park
 - » Pine River Breaks Provincial Park
 - » Moberly Lake Provincial Park
 - » Klin-se-za Provincial Park
 - » One Island Lake Provincial Park
 - » Kiskatinaw Provincial Park
 - » Kiskatinaw River Provincial Park
 - » Bocock Peak Provincial Park
 - » Butler Ridge Provincial Park
 - » Charlie Lake Provincial Park
 - » Beaton Provincial Park
 - » Beaton River Provincial Park
 - » Peace River Corridor Provincial Park
 - » Graham-Laurier Provincial Park
 - » Sikanni Chief Falls Provincial Park
 - » Buckinghorse River Way Provincial Park
 - » Sikanni Chief Canyon Provincial Park
 - » Milligan Hills Provincial Park
 - » Pink Mountain Provincial Park
 - » Taylor Landing Provincial Park
 - » Prophet River Wayside Provincial Park
 - » Klua Lakes Protected Area
 - » Prophet River Hot Springs Provincial Park
 - » Redfern-Keily Provincial Park
 - » Peace Island Park
- Tse’k’wa National Historic Site
- Fort St. John North Peace Museum
- North Peace Cultural Centre
- Pioneer Pathway
- Beaton River Valley bird watching
- Charlie Lake Monument
- Chetwynd wood carvings
- Little Prairie Heritage Museum
- Dawson Creek Art Gallery
- Dawson Creek Station Museum
- Mile 0 Park
- Dawson Creek Trail
- Walter Wright Pioneer Village
- Ovintiv Events Centre (previously Encana Event Centre)
- Beattie Park/Hudson’s Hope Visitor Centre
- Hudson’s Hope Museum
- Jamieson Woods Nature Preserve
- Williston Reservoir
- W.A.C. Bennett Dam Visitor Centre
- Peace Canyon Dam Visitor Centre (closed)
- Pouce Coupe Museum
- Wooden railway trestle
- Pouce Coupe Park
- Dunne-za Lodge
- Camping, trails, snowmobiling, ATV, biking, fishing, boating, horseback riding, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, golf, hunting, sand dunes

Main theme:

The mighty Peace River is a defining feature of the landscape here, forming fertile farmland, powering hydroelectric generation, supporting wildlife, and providing the area’s original travel route.



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Shayd Johnson

Sub-theme:

Agriculture is celebrated in these communities—which are surrounded by beautiful fertile fields—and has provided a consistent part of the economy and community’s culture through economic ups and downs.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- 1912: Peace River block was opened and brought people in to homestead
- Railway developed to move grain
- Excellent place for farming with rich soils to grow grains, canola, wheat, hay
- Cattle ranching and rodeo culture
- Fall fairs and farmers markets celebrate agriculture



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Jason Hamborg



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Andrew Strain

Sub-theme:

Energy development—in the form of hydroelectricity and oil and gas—is a large part of the economy here and has continually changed the physical landscape.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Here you can spot oil derricks surrounded by fertile agricultural fields—a fitting combination to understand what drives this part of Northern BC.
- Peace River provides the power for hydroelectric dams—W.A.C. Bennett (1967), Peace Canyon (1980) and now Site C—that power a large percentage of the province
 - » *Changes to the river have affected wildlife*
 - » *Physical changes to the landscape and waterways have had large impacts on Indigenous Peoples’ ways of life*
- Oil found in 1951 here, start of the oil and gas industry
 - » *Major employer and driver of the economy*
- Ancient tracks: Dinosaur tracks found in the area during development



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Montana Christianson

Sub-theme:

Residents here have a nuanced perspective on their landscape—it offers them great recreation in nature while also providing a base for work in the energy, agriculture and forestry sectors.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Recreation
 - » *Reservoirs provide recreation*
 - » *Riverboats, fishing (year round), ice hockey*
 - » *Gold panning*
 - » *Wildlife*
 - » *Hunting*
 - » *Camping*
 - » *Golfing*
 - » *Numerous parks and protected areas*
- Economy: forestry, oil and gas, agriculture
- Long daylight hours and sunlight allows time to enjoy the outdoors

Sub-theme:

This landscape has supported Indigenous Peoples for more than 10,000 years; some have always been here and others have arrived more recently.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Early sites:
 - » *Tse’K’wa is a significant archaeological site as the earliest example of human adornment in North America*
- Saulteau First Nation, West Moberly First Nations, Halfway River First Nation, Doig River First Nations, Blueberry First Nations, Kwadacha Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, Tsay Keh Dene Band and Métis culture, art, technology and history [*more input is required]
- There are crocodile pathways reported in the Clayhurst area. Shows that we once were very warm.
- Treaty 8 history, territory and rights
 - » *Treaty 8 territory is shared by several nations*
 - » *Within Treaty 8, members have the right to hunt, fish and trap all year round, with the seasonal round (the prime time of each species)*
- Kelly Lake was founded in 1910, by Métis from Jasper House
- The Peace River is unique in its east-west path
- Effect of dam building and industrial development on Indigenous Peoples
 - » *Changes on the Peace and other rivers have affected migration routes of animals and have lowered population numbers, leading to less availability for hunting*
 - » *The development of dams on the Peace River has had devastating impacts on Indigenous People’s traditional territory, ways of life and social organisation*
 - » *When the Williston Reservoir was flooded many Indigenous people lost their homes and were moved; some only had one day’s notice*
- Use of Peace River to provide food, trade and transportation
 - » *Arrival of Alexander Mackenzie*
 - » *Fur trade on the Peace*

- Prophecy of the Twin Sisters, shared by some nations
- Continued traditional hunting, food gathering, celebrations, gatherings, drumming, hand games, rodeo, crafts, artists and ways of life
- The rivers in this region were the early transportation of residents and goods including fur trading. History shows that our early settlers understood the challenges such as traveling in winter across rivers that froze over and where there were no bridges.

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- This thematic structure does not include fulsome representation from Indigenous Peoples in the Peace River sub-region
- Prophet River and Halfway River First Nations workshop participants indicated more meetings are needed, preferably in person
- A key new interpretive facility that may carry some of these stories is Tse’k’wa National Historic Site, which is undergoing an interpretive planning process and developing new interpretive signage
- There has been recent work in this area to add Indigenous perspectives to the story of dam building, including at the W.A.C. Bennett Dam Visitor Centre and ongoing work by the Site C Cultural Heritage Resources Committee and BC Hydro
- Kelly Lake has recently been accepted as a Métis Nation BC Chartered Community. Kelly Lake was founded in 1910, by Métis from Jasper House

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines



NENAS Workshop

We conducted a workshop through North East Native Advancing Society (NENAS) that included members of their Elders group and a few others. The group spoke of their long history in the region, their close ties to the landscape, Treaty 8, the distinct perspective of Métis People, their traditional ways, naming of landscape, and their history as it relates to the Peace River. Some of the information gathered at the workshop is included in the interpretive topics listed above. The topics are presented in broad terms.

The group pointed out that each nation has their own unique stories, perspectives and experiences and should be consulted to understand how they would like visitors to understand and experience their histories and present-day communities. Not all nations and Métis groups were at the table. It is important to discuss and agree on ownership of traditional knowledge, stories and work done with Indigenous Peoples.

Prophet River and Halfway River First Nations Workshop

The traditional territories of Prophet River First Nation (now situated 100 km south of Fort Nelson) and Halfway River First Nation (now situated 75 northwest of Fort St John) do not fit neatly into the *NBCTF* sub-regions as their territories extend into both the Fort Nelson and Peace River sub-regions. Perspectives gathered at this workshop have been included in both sub-regions, where appropriate.

They are Dena-zee People, also known as Beaver People, and are proud people; survivors. Participants at this workshop spoke about their love for their territory—the beautiful landscape, remoteness, mountains and peace. Band members rely on the land: they are taught only to take what they need. They hunt (particularly moose) for the community, fish, and gather berries. Band members are passing on their traditions and values to the youth. Community traditions include culture camps, Treaty Days, hand game tournaments, drumming and rodeo.

PRINCE GEORGE-CENTRE

4.2.3 Prince George-Centre

Associated corridor: Alaska Highway and John Hart Highway

This is the traditional territory of the Lheidli Teneh Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and the Simpcw people.

Prince George-Centre is the confluence of many elements of Northern BC: rivers, lakes, rails, roads, economic activity and people. The region is a recreational paradise with abundant lakes and rivers, trails, winter recreation, heritage and smaller communities, each with their own unique flavour to explore. People who live in Prince George have access to urban amenities, while in very close

proximity to recreation, solitude, wildlife and wilderness. Those in smaller communities, like Mackenzie, McBride and Vanderhoof also enjoy tight-knit communities that are closely tied to their landscapes and waterways.

Destination Development Strategy goals for the region include expanding Indigenous tourism opportunities in general, and specifically, expanding connections to the Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Park and creating market-ready experiences.

Main theme:

Prince George-Centre is the confluence of many key elements of Northern BC: rivers, lakes, rail, economic activity, abundant recreation and diverse people.



Key regional destination:

- Iconic Destination X5: Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park

PRINCE GEORGE-CENTRE : PRINCE GEORGE AND AREA

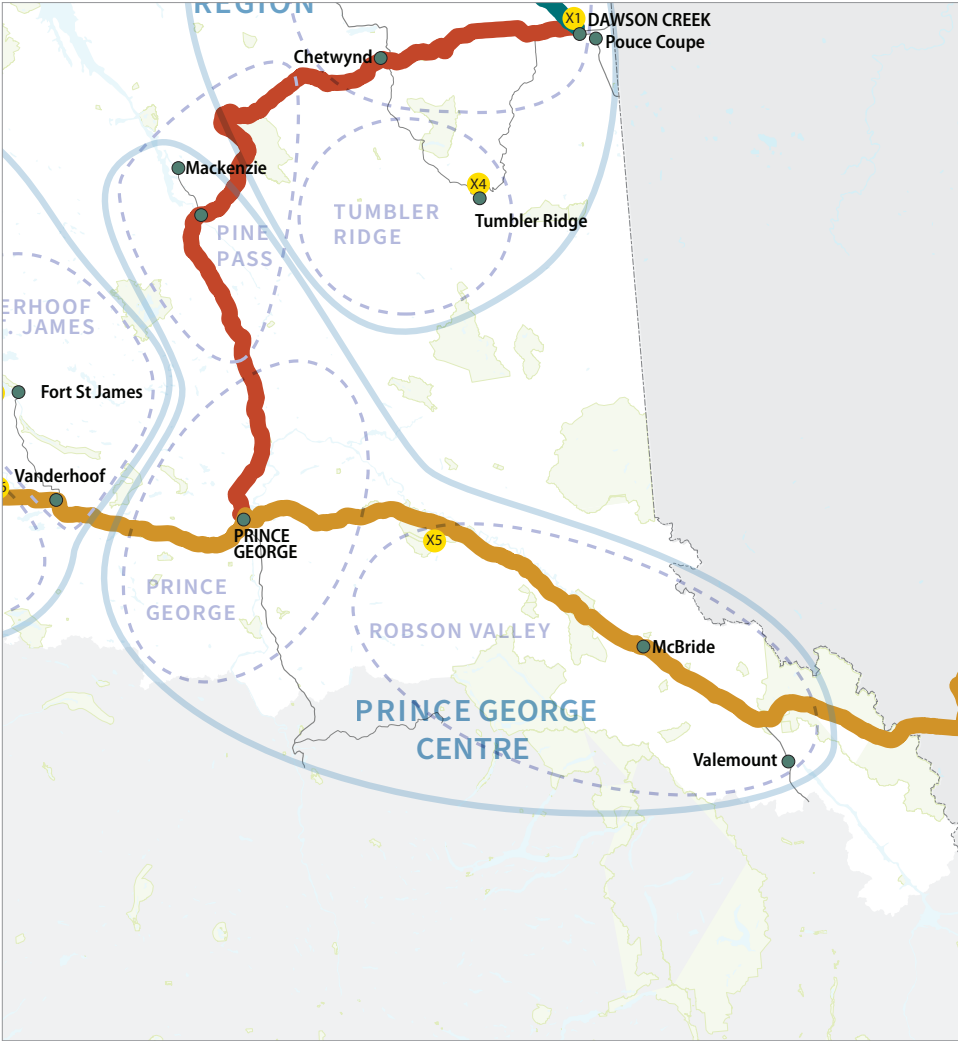
PRINCE GEORGE AND AREA

This is the traditional territory of the Lheidli T’enneh First Nation.

They are connected to the iconic destination in this area—the Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park—and have a relationship with Exploration Place in Prince George. McLeod Lake Indian Band is also nearby, 150 km north of Prince George.

Prince George is at the confluence of rivers, geography, rail, roads, economic activity and people. They all meet here, in Northern BC’s hub. Prince George is ethnically diverse and vibrant, but with a small town feel, and has easy access to the incredible recreation around Prince George and beyond. It is the jumping-off point for many adventures to the east and west.

The DDS identified that there are plans to expand Lheidli T’enneh First Nation’s presence at the Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park, including plans for a sweat lodge, pit house and gazebo, and a new interpretive centre, some of which are currently underway.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic Destination X5: Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park
- Outdoor recreation:
 - » Prince George area has 120 parks and 1,600 lakes and rivers
 - » Pidherny Mountain Bike Trails
 - » Fishing, boating, hiking, wildlife viewing and camping within easy reach of Prince George
- Lheidli T’enneh Memorial Park (Fort George Park)
 - » Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre
 - » Central BC Railway and Forestry Museum
- Huble Homestead Historic Site
- Giscome Portage Trail Protected Area: named Lhdesti or “the shortcut” by the Lheidli T’enneh, it is the shortest route between the waterways flowing to the Arctic and Pacific

Main theme:

Prince George is Northern BC’s hub; it is at the confluence of rivers, geography, rail, roads, economic activity and people.



Top: Destination BC/6ix Sigma Productions
Bottom: BC Tourism/Jongsun Park

Sub-theme:

Prince George’s location as Northern BC’s hub was born out of its central geography at the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser rivers, in the traditional territory of Lheidli T’enneh, which means “people of the confluence of the two rivers.”

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Lheidli T’enneh culture, arts, technology and history [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]
 - » *Lheidli T’enneh ancestors have been in this area for more than 10,000 years*
 - » *They chose this place, at the confluence, because of its incredible salmon runs*
 - » *Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park:*
 - Culturally modified trees in the park show Lheidli T’enneh ancestors used cambium of pine trees (food)
 - Other important plants and trees that have food, medicinal and other uses: cedar, hemlock, spruce, balsam, Devil’s club, huckleberries, blueberries, cranberries
- Continental divide and Rocky Mountain Trench: Summit Lake is on the divide and one of the lowest points

Sub-theme:

Settler influence began here with Hudson’s Bay Company’s Fort George, and the community grew up around the fur trade, railway development, agriculture and then forestry.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Fur trade: Hudson’s Bay Company fur trading post Fort George, also North West Company post
- Grand Trunk railway saw this area as an ideal hub/city
 - » *Displaced First Nations and split the community into two*
- Economic development
 - » *Agricultural history*
 - » *Railway development; arrived in 1914, now a CPR hub*
 - » *Forestry development; mill development in the 1960s*
- Iconic inland rainforest: an economic driver (forestry)

Sub-theme:

Today, Prince George is the hub of Northern BC, boasting economic opportunity, urban amenities, a diverse population, and thriving arts and culture.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- The development of modern rail, roads, and airports in Prince George has allowed the emergence of this area as an economic hub; forestry, mining, agriculture, oil and gas, and tourism are the main industries.
- Diversity: The economic hub has attracted a diverse population, including South Asian, Italian and Filipino immigrants, who add to the cultural activities, food and art in the community
- River cutbanks are a defining feature of the landscape

Sub-theme:

Waterways are important to peoples’ way of life here, historically and today, providing the best trade and travel routes through inland rainforest landscapes, and abundant fishing and recreation.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Lheidli T’enneh culture, arts, technology and history [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages] related to waterways
 - » Travel by river
 - » Ancestors choose this area, at the confluence of the rivers, because of its incredible salmon runs
- Prince George’s 120 parks and 1,600 lakes and rivers offer easy access to summer and winter recreation
- Fishing, boating, wildlife viewing and camping within easy reach of Prince George

Lheidli T’enneh Nation Community Workshop

Participants at the Lheidli T’enneh Nation workshop spoke about their deep history here. Their ancestors chose this area, at the confluence of the Nechako and Fraser rivers, for the incredible resources that the rivers provide. The salmon fishery here has provided for Lheidli T’enneh families and today is an important connection to traditional ways of life.

The Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park provides another important link to the past and traditional ways of life. Ancestors used the many medicinal and food plants here (and in the greater area) and culturally modified trees can be seen in the park. Significant effort and resources are going into the design and building of new facilities at the park that will introduce visitors and residents to Lheidli T’enneh First Nation culture, arts, technology and history.

Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic Destination: Ancient forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park
- Hubble Homestead
- Lheidli T’enneh Park:
 - » Exploration Place exhibit



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/6ix Sigma Productions

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Geographic/river confluence
 - » More than 10,000 years of history here
 - » Lheidli T’enneh means where the two rivers meet
 - » At one time rivers were used for transportation
 - » This was chosen as an ideal place to be—fish food resources, ancient forest medicines and food plants
 - » Salmon are a large part of the culture: fishing, preserving by freezing (today), canning, smoking, drying
 - » “At one time salmon was in such an abundance you could hear a whistling sound as they came up the river from their fins. There were so many salmon you could almost walk across the river on their backs.”
 - » Impacts on the environment/river have affected fisheries recently
- Settler influence
 - » Grand Trunk railroad arrived, they also saw the confluence of the rivers as an ideal hub/city
 - » Lheidli T’enneh were displaced, and the community was split into two
 - » Residential schools had a large impact on the community; generations lost connection to traditional ways of life and culture
 - » In a process of rebuilding those connections and re-learning
- Parks and waterways
 - » Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park
 - “When you walk through the ancient forest you feel that you are with our ancestors.”
 - Grandmother called the Cedar forest the “Land of the Giants”
 - Culturally modified trees in the park show ancestors used cambium of pine trees (food)
 - Other important plants and trees that have food, medicinal and other uses: cedar, hemlock, spruce, balsam, Devil’s club, huckleberries, blueberries, cranberries

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- An initial workshop with Lheidli T'enneh First Nation began the process of gathering perspectives, stories and experiences.
- Lheidli T'enneh First Nation are working with BC Parks on substantial updates at the Ancient Forest/Chun T'oh Whudujut Provincial Park: new interpretive centre, cultural area and widened boardwalks. Cultural tours are also planned, hopefully with Elders. The goal is that visitors learn about this place from its original people.

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.

Immigrant experiences:

- There is an opportunity for capturing the diversity of immigrant experiences in this region, to tell the stories of its modern history. Partnerships could be developed with various groups including the Multicultural Heritage Society of Prince George.



PRINCE GEORGE-CENTRE : ROBSON VALLEY

ROBSON VALLEY

This is the traditional territory of the Lheidli T’enneh First Nation and Simpcw people.

A fertile valley framed by the Rocky and Caribou mountain ranges, the Robson Valley is a place where you can simultaneously slow down and kick the recreation up a notch. The mountains offer incredible mountain biking, hiking, climbing and winter fun.

Ancient forests have been the backbone of the economy here and are celebrated in the iconic Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park. Back in town—in McBride and Valemount—unique businesses, artists and railway heritage are some of the treasures of these welcoming, authentic communities.

The DDS identified plans to expand Lheidli T’enneh First Nation’s presence at the Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park and is almost ready to conduct tourism operations.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic Destination X5: Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park
- Parks and sanctuaries:
 - » Mount Robson Provincial Park
 - » McBride Peak
 - » Koeneman Regional Park
 - » Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Park
 - » Horseshoe Lake Bird Sanctuary (200 bird species)
 - » Beaver River Falls
 - » Kakwa Provincial Park
 - » Mount Robson Park
 - » Robert W. Starratt Wildlife Sanctuary (bird watching)
 - » George Hicks Regional Park (salmon migration)
- McBride Visitor Centre
- Valley Museum and Archives
- Valemount Museum and Archives
- Roundhouse Theatre
- Railway stations and tourist rail travel
- Events: Pioneer Days, Valemount Days, Valemount Farmers’ Market, Robson Valley Music Festival, Canoe Rodeo

Recreation:

- » Uncrowded and somewhat hidden biking, trail riding, hiking, snowmobiling, backcountry access
- » Boating, fishing, canoeing, whitewater rafting
- » Salmon spawning (Tete Jaune spawning grounds)
- » Valemount Mountain Bike Park
- » Valemount Snowmobile Trails
- » Valemount Glacier ski resort
- » Berg Lake Trail

Arts:

- » Mountain Driftwood Gallery
- » Heritage Art Walk

Main theme:

This fertile valley, framed by the Rocky and Caribou mountain ranges, has a diversity of mountain recreation, arts and heritage experiences, without the crowds of mountain towns to the east.



Credit: Destination BC/Stephen Shelesky

Sub-theme:

Inland temperate rainforests have provided the economic backbone for Robson Valley communities and are celebrated by the iconic Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Lheidli T’enneh connections to the temperate inland rainforest and Ancient Forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park [*more engagement needed]
 - » “When you walk through the ancient forest you feel that you are with our ancestors.”
 - » Grandmother called the Cedar forest the “Land of the Giants”
 - » Culturally modified trees in the park show ancestors used cambium of pine trees (food)
 - » Other important plants and trees that have food, medicinal and other uses: cedar, hemlock, spruce, balsam, Devil’s club, huckleberries, blueberries, cranberries
- Ancient forests: thousand-year-old western red cedars and a rich biodiversity of plants, mosses, lichens and fungi
- Forestry industry

Sub-theme:

The mighty Fraser River is an important resource for Indigenous Peoples, local agriculture, fishing and recreation. It has been changed by the building of the Mica Dam, which created the Kinbasket Reservoir.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Lheidli T’enneh culture, arts, technology and history related to the Fraser River [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]
 - » Salmon are a large part of the culture: fishing, preserving by freezing (today), canning, smoking, drying
 - » “At one time salmon was in such an abundance, you could hear a whistling sound as they came up the river from their fins. There were so many salmon you could almost walk across the river on their backs.”
 - » Impacts on the environment/river have affected fisheries recently
- Simpcw culture, arts, technology and history related to the Fraser River and dam development [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]
- Moved out of the area when Kinbasket Reservoir was created by the construction of the Mica Dam
- Hydroelectric development and change in the landscape
- Agriculture
- Fishing

Sub-theme:

These small, authentic communities share a love and appreciation for their incredible access to mountain recreation in all seasons, which they are willing to share if you ask.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Uncrowded and somewhat hidden biking, trail riding, hiking, snowmobiling, backcountry access
- Fishing, boating
- Wildlife viewing
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging

Sub-theme:

Downtown areas of some of these communities reveal their history as railway towns; historic station buildings are repurposed for museums and visitor information, and display local artwork.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Pioneer days and other events
- Railway heritage and history
- Local artists and artwork

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- More input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors. In particular, the development of Kinbasket Reservoir was not explored

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines

Mountain biking and outdoor sports:

- The DDS identified mountain biking as almost “market ready” here. Note, however, there was some hesitancy in the workshop participants to promote this and other recreation heavily. They differentiate themselves from places like Jasper to the east by being authentic, small and friendly



Credit: Destination BC/Jongsun Park

PEACE REGION / PRINCE GEORGE-CENTRE : PINE PASS

PINE PASS

This is the traditional territory of the Tse'Khene People, who at one time lived a nomadic life in this region. Today, McLeod Lake Indian Band is situated southwest of the Pine Pass.

Pine Pass is a unique sub-region, as it sits on the threshold between Prince George-Centre and the Peace Region. The Rocky Mountain trench meets the mountains here, making it a diverse eco-zone where forests, birds and animals mix.

The largest community, Mackenzie, was built as a temporary forestry town, but it has endured because of the easy access to the mountains, a close-knit and supportive community, and emerging recreation opportunities.

In Pine Pass itself, Powder King Mountain is well known for its deep snowpack. In the summer, families gather at the lakes and are known to return year after year. Pine pass has fantastic waterfalls, bird watching and wildlife viewing.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Pine Pass:
 - » Bijoux Falls Provincial Park
 - » Pine Le Moray Provincial Park
 - » Powder King Mountain Resort
 - » Azouzzetta Lake
- Heather-Dina Lakes Provincial Park
- Ed Bird-Estella Lakes Provincial Park
- Muscovite Lakes Provincial Park
- Morphe Mountain
- Morphe Lakes
- Mackenzie Nature Observatory, Mugaha Marsh
- John Dahl Park
- McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest
- Mackenzie Museum
- World's largest tree crusher
- Fort McLeod Historic Park: Fort McLeod National Historic Site and old First Nations village site
- Whiskers Point Provincial Park
- Carp Lake Provincial Park and Protected Area
- Caribou feeding and calving pen

Main theme:

A unique meeting of eco-zones has given this area its renowned elements: diverse forests, powder skiing, recreation and abundant wildlife and birds.



Top: Northern BC Tourism/6ix Sigma Productions
Bottom: Northern BC Tourism/Jennifer Stevenson

Sub-theme:

At one time, Tse’Khene People lived a nomadic life in this region, controlling the Parsnip and Finley River basins and the Peace River valley for thousands of years.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- McLeod Lake Indian Band culture, arts, technology and history [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]
- Traditional foods: whitefish (no salmon on this side of the divide), moose (main food source), elk, beaver, bear, woodchuck, wild onions, mint, blueberries, huckleberry, cranberries
 - » Historically caribou were a major food source; today they are in decline and not hunted.
 - » At one time, moose hides were made into moccasins and other items
- In the past they were nomadic hunting people who controlled the Parsnip and Finley River basins and the Peace River valley. Living on the edge of the Rocky Mountains, they are the “People of the Rocks”.
 - » People travelled the waterways by large flat-bottomed river boats (45 feet long) that could carry a family of 10-12.
- Waterways and trails, including the Grease Trail, connected Tse’Khene people to other Nations.

Sub-theme:

The landscape here has been changed over time by industry: fur trading, dam and reservoir building, logging and highway construction.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Fur trade and trapping
 - » Fort McLeod is a remnant of the western fur trade; built by Simon Fraser as a base to trade with Tse’Khene People and supply parties using the Peace River route to Athabasca
 - » There are many trap lines that belong to McLeod Lake Indian Band families.
 - » Movement of supplies to the trading posts was by river freighters and pack trains during the early 1900s. Men like Gus Dalhstrom, Edward Buchanan, and Dick Corless, operated river freighting companies to move supplies to the early settlers, from the 1920s until the construction of the Hart Highway in the 1950s.
- Dam building
 - » Mackenzie was built during the development of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam to log the Williston Reservoir.
 - » Indigenous Peoples were displaced and their traditional territory irrevocably altered by the development of dams and reservoirs on the Peace River.
 - » During the 1960s the construction of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam signalled the end of many of the settlements along the Finlay and Parsnip Rivers, as the Williston Lake Reservoir flooded over them.
 - » McLeod Lake members were impacted by the building of the Williston Reservoir.
 - Members recall that they had only a day’s notice before their homes were flooded and they had to relocate.
 - The impact on the wildlife from the flooding was immediate (many moose, elk and caribou died) and ongoing, with lower population numbers and interrupted migration routes.
- Caribou
 - » Today, Tse’Khene people are champions of the caribou. There is a calving and feeding pen just north of the reserve by Kennedy Siding.

- Logging
 - » Mackenzie is known as a forestry community.
 - » In 1964 the prospect of abundant forest resources and available power led BC Forest Products to announce it would spend \$60 million building a “forestry complex” in the region.
 - » In 1965, the clearing of land began for the townsite of Mackenzie. British Columbia Forest Products built a pulp mill and two sawmills to begin developing the vast forest resources in the area. The first families settled in Mackenzie in June of 1966.
 - » Tree crusher is a touchstone artifact for this town. It is famous but needs to be reframed to tell the complete story.
 - » New approaches to forestry: community forest partnership between Mackenzie and McLeod Lake Indian Band, supports community projects
 - » McLeod Lake Indian Band has a successful logging business.
- John Hart Highway (see also Corridors: John Hart Highway)
 - » New highway built in 1952 utilised by industries like forestry, mining, oil and gas, and hydroelectric energy
 - » Before the highway, travel in the area by Tse’Khene People was mostly by riverboat.
 - » The highway changed the way that Tse’Khene People moved around the region and changed the social dynamics. There was less sharing of resources (i.e., moose or elk meat) between communities.
- Mining
 - » After the Cariboo Gold Rush in 1870, miners began to move north into the Omineca District (north of Mackenzie) in search of riches. The communities of Germansen and Manson Creek were established as settlers moved into the area.

Sub-theme:

Ecozones overlap in the Pine Pass, providing diverse forests, a mix of birds and wildlife, and a lot of snow.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Lowest pass through the Rocky Mountains
- So much Snow! (41ft of powder)
- Unique location at overlap of ecozones; Rocky Mountain trench meets mountain range
- Abundant wildlife, especially birds (on the flyway). E.g., caribou, moose, grizzly bear, black bear and wolverine
- At one time Tse’Khene hunted caribou and elk here; today only elk are hunted, as caribou are in decline
- Incredible recreation: skiing, hiking, waterfalls, mountain biking, lakes and beaches, camping
- Diverse forests: wet, cool Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine Fir Biogeoclimatic Zone
- Impacts from pine beetle outbreak can be seen in the pass

Sub-theme:

Mackenzie was built as a logging town, but today it is moving past that one-industry makeup by redefining its forestry industry, supporting new mining opportunities and welcoming visitors to this uncrowded outdoor paradise.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- » *Modern economy: forestry, mining and green energy development*
- » *Community forest partnership and community benefits*
- » *Outdoor recreation: lakes, beaches, hiking, waterfalls, skiing, mountain biking*
- » *Historic sites: Fort McLeod National Historic Site*
- » *Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging*

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- More input from McLeod Lake Indian band would enrich the *NBCTF*
- As MacKenzie workshop participants and McLeod Lake Indian Band workshop participants acknowledged, there is a story here to tell about the impact of logging and the W.A.C. Bennett Dam development on the landscape and First Nations territory. Mackenzie’s famous tree crusher is an example of an artifact from this era that needs to be reframed.

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.

McLeod Lake Indian Band Workshop

Participants at the McLeod Lake Indian Band workshop spoke about their vast territory, large changes that came about from the damming of the Peace River, traditional foods, ways of travel, successful businesses and potential tourism opportunities. McLeod Lake Indian Band are Tse’Khene, the “People of the Rocks.” At one time they were a nomadic hunting people who controlled the Parsnip and Finley River basins and the Peace River valley. Stories and perspectives gathered from the workshop are included in the Pine Pass thematic structure and potential interpretive topics, as well as integrated into the Peace Region, as there is overlapping territory and historic relationships across the Peace Region.

This workshop was attended by a small number of band members. More meetings with McLeod Lake Indian Band would benefit the *NBCTF*. Currently their history and culture is not fully interpreted in the area, but participants pointed out several locations where signage could be added and improved: at a future updated Visitor Information Centre at the Highway 97 junction (the current caboose does not represent the people of the area) and at Fort McLeod National Historic Site (recently given to the band by the historical society).

Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Carp Lake
- Fort McLeod National Historic Site
- Azan Trail (Morphe Lake)
- Alexander Mackenzie Landing
- Crooked River Rest Stop (story of Summit Lake)



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/6ix Sigma Productions



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/6ix Sigma Productions

SKEENA-BULKLEY-NECHAKO

4.2.4 Skeena-Bulkley-Nechako

Associated corridor: Yellowhead Highway

This is the traditional territory of Gitksan, Witsuwit'en, Tsimshian and Dakelh (or Carrier) Peoples.

The Skeena-Bulkley-Nechako region is defined by its three major rivers. The rivers are key travel corridors and the area has always been a confluence of historic trade and travel, by Indigenous Peoples, gold-seekers and settlers. Today, some of these communities are important travel and amenity hubs.

These communities have residents who welcome visitors: Indigenous Peoples, frontier families with long histories and more recent arrivals. They enjoy generous geography: mountains, rivers, lakes and forests that support fish and wildlife; agriculture; incredible year-round recreation; and other rich resources. People that find their way here, find an excuse to stay.

The DDS identifies auto touring, eco-tourism, sport fishing and Indigenous tourism as key areas for growth in this region.

Main theme:

This area is defined by its numerous connecting rivers and lakes: they are historic travel routes, incredible food sources for thousands of years, and boast friendly small communities to discover all along their shores.



- Key regional destinations:
- Iconic Destination X6: Lakes District
 - Iconic Destination X7: Fort St. James National Historic Site
 - Iconic Destination X8: Hudson Bay Mountain
 - Iconic Destination X9: 'Ksan Historical Village and Museum

SKEENA-BULKLEY-NECHAKO : SKEENA VALLEY

SKEENA VALLEY

This is the traditional territory of the Gitxsan Nation, Kitselas First Nation and Kitsumkalum Band.

The Skeena Valley is defined and united by its salmon-rich Skeena River, a historic travel route from the coast inland to the ancient village of Gitanmaax for thousands of years. Visitors will find many places to explore First Nations culture, art, technology and history. The DDS indicates there are more opportunities for First Nations tourism, including eco-tourism opportunities on the Skeena River.

Historic settler communities showcase the frontier era here—when Hazelton was the jumping-off point for goldfields of the northwest, new settlements and farms. Today, valley communities are welcoming and are the perfect location for exploring the many recreation opportunities—fishing and boating, wildlife viewing, winter sports and more.

There is a mixture of Gitxsan and Witsuwit'en First Nations Villages as well as non-indigenous local governments in the Upper Skeena Valley.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic Destination X9: 'Ksan Historical Village and Museum
- Hagwilget Canyon Bridge
- Gitwagak Battle Hill National Historic Site
- Gitwagak Totem Poles
- Kitselas Canyon National Historic Site
- Gitanyow Historic Village and Interpretive Centre
 - » Gitanyow Totem Poles
- Gitsegukla Totem Poles
- Kispiox Totem Poles
- Historic Old Hazelton
- Hands of History driving tour
- Hazelton District Public Library & Museum
- Steelhead fishing
- Seven Sisters Provincial Park
- Seeley Lake Provincial Park
- Heritage Park Museum
- Terrace Visitor Centre
- Shames Mountain ski hill
- Skeena Heliskiing
- Red Raven Art Gallery
- House of Sim-Oi-Ghets gift store
- Exstew River and falls
- Kispiox Valley Rodeo

Main theme:

The Skeena River has been at the heart of life in this area for thousands of years, as a First Nations travel route, incredible food source and defining feature of the communities that dot its route.



Top: Destination BC/@calsnape
Bottom: Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine / Steve Rogers

Sub-theme:

The region’s communities are supply hubs—historically and today—where visitors, industries and locals come for amenities, supplies and transportation links like airports and railroads.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Confluence of Skeena and Bulkley rivers
- Navigation first by ancient trails in all directions, canoe, dog sled and eventually paddlewheelers from the coast
- Village of Hazelton settled in 1866 during Collins Overland telegraph development
- Hazelton was the gateway and staging area for the Omineca Gold Rush of 1869-73
 - » *The reason there are three Hazeltons is due to the railway line. When they surveyed the area, the original site of Hazelton and Gitanmaax was deemed inadequate for a rail station. South Hazelton was the ideal location due to the gradient, but locals bought up the land as they could name their price. The railway did not want to pay these prices, and instead chose the location of New Hazelton*
- Development of Terrace as cedar pole supplier, supply hub for Kitimat, with railroad and airport
- Rich valley-bottom soils support ranching, agriculture and ‘old-west’ (cowboy) culture and farmers markets
- Ethnically diverse communities
- Resource industries: fishing, forestry and mining



Sub-theme:

First Nations art, history, culture and technology are well represented and showcased in these communities, in galleries, at community events, at celebrations of traditional practices and in historic attractions.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Gitxsan, Kitselas and Kitsumkalum culture, arts, technology and history [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]
- Gitxsan:
 - » *Meaning “People of the River Mist”*
 - » *Live along the Skeena River in the communities of Hazelton, Kispiox and Glen Vowell (the Eastern Gitxsan bands) and Kitwanga, Kitwankool and Kitsegukla (the Western Gitxsan bands)*
- Gitselasu (Kitselas):
 - » *Meaning ‘people of the Canyon’ in the Tsimshian language of Sm’algyax*
 - » *Kitselas Canyon, located in Gitaus, is the heart of the Kitselas nation. The canyon is a stronghold of the Kitselas people, who once charged traders and travellers on the river a toll to pass through*
 - » *The canyon is now a National Historic Site of Canada and open to visitors. Four longhouses and several totem poles are onsite.*
- Kitsumkalum:
 - » *Name refers to the riffles in the water as it runs over the rocks, while another description refers to ‘people of the plateau’*
 - » *“We are a strong and proud galts’ap and are an integral part of the Tsimshian Nation with archaeological evidence placing property holdings (laxyuup/territories) in the Kitsumkalum Valley, along the Lakelse and Skeena River, Zymacord, and many special sites surrounding coastal and inland areas of the Northwest Coast prior to 1846 and as far back as 5,000 years BP”*
- Ancient village of Gitanmaax at the confluence of Skeena and Bulkley rivers is a rich fishing site and vital trading crossroads
- Historic and current salmon fishery

Sub-theme:

The region’s diverse landscapes offer a wealth of recreation opportunities here, with the most famous being steelhead fishing, lodges, and downhill and heli-skiing.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Skeena River fishing
- Summer and winter recreation: parks, fishing, paddling, boats, camping, hiking, horse back riding, mountain biking, downhill skiing, heli-skiing, cat-skiing
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging
- Spectacular scenery allows for photography opportunities
- Bird migration route



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Shayd Johnson



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Shayd Johnson

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- More input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors as well as the current status of existing interpretive facilities
- Gitksan workshop:
 - Workshop participants expressed their interest in re-opening (post COVID) current visitor facilities and expanding their tourism experiences.
 - Participants brought up developing cabins for skiers, wildlife tours, and fishing tours (that could emphasise how fish are caught and prepared, not catching a large number of fish for sport).
 - There was a comment that they have had a lot of projects start up and then stop—for financial, political or other reasons. They are looking for guidance in how to bring projects to fruition, from a financial point of view.

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.



Gitksan Nation Workshop

Gitksan Nation members expressed their love and connection to their territory by speaking to its incredible landscape features, like the Skeena and Kispiox rivers and iconic mountains, the food resources they enjoy, and the different seasonal rhythms of life.

The visitor experience here is anchored by the world-renowned ‘Ksan Historical Village and Museum. The Village is an important site for Gitksan people—it is a centre for the passing on of Gitksan traditions like celebrations, medicines, dancing and other arts. Workshop participants felt it was an important resource—a place where their culture can be explained and celebrated.

Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic Destination: ‘Ksan Historical Village and Museum
- ‘Ksan Performing Arts
- Gitsegukla Totem Poles
- Kispiox Totem Poles
- Wii Sganist / Stiyoden (sp?) (Seven Sisters)
- Wildlife viewing



Potential Interpretive topics:

- Skeena and Kispiox rivers
 - » *“Skeena River is our power—we are the people of the river, it’s ours, we protect it, we stand by it, we live by it—the river brings us our life, supplies for winter, our food. So much work goes into it.”*
 - » *Salmon fishing*
 - Chinook, sockeye and pink runs
 - “There are so many pink salmon that the river is almost black—as you float through it they separate and you can see them all.”
 - Sport fishing is not encouraged in Gitksan culture—it is viewed as playing with your food
 - Gitksan families have their own fishing holes, known as an anat (sp?)
 - Fishing licences are contrary to this system
- Wildlife
 - » *Fox, bears, salmon, moose, porcupine*
 - » *Sim smax: black bear*
 - » *Lik’i’nswx: grizzly bear*
 - » *Grizzlies come from very far away (Burns Lake) to fish here*
- Recreation:
 - » *Sport fishing*
 - » *Hiking, biking and camping*
- Learning traditional ways
 - » *‘Ksan Performing Arts travel all over the world dancing*
 - » *‘Ksan known for its art and carving school in the past*
 - » *Trapping local furs for use in making regalia*
 - » *Traditional hunting*
 - » *Traditional fishing areas*

SKEENA-BULKLEY-NECHAKO : BULKLEY VALLEY

BULKLEY VALLEY

This is the traditional territory of the Gitksan and Witsuwit'en Peoples.

The mountain towns of the Bulkley Valley are blessed with generous geography in all directions: mountains, rivers, wildlife, forests and agricultural land. The rich resources form the basis of their economies and outdoor recreation—and lots of opinions on how to make the best use of their land base. One local joked, “this area is a difference of opinion surrounded by mountains.” But that is part of its strength. The diversity of people, traditions, music and arts here is part of what makes these communities unique. Those that find their way here are welcomed and may find an excuse to stay.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic destination X8: Hudson Bay Mountain
- Witset Canyon
- Wet’suwet’en Cultural Tours
- Widzin Kwah Diyik Be Yikh (Widzin Kwah Canyon House Museum)
- World-class river fishing for steelhead and salmon and lake fishing
- Babine Mountains Provincial Park
- Ross Lake Provincial Park
- Twin Falls/Glacier Gulch
- Bulkley Valley Museum
- Smithers Visitor Centre
- Houston Visitor Centre
- Steelhead Park
- Houston Community Forest
- Old Pines Nature Trail
- Telkwa bridges
- Nadina Mountain
- Owen Hat rock face
- Barrett Hat forest fire lookout
- Hiking, mountain biking, skiing, paddling, boating, fishing, hunting
- Arts and music festivals
- Farmers Market

Main theme:

The landscape of the Bulkley Valley has been described as one of generous geography, with mountains, rivers, lakes, rich agricultural land, forests and recreational opportunities.



Top & Right: Northern BC Tourism/Marty Clemens
Bottom: Northern BC Tourism/Andrew Strain

Sub-theme:

Resource industries such as agriculture, forestry and mining are part of the economic base of some Bulkley Valley communities, supported early in their development by railway building.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- First non-Indigenous settlers arrived during construction of the Collins Overland Telegraph Trail.
- Pioneer settlers choose the valley for fertile soil, mineral riches and forests.
 - » Agriculture and tourism were referenced by early ‘sales’ pieces enticing people to come to BC.
- Development of agriculture and rodeo culture
 - » Houston developed as a farming community with the expansion of the railway.
- Development of railroad, forestry and mining
 - » Houston developed as a farming community with the expansion of the railway.
 - » Smithers founded as divisional headquarters of Grand Trunk Railway in 1913.
 - » Copper and gold were discovered here in the 1920s. Mining began in 1965, when Granby Mining and Smelting Ltd. built an open-pit copper mine on Sterret Island in Babine Lake. Noranda built a second copper mine on the nearby Newman Peninsula in 1972.
 - » The Village of Granisle was named and built by Granby Mining and Smelting Ltd., primarily to house workers and their families.

Sub-theme:

The geography of these communities creates easy access to world-class recreation right out the front door.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Bulkley river steelhead and fishing
- Morice River
- Hiking, mountain biking, skiing, paddling, boating, hunting
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging

Sub-theme:

People with diverse cultures, ways of life, lifestyles and beliefs have come together here in a genuine community.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Gitxsan and Witsuwit’en culture, arts, technology and history [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages. See Gitxsan Workshop notes above]
 - » The historic village of Telkwa is located at the confluence of the Bulkley River and Telkwa River.
 - » Babine Lake has been home to the people of Nat’oo (or Nat’ooten) for as long as humans have inhabited North America (now known as Lake Babine Nation).
 - » These semi-nomadic people thrived on the region’s abundant salmon, berries, sheep, deer, caribou, moose and bear. They spoke Babine-Witsuwit’en and traded with the Gitxsan, Kootenee, Titneh, Nutseeni and Wet’suwet’en. Mysterious petroglyphs still testify to their long occupation of the area.
 - » When European settlers arrived around 1813, they found at least four flourishing Nat’ooten villages (Nass-chick, Nah-tell-cuss (now Old Fort), Tachy, and Wu’dat. In 1822, the Hudson’s Bay Company established a trading post at Old Fort. It was later moved to Fort Babine, which received a road link and electricity in the 1980s.
 - » More than half of Lake Babine Nation’s 2,200 members live in the lakeside reserve communities of Tachet, Fort Babine and Old Fort, as well as at Woyenne, near Burns Lake.
- Prior to and following WWII, many Europeans—especially Dutch and Swiss—immigrated to the area
 - » Some Scandinavian immigrants helped develop the ski and ski jumping community early in the 1900s.
 - » Today, there is a more diverse population.
- Some Chinese immigrants came here with the development of the railroad.

Sub-theme:

Art, music, sports and other creative endeavours are encouraged and celebrated in these communities, which host events, shows and farmers markets.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Musicians, artists and other creative people
- Music festivals
- Farmers markets
- Bakeries

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- More input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors.

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Abby Cooper



Credit: Destination BC/Andrew Strain

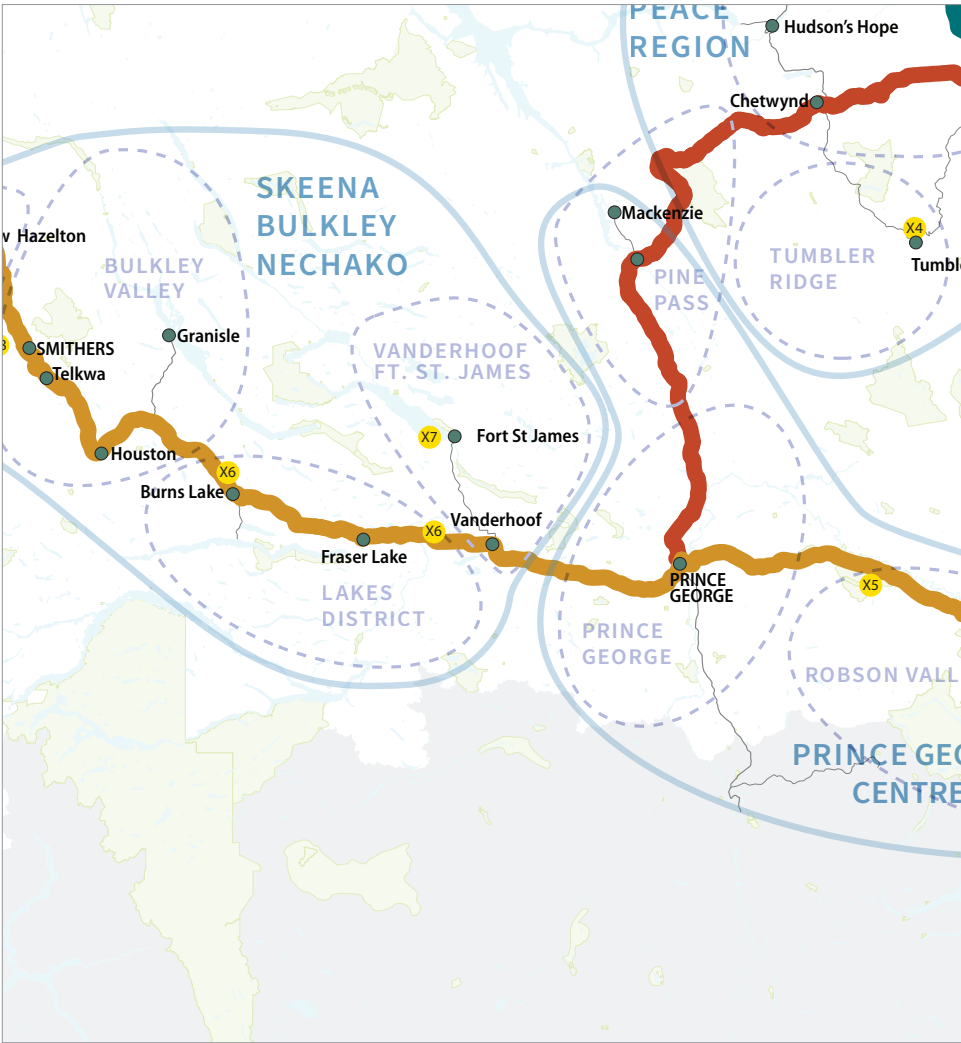
SKEENA-BULKLEY-NECHAKO : VANDERHOOF-FORT ST. JAMES

VANDERHOOF-FORT ST. JAMES

This is the traditional territory of Nak’azdli Whut’en First Nation, Saik’uz First Nation, Tl’azt’en Nation, Yekooche First Nation, Binche Whut’en First Nation and Takla Lake First Nation.

This region is the geographic and historic heart of British Columbia; a natural gathering place where people, waterways and wildlife have been coming together for millennia. It is defined by water features—natural and built. Many visitors come here to experience Fort St. James, where Carrier People and European fur traders bartered fur pelts and salmon. Vanderhoof is also becoming known for mountain biking.

The DDS outlined a number of Indigenous-led tourism opportunities that could be expanded in this area including accommodation, guiding, canoe/boat tours, servicing the Nation Lakes Canoe Route, tours to pictographs and other culturally significant sites.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic Destination X7: Fort St. James National Historic Site
- Vanderhoof Community Museum & Visitor Centre
- Manson Creek Historical Society Museum
- Fort St. James Visitor Centre
- White Sturgeon Conservation Centre
- Kenny Dam
 - » Kenny Dam Trail: Cheslatta Falls
- Ripples of the Past Interpretive Trail
- Pictographs, north shore of Stuart Lake
- Chief Kwah gravesite (with permission of band)
- Hudson’s Bay Cemetery (oldest remnant of fur trade in Fort St. James)
- Nation Lakes Provincial Park
- Omineca Provincial Park
- Mount Dickinson Trail
- Mount Pope Provincial Park
- Riverside Park/Riverside Nature Trail
- Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- Heritage Nature Trail
- Stoney Creek Nature Trail
- WL McLeod Wetland Trail
- Rip’n the North Bike Park
- Farmers Markets
- Summer recreation: mountain biking, rock climbing, boating, fishing, canoeing, beaches, camping. “Lake life” is important to the community
- Winter recreation: Skiing, world-class dog sled races

Main theme:

This is the geographic centre of what is now known as British Columbia, where people, waterways and wildlife have been coming together for millennia.



Credit: Tourism Prince Rupert/Chelsey Ellis

Sub-theme:

The Arctic, Skeena and Fraser watersheds connect this area to the rest of the province, making it a natural gathering place for millennia.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Connected to the rest of the province by three watersheds: Arctic, Skeena and Fraser
- First Nations travel and trade routes
 - » *Nation Lakes Canoe Route*
 - » *Grease trails from the coast*
- 19th-century fur trade: a centre of trade and commerce, where Europeans traded salmon and fur pelts with Carrier People
- Hudson’s Bay Company history
- Fort St. James originally established by Simon Fraser for the North West Company in 1806
 - » *Chief Kwah (or Kw’eh), one of the most respected and influential leaders of the Carrier First Nation, pivotal in the relationship with Simon Fraser and the North West Company*
- First Capital of BC

Sub-theme:

Waterways such as rivers, lakes, waterfalls and reservoirs provide incredible water recreation.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Fishing is a common thread for all community members, Indigenous and non-Indigenous.
- Water recreation is important to the community: boating, fishing, canoeing, beaches, camping, and “lake life”.
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging

Sub-theme:

Waterways are important to the local economy, providing fertile soils, commercial fisheries and hydropower, and equally inspire conservation.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Nechako white sturgeon conservation
- Kenny Dam (built by Alcan—now Rio Tinto—to produce hydroelectric power for Kitimat smelter): flooded First Nations communities, changed waterways and controls seasonal flooding
- Agricultural history and food security movement
- Fragile balance of forestry, fisheries and waterways. This is the area’s most valuable resource

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives

- More input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors.

Great Northern Circle Route signage

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.



SKEENA-BULKLEY-NECHAKO : LAKES DISTRICT

LAKES DISTRICT

This is the traditional territory of Lake Babine Nation, Ts'il Kaz Koh (Burns Lake Band), Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Skin Tyee Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Band, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation and Stellat'en First Nation.

The Lakes District is a group of small but mighty communities, united by a deep and enduring connection to the many lakes that surround them. For millennia, lakes and waterways have shaped the lives and livelihoods of the people in the region. People who live and thrive in these communities appreciate their connection to the landscape, the waterways, seasonal vocation changes and chores, and a slower pace of life.

The DDS identified several Indigenous-led tourism opportunities that could be explored in this region, including accommodation, camping, an interpretive centre at Old Fort Babine, and cultural and interpretive boat tours. There are many First Nations travel routes and trails throughout the region that date back thousands of years. Recent development of mountain biking trails in Burns Lake has made it a destination for mountain bikers.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic destination X6: Lakes District
- Granisle Museum and Visitor Centre
- Fraser Lake Museum
- Lakes District Museum
- Fulton River Spawning Channel
- Old Fort Babine Historic Site
- Burns Lake Mountain Bike Park
- Burns Lake Provincial Park
- Beaumont Provincial Park
- Tweedsmuir Provincial Park
- Stellako River Wildlife Management Area
- Petroglyphs and “Indianhead” Rock
- Red Rock Volcano
- Mouse Mountain
- Ootsa-Francois Lake Circle Tour
- Nautley River; the shortest river in the world
- Water sports: paddling, boating, fishing
- Land-based sports: hiking, snowmobiling, mountain biking, cross-country skiing
- Mouse Mountain Days Festival
- Endako Molybdenum Mine (not currently operating)

Main theme:

The lakes and waterways have always shaped the lives and livelihoods of people in the Lakes District. Language is inclusive.

Sub-theme:

The land and waterways here have provided a rich way of life for Indigenous Peoples for many thousands of years.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Indigenous Peoples have been sustained here for thousands of years
- Continuing traditional ways of life:
 - » *Berry picking and preserving*
 - » *Drumming and singing*
 - » *Storytelling*
 - » *Crafts: birchbark*
 - » *Traditional foods: soap berries, bannock, birch sap*
 - » *Waterways have been transportation routes for Indigenous Peoples over thousands of years*
 - » *Historic routes and fishing grounds connect Indigenous Peoples to their ancestors and carry on their way of life*
 - » *Today, some of these routes are used for recreation*
 - » *There were changes to the waterways as a result of the flooding of Nechako Reservoir and relocation of First Nations*

Sub-theme:

Economic opportunities in the Lakes District are based on the land and waterways, such as fur trapping, logging, mining, railway, fishing and tourism.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Collins Overland Telegraph line construction brought European settlers to the area
- Westward expansion of the fur trade
- Grand Trunk Railway development: Burns Lake was a centre for construction of railroad ties
 - » *Last spike was driven 1 mile east of Fort Fraser*
- Development of forestry and mills
- Development of molybdenum mine
- Steelhead salmon and fishery

Sub-theme:

Today, residents and visitors alike enjoy exceptional outdoor activities that bring them out onto the water and into the uncrowded wilderness.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Mountain biking, hiking, snowmobiling, ATVing
- Watersports: canoeing, kayaking, boating, fishing
- Easy and affordable access to recreation
- There are more than 300 lakes and numerous rivers and other waterways in the Lakes District
- Wildlife viewing
- Indigenous-led opportunities such as hiking pack trails, listening to stories, eating traditional foods and celebrating the land
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Marty Clemens



Credit: Destination BC/Dave Silver

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- More input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors.
- Stellat’en workshop participants noted:
 - » *This is a first connection and there is benefit to continued discussion around tourism.*
 - » *They would benefit from capacity-building workshops on how to build a tourism brand, products, etc.*
 - » *Tourism product development needs to be a community-driven process.*
 - » *Elders should be consulted; they should be central to any projects.*

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.

Stellat’en First Nation

Participants at the Stellat’en First Nation workshop expressed their love of their territory: the incredible wildlife, lakes, rivers and forests, their connection to their families who have been here for many generations, sustenance through fishing, and spiritual places on the land.

Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Hiking and walking trails: Mouse Mtn, Fraser Mtn, Ormond Creek Falls, Red Rock
- Possible circle tour route around Fraser Lake
- Camping
- World-class fly fishing
- Ice hockey (In previous years Stellako had a well-known hockey team in the area)
- Celebrations (Aboriginal Days, Salmon Fest, Mouse Mountain Days)

Possible interpretive topics:

- Waterways and historic transportation:
 - » *Stella River (Stella Koh)*
 - » *Sockeye spawning grounds: headwaters starts in Vancouver, they swim 1500 km*
 - » *Grease Trail went through the territory to Kitimat and Bella Coola*
 - » *Trade routes from here as far as Telegraph Creek and the Hazeltons*
 - » *Fort St. James to Notley travel route*
 - » *First Nations guides: led Hudson Bay pack trains on traditional routes*
- Ways of life:
- There are fewer salmon now, but they used to say that the colour of the river can change with the red salmon going through; used to say you could walk across the river on their backs
- Salmon Fest - big focus is teaching young people how to gut salmon, knowledge transfer
- When the salmon are running there is wildlife - bears, eagles, osprey
- Other wildlife: cougar, moose, elk, otters, grizzly and black bears
- Moose are in decline; Stellat’en promoting protection and moose habitat
- Continuing traditional ways of life:
 - » *Berry picking and preserving*
 - » *Drumming and singing*
 - » *Storytelling*
 - » *Crafts: birchbark*
 - » *Traditional foods: soap berries, bannock, birch sap*
- Recreation
 - » *Wildlife photography could be promoted, rather than hunting*
 - » *World-class fishing: One of the top 5 fly fishing rivers in the world*

RAINFOREST COAST

4.2.5 Rainforest Coast

Associated corridor: Yellowhead Highway

This is the traditional territory of the Haisla, Tsimshian and Nisga’a Peoples. Indigenous Peoples have lived here for millennia, relying on the rich resources of the ocean, rivers and forests. Today they welcome visitors to their communities to experience their history, technology and continually evolving culture and art.

Whether they arrive here by boat or scenic drive, visitors to the Rainforest Coast will be enchanted by the vibrant, waterside communities with stunning mountain views and a deep and enduring connection to the ocean and rivers and the sustenance they provide. Busy ports move goods and people in and out of the region.

The DDS identifies opportunities to expand the Indigenous tourism offer here, including lodging, eco-tours, bear watching, cultural tours and marine activities.

Main theme:

Life on the rainforest coast is defined by an enduring connection and reliance on the ocean.



Key regional destinations:

- Iconic Destination X10: Nisga’a Memorial Lava Bed Park
- Museum of Northern BC

RAINFOREST COAST : PRINCE RUPERT-KITIMAT

PRINCE RUPERT-KITIMAT

This is the traditional territory of the Haisla Nation, Metlakatla First Nation, Lax Kw'alaams Band, Kitasoo / Xai'xais Nation and Gitxaala Nation who have thrived here for millennia in this resource-rich area. At one time, First Nations used the Skeena River and a network of trails and other waterways to travel inland to trade with interior nations.

Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Kitamaat Village, Port Edwards, Lax Kw'alaams and other small coastal communities are defined by their location on the ocean, the temperate rainforest and its associated wildlife, and two busy ports. Ferries, container ships, cruise ships and pleasure boats come and go year round here, connecting Northern BC to the rest of the world.

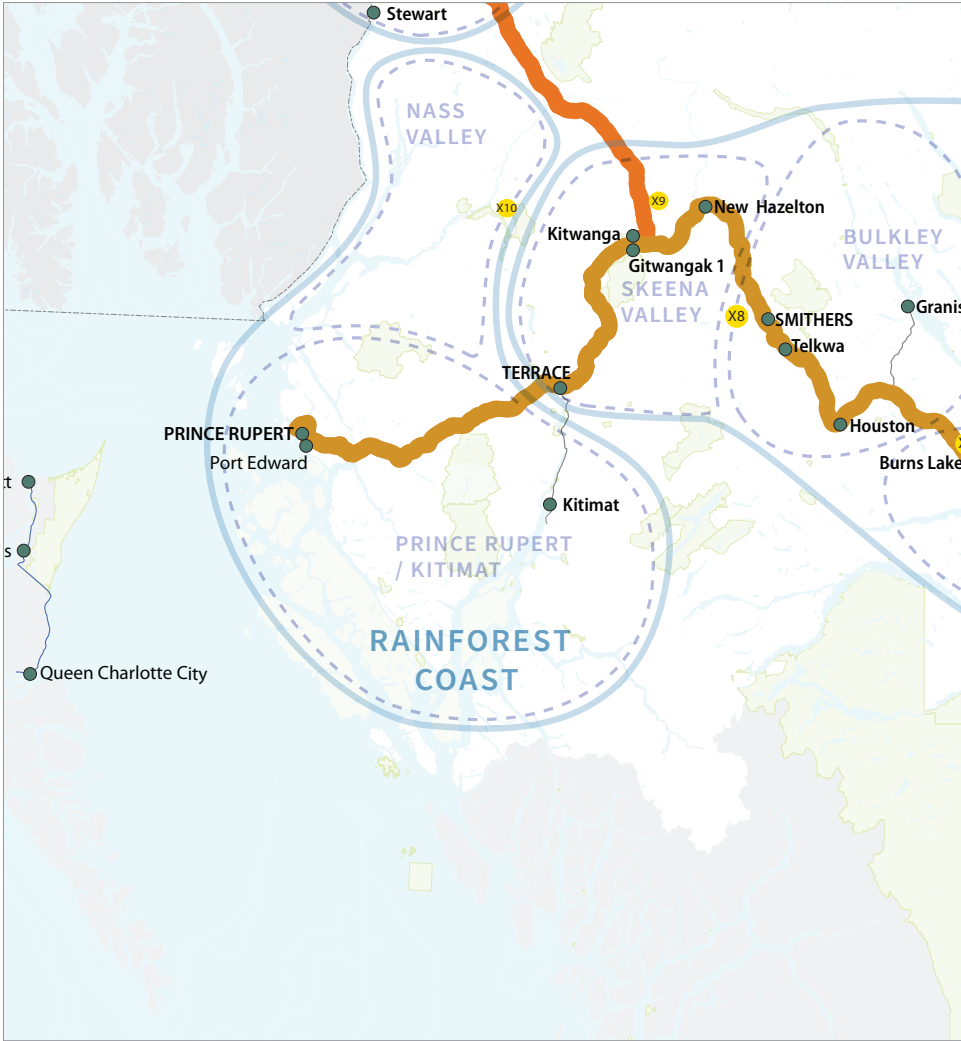
The DDS for this region notes the spectacular bear viewing, whale watching, sport fishing and eco-tourism opportunities for First Nations to expand their tourism offers.

Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Museum of Northern BC
- Port Authority Visitor Centre
- Kitimat Museum & Archives
- North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site
- Cassiar Cannery
- First Nations tours/whale watching
- Khutzymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary, bear watching
- Gitnadoiks River Provincial Park
- Gitxaala Nii Luutiksm/Kitkatla Conservancy
- Douglas Channel
- Boating, camping, hidden beaches, waterfalls

Main theme:

Life in these port communities and the surrounding region is defined by their location on the ocean, in the temperate rainforest.



Sub-theme:

The oceans and rivers here have provided sustenance, fishing, transportation and trade for thousands of years, forming a way of life.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Haisla and Tsimshian trade and travel routes, culture, arts, technology and history [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]
 - » Northwest Coast Peoples art and culture
- History of fishing and canning



Sub-theme:

Busy ports and the Douglas Channel have always supported trade, connecting people and northern economies to the rest of the world.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Haisla and Tsimshian trade and travel routes [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]
- Ports of Prince Rupert and Kitimat: how they work, their role in BC economy
- Douglas Channel is the gateway to the Pacific and global trade: Haida, HBC, Rio Tinto, LNG
- History and development of Kitimat:
 - » Early human activity in the valley
 - » Kitamaat Methodist Mission
 - » Planned company town, Kemano Power Project, aluminum smelter



Sub-theme:

Locals know being on the water is the best way to experience these places by fishing, beachcombing, searching for hidden waterfalls and hot springs, and spotting rainforest wildlife.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Temperate rainforest eco-zone and key wildlife: salmon, herring, oolichan, sea lions, whales, bald eagles, grey wolf, grizzly bear and black bear
- Outdoor recreation, proximity to and uninterrupted connection to nature: fishing, charters, camping, hiking, boating/kayaking, beaches, tours
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives

- More input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors.

Great Northern Circle Route signage

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.

RAINFOREST COAST : COMMUNITY OF PRINCE RUPERT

PRINCE RUPERT

Note: Community-level stories were developed for Prince Rupert as the community was undergoing wayfinding work at the same time that the NBCTF was in progress. This is a good example of how other communities can use the sub-region themes and topics as a starting point and then develop their plans to the next step by identifying unique stories.

This is the traditional territory of the Tsimshian people, who reside in Prince Rupert and outlying villages. Fishing and canning is embedded into the fabric of this community—historically and today. Indigenous Peoples, Chinese, Japanese and Europeans all worked at canning operations here; labour was divided by race and culture.

Whether they arrive here by boat or scenic drive, visitors to Prince Rupert will be enchanted by the vibrant, historic community and delicious secrets here. This seaside gem has stunning mountain-to-sea views and a deep and enduring connection to the sea and Skeena River and the sustenance they provide.

The harbour is a star attraction, with historic Cow Bay drawing visitors and locals to locally-owned businesses and restaurants. Ferries, fishing boats, cruise ships, carriers and container ships move in and out of the busy harbour, connecting the NTR to the world.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Museum of Northern BC
- North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site
- Cassiar Cannery
- American military remnants from WWII
- Cow Bay
- Port Authority Visitor Centre
- Hiking/walking trails
- Diverse restaurants
- Northwest Coast Peoples’ art for sale

Stories Unique to Prince Rupert:

- Historic Tsimshian village site
- Northwest Coast peoples’ art and culture (Museum of Northern BC)
- Historic canning and fishing (salmon and halibut); ethnically-segregated living and work areas divided Chinese, Japanese, First Nations and European labour
- WWII American troops completed road to Terrace; remnants of infrastructure in town
- Forestry: sawmill on the waterfront established by Indo-Canadian industrialist in 1958
- Historic harbour with heritage buildings and attractions; once a boat-building headquarters
- Diverse residents: 39% First Nations, 49% settlers of European descent, recent immigrants (South Asian, Chinese, Filipino)
- Cosmopolitan community: vibrant arts, exceptional seafood



RAINFOREST COAST : NISGA'A NATION NASS VALLEY

NISGA'A NATION NASS VALLEY

A global example of Indigenous self-government, the Nisga'a Nation warmly welcomes travellers to their traditional territory and the vibrant and evolving communities of the beautiful Nass Valley. Traditional activities and culture, practised for millennia, are alive and well, based on what the forests, sea and rivers provide seasonally.

The communities continue to evolve their culture, art, technology and visitor offer. In 2019 they underwent economic prosperity planning, which identified many areas of untapped potential: the Nisga'a Museum, lava beds, hot springs, a world-class river, quality mushrooms, and fishing and hunting.

Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic Destination X10: Anhlut'ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga'asanskwhl Nisga'a (Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Park)
- Communities: Gingolx, Gitlaxt'aamiks (New Aiyanih), Laxgalts'ap, Gitwinksihlkw
- Nisga'a Museum
- Aiyansh Hot Springs
- Suspension bridge
- Nass Camp
- Dragon lake
- Hiking trails
- Nisga'a art and artist
- Nass Valley Tours
- World-class Nass River
- Mushrooms, hunting, fishing



Main theme:

Nisga'a Nation is deeply connected to and has respect for the land, water and animals of the Nass Valley and all that they provide.

“ Our land is a beautiful undeveloped area, since time immemorial, our nation has fought many other nations for our lands. We even invited a few other nations to live on our lands, but would not comply with our laws and were forced to move.

Our people were great hunters, fishermen, trappers. Very skilled people. Our biggest battle for our land was with the White man. 113 years of battle and now we own our land. We are one of the first treaty nations in Canada. We have a say in what happens on our land as we develop as a treaty nation. We have our own fisheries, conservation officer's, tourism outfits shared with BCPark. Fish an wildlife enforcement, healthcare unit, etc.

Back in the mid 1700's we were in the midst of a volcano in our valley. Back then. There were reports of at least 30 thousand Nisga'a living in the area, most of our people survived, the elderly and the ones that got caught in the carbon monoxide were the ones that didn't make it. This was confirmed by Earle Quaidra's notes 1757 or 75. He was at the mouth of the Nass that year. His notes report of an orange haze above the valley, warm air and fish floating upside down, when he touched the water, the water was very warm.

The “Gumciwaa” (drift wood) in our language would return every spring for trades of fur for blankets , pots an pans. It wasn't till the mid 1800's that they gave our people infected blankets with small pox. That's what killed off almost all of our nation. Then they moved in the Missionaries to separate the children from their parents. With their mission completed, they took a our culture and our native tongue away from our people. But here we are, sharing our stories with our children of how we survived the world flood and the four sacred mountains on our lands. Yes we have come a long way and we will continue to move forward, sharing our culture and our history with anyone that wants to hear. We still have a lot of lands for development in anyway we see fit. Tourism is one of the best ways to bring economy to our to our people. Let's get it going.”

~ Bruce Azak

Sub-theme:

Nisga’a Nation is a proud, thriving culture that is connected to their ancestors and their traditional ways of life, which continue today and are guided by the principle of Ayuuk, the common bowl philosophy.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Language, art, totem poles, and stories that speak to the deep connections and traditions in this valley
 - » Matriarchal system
 - » Each person belongs to one of four pdeek (tribes) and 35 wilps (houses) that originate from mothers



Credit: Destination BC/Grant Harder

Sub-theme:

Nisga’a ancestors chose this place for its rich resources and protected it; traditional knowledge (intellectual property) passed down through the generations informs the seasonal cycles and harvesting calendar, managing the resources sustainably.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Traditional Knowledge (intellectual property):
 - » Authenticates and validates science
 - » Seasonal cycles and harvesting calendar, management of resources
- Oolichan harvest and trade: grease trails/trade routes
- Fishing: camps, fishwheels, smokehouses
- Protecting the land:
 - » “Our land is a beautiful undeveloped area, since time immemorial, our nation has fought many other nations for our lands. We even invited a few other nations to live on our lands, but would not comply with our laws and were forced to move”
 - » “The “Gumciwaa” (drift wood) in our language would return every spring for trades of fur for blankets, pots an pans. It wasn’t till the mid-1800’s that they gave our people infected blankets with small pox. That’s what killed off almost all of our Nation. Then they moved in the Missionaries to separate the children from their parents. With their mission completed, they took a our culture and our native tongue away from our people. But here we are, sharing our stories with our children of how we survived the world flood and the four sacred mountains on our lands.”
- Geographic history
 - » “Back in the mid 1700’s we were in the midst of a volcano in our valley. Back then. There were reports of at least 30,000 Nisga’a living in the area. Most of our people survived, the elderly and the ones that got caught in the carbon monoxide were the ones that didn’t make it. This was confirmed by Earle Quaidra’s notes 1757 or 75. He was at the mouth of the Nass that year. His notes report of an orange haze above the valley, warm air and fish floating upside down, when he touched the water, the water was very warm.”



Credit: Destination BC/Grant Harder



Credit: Destination BC/Grant Harder

Sub-theme:

The Nisga’a Final Agreement, the first modern treaty in BC, gave Nisga’a Nation ownership and constitutionally protected interest in Nass Valley lands, with clearly defined rights of law-making authority.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Self-government: BC’s first modern treaty
- Anhlut’ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga’asanskwhl Nisga’a Nisga’a Memorial Lava Bed Park: first provincial park managed jointly by a First Nation and British Columbia
- “ Our biggest battle for our land was with the White man. 113 years of battle and now we own our land. We are one of the first treaty nations in Canada. We have a say in what happens on our land as we develop as a treaty nation. We have our own fisheries, conservation officer’s, tourism outfits shared with BC Parks, fish and wildlife enforcement, healthcare unit, etc”

Sub-theme:

The Nisga’a Nation welcomes visitors to their territory and offers a number of unique cultural and recreational opportunities.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Anhlut’ukwsim Laxmihl Angwinga’asanskwhl Nisga’a (Nisga’a Memorial Lava Bed Park)
 - » *Alkali basalt flow is one of the youngest and most accessible volcanic features in the province*
 - » *Camping, guided tours, hikes*
- Hot springs, waterfalls, lake, hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing
 - » *Potential for camping, more hot springs and fishing tours*
- Hot springs are sacred to Nisga’a people. They need to be treated with respect
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging

Moving Forward

The community workshop in the Nass Valley was well attended and we were able to capture many perspectives and ideas. Residents noted, however, that there should be more conversations going forward. The thematic structure presented here is a first draft and it should be evolved with the Nisga’a Nation.

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Marty Clemens

NORTHWEST BC

4.2.6 Northwest BC

Associated corridor: Stewart-Cassiar Highway

This is the traditional territory of the Tahltan Nation, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, Dease River First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Nisga’a Nation.

Describing Northwest BC is an exercise in superlatives. Towering Coast Mountains, ancient glaciers, raw wilderness, abundant wildlife, vast provincial parks and mineral riches. Visitors often come here to view the glaciers and bears, which are abundant. They should know though, the services are few (part of the charm) and cell service is no guarantee.

Many of these small, resource-based communities here have been touched by the gold rush and mining is an important part of the economy here. The Golden Triangle stretches 500 km from Atlin to Stewart, a belt of mineralization that is famous amongst geologists and miners.

The *DDS* for Northwest BC identified an opportunity to secure UNESCO Global Geopark status in this area focused on gold, Indigenous culture, jade and geological features. It notes there could be a connection made with the Tumbler Ridge UNESCO Global Geopark. (More information and related sub-themes are included in the Stewart-Cassiar sub-region.)



Key regional destinations:

- Iconic destination X11: Stewart-Hyder Glaciers (Salmon Glacier, Bear Glacier)
- Stewart-Cassiar highway
- Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

Main theme:

Northwest BC has few people and incredible natural attributes: towering Coast Mountains, ancient glaciers, raw wilderness, diverse wildlife, protected landscapes and mineral riches.

STEWART-MEZIADIN

This is the traditional territory of Tahltan, Gitksan and Nisga’a Nations.

These quiet, friendly communities have resources on a massive scale all around them: towering Coast Mountains, ancient glaciers, a steep ocean fjord, pristine wilderness, abundant wildlife and mineral riches. Visitors come here to experience glaciers and waterfalls up close, bears gorging on salmon, and a close connection to Alaska.

Looking closer, they’ll find stories of ancient trails, salmon fisheries, forestry and mining roads, revealing the human influences here.

Travellers need to be self-sufficient here. As one local put it, you’ll find everything you need, but not everything you want! People that live here are connected to the landscape, adventurous and welcoming.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Iconic destination X11: Stewart-Hyder Glaciers (Salmon Glacier, Bear Glacier)
- Historic sites/hikes: Sluice Box/Barneys Gulch Trail, United Empire Mine trail, Titan Mine trail, American Creek Trail (mine), Ore Mountain Trail
- Fish Creek Wildlife Observations Site (Hyder, Alaska)
- Meziadin Lake Provincial Park
- Meziadin Fish Ladders
- Clements Lake Recreation Site
- Salmon Glacier Audio Tour
- Portland Canal Estuary
- Estuary Boardwalk
- Self-guided tour of Stewart historical buildings
- Stewart Historical Museum
- Misty Fjords National Park (Alaska)
- Fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, glaciers, heli-tours, heli skiing, snowmobiling and golf

Main theme:

This unique and raw landscape is a confluence of ocean influences, ancient glaciers, rich minerals and salmon-filled rivers; it is home to abundant bears and other wildlife, and few people.



Top credit: Destination BC/Matthew Massa
Bottom credit: Northern BC Tourism/Andrew Strain

Sub-theme:

The protected Portland Canal is a defining feature of the area; it forms part of the porous BC-Alaska border, was the only way into this region until the 1970s, was travelled by prospectors on their way to the Klondike Gold Rush, and at one time was known as a safe house by First Nations.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Nisga’a call the head of Portland Canal Skam-A-Kounst, meaning “safe house” or “strong house.” They travelled in the area seasonally to pick berries and hunt birds
- Portland Canal is one of the longest fjords in the world
- Bears, eagles, mountain goats, whale watching and other wildlife
- Proximity and relationship to Hyder, Alaska
- Stewart Canada’s most northerly ice-free port
 - » Only way to Stewart until 1974 was by boat

Sub-theme:

Hanging and outlet glaciers are remnants of the last great ice age and significant features of today’s landscape.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Hanging glaciers and ancient, large glaciers, remnants of the last ice age
- Some glaciers are accessible by road
 - » Salmon Glacier is the fifth largest glacier in Canada and may be the largest road-accessible glacier in the world (*to be confirmed).
 - » Bear Glacier

Sub-theme:

Salmon is very important here: salmon return here to spawn each year, supporting plentiful bears and generations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous families.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Grizzly and black bears (bear viewing)
- Salmon: salmon runs, relationship to bears who come to gorge on them, spawning (fish ladder), fishing
 - » Meziadin Lake and fishway for sockeye to bypass Victoria Falls
 - » Historically named Lak-en-zoq by First Nations, Nisga’a and Gitanyow, as the site of daily fishing. Today, seasonal fishing camps and smokehouses along the north bank of Meziadin River and traditional dip net fishing by Gitanyow



Sub-theme:

People who live here are self-sufficient, adventurous and connected to the resources of this landscape in their everyday lives for sustenance, work—such as mining, forestry and tourism—and play.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Historic and current mining
 - » *Southern tip of the golden triangle*
 - » *Prospectors came here in 1898 and sought out claims, at the tail end of the Klondike Gold Rush.*
 - » *Boom and bust cycles with mining. Almost 10,000 people here before WWI.*
Other industries: forestry and tourism
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- More input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors.
- The long-term relationship between salmon and First Nations is important, including historical and current fishing, fish camps and the effects of built infrastructure like fish ladders.

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.

NORTHWEST BC : STEWART-CASSIAR

STEWART-CASSIAR

This is the traditional territory of the Tahltan Nation and Kaska Nation (Dease River First Nation). Members of these nations make up the majority of the population in the region. They have lived and thrived on the natural resources of this region for thousands of years.

These small, resource-based communities have resources on a massive scale all around them and very few people. They boast towering mountains, rivers, glaciers, mineral deposits, provincial parks and huge snowfalls.

Mining forms a large part of what has been a boom and bust economy in this area. The Klondike Gold Rush brought thousands of prospectors up the Stikine to Telegraph Creek. Other mining has included asbestos and jade mining, which still goes on in Jade City. As above, there may be an excellent opportunity to explore UNESCO Global Geopark status in this area.

Other opportunities listed in the *DDS* include further developing Yukon Telegraph Trail, mountain biking experiences, the Alan Lake Trail, paddling experiences and winter tourism, for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and fat tire biking.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park
- Mount Edziza Provincial Park
- Tenh Dzetle Conservancy (Ten-thet-luh) (formerly Mount Edziza Conservancy)
- Spatsizi Headwaters Park
- Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park / Natadesleen Trail
- Stikine River, Todagin South Slope Provincial Park (nursing sheep)
- Kinaskan Lake Provincial Park
- Morchuea Lake Recreation Site
- Sawmill Point Recreation Site
- Stikine River Provincial Park
- Boya Lake Provincial Park
- Yukon Telegraph Trail
- Allan Lake Trail
- Views: Gnat Pass / Klappan Road / Rail Grade
- Iskut Lakes and Iskut River Valley: wildlife viewing, youngest volcano
- Hudson’s Bay Company Fort Glenora, buildings now in Telegraph Creek
- Stikine Museum
- Guiding outfitters, fishing charters, floatplane operators, heli-skiing
- Jade City: jade mining and store
- Cassiar: asbestos mining ghost town

Main theme:

This area of Northern BC—the traditional territory of the Tahltan Nation and Dease River First Nation—is rich in fish, wildlife, forests, vegetation and incredible mineral resources.



All photos: Destination BC/Andrew Strain

Sub-theme:

Rock and mineral riches have been important to the local economy for thousands of years: Tahltan ancestors quarried obsidian here that was traded all over North America, gold rushes brought prospectors and settlers to the area, and mining continues today.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Mount Edziza is the site of at least 100-plus historic obsidian quarries, used to create weapons and tools from the volcanic glass for thousands of years
- Tahltan Territory includes 70 percent of BC’s Golden Triangle. The Nation is actively involved in the mining industry
- Golden triangle:
 - » *Mineralization was formed by volcanic activity during the Late Triassic and Early Jurassic age. As the magma rose towards the earth’s surface, the molten rock containing concentrations of many different minerals was carried upwards until it reached water and air. It then cooled and settled.*
 - » *Gold rushes: 1861 Stikine Gold Rush, Klondike Gold Rush*
 - » *Major mines: Premier Gold Mine (1918-52), Snip Mine, Eskay Mine, Brucejack deposit, KSM project, Red Chris Mine*
 - » *First Nations involvement in mining industry partnerships (Tahltan, Nisga’a)*
- Jade mining at Jade City
- Asbestos mining in Cassiar, now a ghost town
- The Golden Triangle will play its part in delivering metals for renewable technology

Sub-theme:

Tahltan Nation held a significant position as middlemen in the pre- and post-contact trading industry of Northern BC, including trade along the Stikine during the Klondike Gold Rush.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Stikine River supported trade that took place between coastal nations and interior nations.
- During Klondike Gold Rush a larger village site was built on the banks of the Stikine which became an official stopping point.
- Telegraph Creek was head of navigation for sternwheelers carrying prospectors up the Stikine en route to the Chilkoot Pass.
- 1866 construction of the Russian-American Telegraph line to the Yukon gave Telegraph Creek its name
- Hudson’s Bay Company Fort Glenora or Telegraph Creek Post (1897 – 1909) (buildings moved to Telegraph Creek)
- Dease Lake Hudson’s Bay Company trading post

Sub-theme:

This stunning untouched and protected landscape is home to large mammals, like stone sheep, moose and bears.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Wildlife, including the world’s largest population of stone sheep and one of the largest populations of moose in North America

Sub-theme:

Visitors to this region should come prepared to be self-sufficient as there is a lot of wilderness here to explore, but gravel roads and few services like gas and food.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- Input from the Tahltan Nation and Kaska Nation (Dease River First Nation) is needed in this area to gain a better understanding of their culture, arts, technology and history and how they would want to frame and communicate their stories. Some information in the thematic structure above was gathered on the Tahltan Nation website.

Golden triangle:

- A gap in the interpretive experience in this region is the larger story of mining and quarrying in the Golden Triangle—from thousands of years ago to today. First Nations quarried obsidian in this region, to make tools and weapons, and traded it all over North America. It would be interesting to connect First Nations quarrying, gold rushes that developed many of these communities, and modern mining in the region (which includes First Nations investment). This region is home to some of the world’s largest and richest mineral deposits. Mining is delivering materials for a ‘green’ future as they are needed to build renewable technology.

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

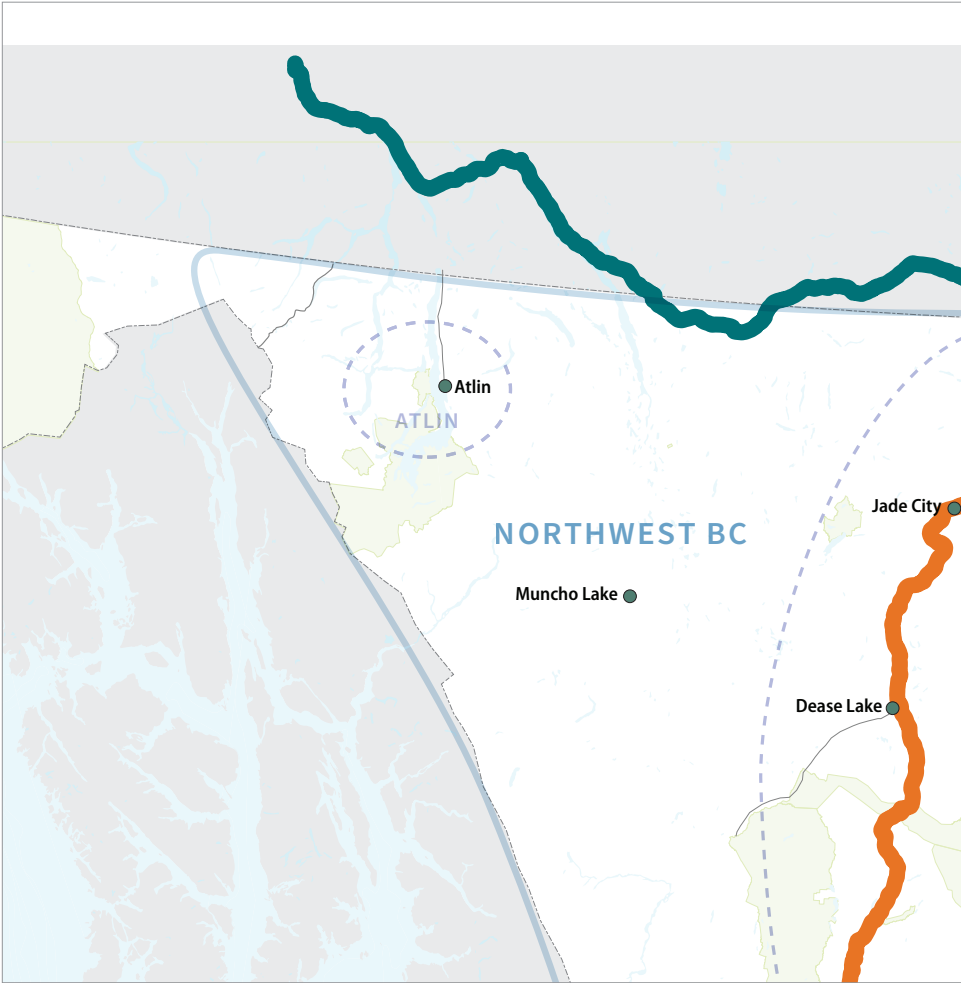
- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.

NORTHWEST BC : ATLIN

ATLIN

Atlin is in the traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

Atlin is out of the way! But this hidden gem has always drawn people for its riches: a watershed teeming with salmon, a gold rush, and today, an adventurous community with a deep connection to the surrounding, largely intact wilderness.



Key Attractions and Interpretive Resources:

- Tatshenshini — Alsek Provincial Wilderness Park
- Kluane / Wrangell-St. Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek national parks and protected areas
- Atlin/A Teix’Giaan Tlein Provincial Park
- T’akhu Á Tlén Conservancy
- Atlin Lake
- Ruby Mountain
- Llewellyn Glacier
- Globe Theatre
- Atlin Museum (incl. Erie type A steam shovel)
- Atlin Courthouse (1900)
- MV Tarahne
- MV Atlinto
- Hiking unmapped ancient First Nations trails and mining trails
- Atlin Arts and Music Festival

Main theme:

Atlin residents have a deep connection to and respect for their incredible wilderness setting.



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Andrew Strain

Sub-theme:

The town of Atlin was founded during BC’s last gold rush, in 1898, and that heritage—with its charming stories and prospecting spirit—can still be found here today.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Gold
 - » Northern tip of the Golden Triangle
 - » Atlin was founded as a result of the 1898 gold rush
 - » Atlin field still produces

Sub-theme:

Atlin is surrounded by parks, glaciers, intact wilderness, wildlife, and salmon-filled waterways, which Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members value, respect and work to protect.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Taku River Tlingit First Nation territories cover three million hectares and are largely intact wilderness, low development threats, supports a wide range of wildlife
- Parks, waterways and conservation
- Kluane / Wrangell-St. Elias / Glacier Bay / Tatshenshini-Alsek national parks and protected areas along the boundary of Canada and the United States of America contain the largest non-polar icefield in the world as well as examples of some of the world’s longest and most spectacular glaciers
- Llewellyn Glacier extends from the southwestern tip of Atlin lake almost to the Pacific coast of Juneau, Alaska. It is one of the largest ice fields on the continent
- T’akhu Á Tlén Conservancy issues grants, runs programs, and provides technical and strategic support services to the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, supporting and enhancing the Nation’s ongoing efforts to implement their conservation-oriented land use and wildlife management vision for the traditional territory
- Taku River watershed supports over 2M salmon
- Teresa Island in Atlin Lake highest elevation of any freshwater island in the world

Sub-theme:

Getting to isolated Atlin, which didn’t receive a road until 1951, has always been part of the adventure, and that’s part of why Atlin’s self-sufficient residents love it here.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Tourism
 - » Atlin was popular as an exotic tourist destination, “Switzerland of the North,” in the 1920s
 - » Visitors came up the Inside Passage, via passes through Alaska and a series of lakes in Yukon and BC
 - » MV Tarahne and other boats took visitors across the lake to stay in the Atlin Inn
 - » These transportation routes and hotel were closed during the Great Depression
- Transportation
 - » Atlin road built 1950-51
 - » The area has amazing motorcycle riding
- Travel safety: cell service, travellers services, gas, food, lodging

Moving Forward

Indigenous perspectives:

- More input from Indigenous communities is necessary to understand their perspectives and the experiences and stories they might want to share with visitors.
- In particular, it is unknown how much the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations are related to this region, historically and today.

Great Northern Circle Route signage:

- Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.



Credit: Destination BC/JF Bergeron

4.3 Thematic Framework: Corridors

The following section includes four main travel corridors that connect many of the communities in Northern BC and are the main travel routes. They are presented in a similar way as the regions and sub-regions, with a narrative description, related *DDS* goals, key destinations, main theme and potential interpretive topics.

The corridors parallel visitors’ travel routes with the history of transportation and trade over time. Many of today’s highways follow Indigenous Peoples’ travel and trade routes that were used for thousands of years. Corridor themes also tie one or more regions and sub-regions together.

Corridor themes answer the questions:

- How does this route relate to historic travel and trade?
- How has the route shaped the experiences of residents and visitors?
- How does the route support industry and tourism?

KEY TO ICONIC DESTINATIONS:

- | | |
|---|--|
| X1 ALASKA HIGHWAY | X7 FORT ST. JAMES NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE |
| X2 MUSKWA-KECHIKA MANAGEMENT AREA | X8 HUDSON BAY MOUNTAIN |
| X3 LIARD RIVER HOT SPRINGS | X9 'KSAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE AND MUSEUM |
| X4 TUMBLER RIDGE UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK | X10 NISGA'A MEMORIAL LAVA BED PARK |
| X5 ANCIENT FOREST/CHUN T'OH WHUDUJUT PARK | X11 BEAR AND SALMON GLACIERS |
| X6 LAKES DISTRICT | |

MAP OF THE TRAVEL CORRIDORS



4.3.1 Alaska Highway

Arguably the most famous highway in Northern BC, the Alaska Highway was built in a hurry during the Second World War by American troops to connect the contiguous United States to Alaska by road. Today, this drive is on many RV’ers’ bucket lists and is an iconic destination in itself. Many people begin their journey at Mile 0 in Dawson Creek and make their way to the end in Delta Junction, Alaska, by way of the Yukon. Once it was built, this highway also became northeastern BC’s “main street”, connecting distant communities.

Visitors travel in both directions along the highway, typically taking three-ten days to make the BC part of the 1900 km trip. Campsites and lodging at Charlie Lake, Muncho Lake Provincial Park, Liard River Hot Springs and Watson Lake are popular places to break the journey. Many travellers are surprised to find the richness of opportunities and destinations along the route and the incredible mountain scenery and wildlife.

The DDS goals for the region include developing experiences along the corridor for both US and local markets, focusing on ecotourism, land stewardship and education as well as Indigenous tourism opportunities.

Key destinations along the route include:

- Iconic Destination X1: Alaska Highway
- Iconic Destination X3: Liard River Hot Springs
- Mile 0 marker, Dawson Creek
- Historic highway markers
- Kiskatinaw Provincial Park (Kiskatinaw Bridge)
- Charlie Lake Provincial Park
- Sikanni Chief Falls
- Stone Mountain Provincial Park
- Muncho Lake Provincial Park
- Summit Lake
- Smith River Falls

Main theme:

The Alaska Highway was built in a hurry during the Second World War, through territory that had been fully occupied by Indigenous Peoples for millennia, bringing lots of changes, connecting northeast BC with a “main street” and today providing the trip of a lifetime.



Potential Interpretive topics:

- Indigenous history
 - » Before the highway was built, with the exception of some land that was sectioned for farming in the Peace River district, this land was fully occupied by Indigenous Peoples sustained by an intimate knowledge of a rich natural environment learned over millennia.
 - » The rivers were the first ‘highways’ through the area.
 - » The Davie Trail is a traditional trail that follows the Rocky Mountain Trench and Kechika River Valley from the Kwadacha community of Fort Ware to the Kaska community of Lower Post.
 - » The fur trade, gold discoveries and signing of Treaty 8 reduced the region’s isolation, but the building of the highway was a more major force of change
- Highway construction
 - » Pre-war history of the route, which was first proposed in 1920
 - » Built as an emergency war measure to provide an overland military supply route to Alaska, as an important security measure for Canada and the United States
 - » Construction by U.S. Army engineers (March-November 1942)
 - » Some of the original labour was undertaken by nearly 4,000 African American soldiers, which were segregated at the time.
 - » Opened to the public in 1948
- History of highway travel
 - » Once legendary for being a rough, challenging drive, the highway is now paved.
 - » Historic mileposts dot the route
 - » Dawson Creek is “Mile 0”, where many mark the beginning of the journey north and where the railway ended at the time
 - » Highway as main street connecting tiny town across the vast Serengeti of the North

Moving Forward

The themes and topics outlined above can be used to inform new and updated interpretive visitor experience opportunities.

- Mile 0:
 - » *We understand that the Alaska Highway House, which introduced visitors to the history of the Alaska Highway in Dawson Creek, was recently closed, leaving a gap.*
- Gotta Go Rest Stops
 - » *Currently, plans are underway to upgrade three Gotta Go Visitor information stops along the Alaska Highway. We understand that First Nations are involved in the design process. This involvement could address a gap in the interpretive offer in this region as well as help to fill in missing detail in the NBCTF.*
- Great Northern Circle Route signage
 - » *Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres (i.e., Fort Nelson Visitor Centre) where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.*
- Indigenous perspectives
 - » *More engagement will need to be done with Indigenous communities along the route and across northeast BC to better understand how their stories and perspectives can be told.*



Credit: Destination BC/Albert Normandin

4.3.2 Yellowhead Highway

The Yellowhead Highway begins in Masset on Haida Gwaii, connects to Prince Rupert by ferry, and then by road east through Terrace, Hazelton, Burns Lake, Prince George and McBride, before continuing east to Jasper. Eventually, it reaches Manitoba, connecting four western Canadian provinces and providing a major east-west artery through Northern BC. It was officially opened in 1970.

Travellers arrive at many points along the Northern BC section of the Yellowhead Highway: at Prince Rupert by ferry, airports in Terrace, Prince George and other communities, or by vehicle from the north, south and east. The Yellowhead connects east-west, moving them towards the ocean or Alberta. It is the main highway through the Skeena-Bulkley valleys, the Lakes District, Prince George and the Robson Valley. Highway 118 connects north to Babine Lake.

This historic corridor is associated with the Skeena, Bulkley, Kispiox, Fraser and other rivers and the Lakes District, which have been Indigenous travel corridors for millennia, moving people and trade goods by water and overland.

In the western section of the route, many people came together in the ancient village of Gitanmaax (now Hazelton), where the Skeena, Bulkley, and Kispiox rivers meet. Visitors can experience Indigenous art, culture, technology and history at many places along the route, including the Hagwilget Canyon Bridge, where a bridge has always connected people across the Bulkley River, and ‘Ksan Historical Village and Museum.

In the eastern section of the BC route, the Fraser River was a travel route between the Prince George area—where it meets the Nechako River—and the Rocky Mountains. Today, railways connect along this corridor. Railway heritage can be experienced by visitors throughout the Robson Valley communities and is celebrated in Prince George by the Central BC Railway and Forestry Museum.

The DDS goals for the region include developing all-season tourism experiences, developing partnerships between Indigenous Nations and tourism operators, increasing Indigenous culture tourism and eco-tourism opportunities and focusing on outdoor adventure and more guided tours.

Key destinations along the route include:

- Iconic Destination X5: Ancient forest/Chun T’oh Whudujut Provincial Park
- Iconic Destination X6: Lakes District
- Iconic Destination X8: Hudson Bay Mountain
- Iconic Destination X9: ‘Ksan Historical Village and Museum
- Hagwilget Canyon Bridge
- Kitselas Canyon National Historic Site
- Museum of Northern BC
- Several totem pole sites
- Central BC Railway and Forestry Museum

Other key consideration: Highway of Tears

The 725-km section of Highway 16 from Prince Rupert to Prince George has also more recently been given the name Highway of Tears as it has been the location of many missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Main theme:

The Yellowhead Highway route has been an important travel and trade corridor for thousands of years—connecting the ocean with the interior and beyond to the Rockies—and today is the main east-west artery through Northern BC.

Potential Interpretive topics:

- Traditional trade
 - » *Movement of people and trade amongst coast, interior and Rocky Mountain area Indigenous Nations*
 - » *Fantastic new discoveries on the shores by the Cheslatta have given evidence to habitation now going back 1000’s more years than previously thought.*
 - » *Oolichan and grease trails*
 - » *Cheslatta Trail, one of longest trails, connected many First Nations villages.*
 - » *Tsimshian and Gitxsan moved people and goods inland via the Skeena River in canoes to the ancient village of Gitanmaax, at the confluence of the Bulkley and Skeena rivers. Home of the Gitxsan peoples for over 8000 years.*
 - » *Hagwilget Canyon Bridge connected the inland First Nation communities with coastal First Nations communities, resulting in important and invaluable trade networks.*
 - » **[more input is required]*
- Paddlewheelers
 - » *During the Omnica Gold Rush paddlewheelers moved up the Skeena to Hazelton with prospectors and supplies.*
 - » *Replaced by rail line*
 - » *Paddlewheelers were a crucial transportation link up the Skeena to Hazelton, moving trappers and traders and their goods all the way to and from Vancouver.*
 - » *Travelling this way had dangers and risks.*
- Railway
 - » *Rail lines follow many parts of the Highway.*
 - » *Railway history tied to the development of communities along their routes.*
 - » *Many historic railway bridges along the route*

- Modern trade and travel

- » Today, Highway 16 follows the Skeena and Bulkley rivers, connecting Prince Rupert to Terrace, Houston, and then Prince George and east to Manitoba.
- » Continues to be a major trade route connecting Canada to the world through Kitimat and Prince Rupert ports
- » Today, this route allows travellers to reconnect with awe-inspiring wilderness away from the crowds of the southern regions of the province.
- » Highway 16 is part of the Yellowhead Highway, which runs from Winnipeg to Graham Island, off the coast of BC, officially opening in 1970. It goes through the Rocky Mountains, the interior plateau and all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

Moving Forward

- Indigenous perspectives:
 - » More input from Indigenous communities and a review of interpretive materials/offer at First Nations destinations like 'Ksan Historical Village and Museum is necessary to assess how the story of this travel corridor is being told.
- Great Northern Circle Route signage:
 - » Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway, airports and visitor centres where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.



Destination BC/Robert Downie

4.3.3 Stewart-Cassiar

The Stewart-Cassiar highway opens up isolated northwest BC to travellers. A drive on this highway is known for its incredible mountain and glacier scenery, wilderness, wildlife sightings and access to provincial parks. The road itself though was not built with travellers as the first priority. It was built in sections to connect industries like forestry and mining with markets.

Travellers take between three and seven days to explore this part of Northern BC, often as the south leg of a trip up the Alaska Highway. It is about 850 km long with big stretches of uninhabited landscape. Popular camping and stopping places along the route include Meziadin Lake Provincial Park, Tatogga Lake, Jade City and Tā Ch’ilā Provincial Park (Boya Lake). Many take side trips to ‘Ksan Historical Village and Museum and Stewart (and Hyder, Alaska).

The DDS goals for the region include developing more experiences to encourage people to stay longer, more camping opportunities, building more pullouts for wildlife viewing, and exploring the opportunity to secure UNESCO Global Geopark status in the area, focusing on gold, Indigenous culture and jade.

Key destinations along the route include:

- Iconic destination X11: Stewart-Hyder Glaciers (Salmon Glacier, Bear Glacier)
- Iconic Destination X9: ‘Ksan Historical Village and Museum
- Spatsizi Plateau Wilderness Park
- Mount Edziza Provincial Park
- Tenh Dzetle Conservancy (Ten-thet-luh)
- Meziadin Lake Provincial Park
- Tatogga Lake
- Jade City
- Stewart (and Hyder, Alaska)
- Tā Ch’ilā Provincial Park (Boya Lake)

Other key considerations:

- No cell or internet access at many points along the route

Main theme:

The Stewart-Cassiar connects northwestern BC communities on route to the Yukon, travelling through Tahltan and Kaska Dena Territory, and links industries like forestry and mining to the rest of BC and world markets.

Potential interpretive topics:

- Traditional travel and trade
 - » *Tahltan, Gitxsan, Nisga’a and Kaska Dene nations travel and trade routes in Northwest BC [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]*
 - » *Trade in Tahltan territory obsidian*
 - » *Stories of early guide outfitters: i.e., Tommy Walker of Spatsizi (1950s)*
 - » *Early communities such as Hyland Post*
 - » *Early travel routes: travelling to Spatsizi from Smithers involved going all the way to the Alaska Highway, then down the Stikine*
- Highway development
 - » *Before highway development, gold and other mining were not as easily accessed and connected to transportation.*
 - » *Originally built south from the Alaska Highway to reach the Cassiar mining district. At the time, logging roads extended north to Meziadin Junction.*
 - » *37A extended past Meziadin Junction by 1968 to allow asbestos to be shipped from Cassiar to Stewart.*
 - » *Highway completed in mid-1970s*
 - » *Final link to connect transportation to the south end of Highway 37 was a single lane bridge over the Nass River*
- Modern trade and travel
 - » *Early highway travel stories*
 - » *Road allows access for mining and transportation to rail and shipping routes (Prince Rupert, Stewart)*
 - » *Jade mining is a traveller attraction; Tahltan have recently called for a shutdown of jade mining.*
 - » *Increased mining activity in the area to serve the technology and other markets*

Moving Forward

- Indigenous perspectives
 - » *More input from First Nations is necessary to assess how the Stewart-Cassiar highway route might reflect First Nations trails and travel routes.*
 - » *Engagement and coordination with the Tahltan and Kaska Nations is needed to determine if or how signage and interpretation can be implemented in this section of the highway.*
- Great Northern Circle Route signage
 - » *Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.*



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Marty Clemens

4.3.4 John Hart Highway

This is the traditional territory of the Tse’Khene People, who at one time lived a nomadic life in this region, using waterways and trails.

The John Hart Highway, named for British Columbia’s 23rd premier, is a 405-kilometre section of Highway 97 that connects Prince George and Dawson Creek. When the route opened in 1952, it gave drivers a direct—and beautiful—route to central and southern British Columbia without having to drive through Alberta.

Driving through a less-elevated section of the Canadian Rockies and peppered with lakes, parks, rivers and relatively smooth, rolling hills, travellers enjoy the tranquil ride. At Summit Lake, travellers cross the Arctic-Pacific continental divide where water to the west drains into the Pacific Ocean, and water to the east drains into the Arctic Ocean.

The region is rich in fish, hiking trails, skiing, biking, and ATVing—a playground for outdoor lovers. Many families return here year after year to the Pine Pass for powder skiing in the winter and to enjoy the lakes and resort in the summer. For resource-based industry, the region is a workstation.

The DDS goals for the region include developing paleontological resources throughout northeastern BC, Indigenous cultural experiences and sport tourism.

Key destinations along the route include:

- Tourism Prince George Visitor Info Centre
- Giscome Portage (Heritage attraction)
- Summit Lake
- Crooked River Provincial Park
- Whiskers Point Provincial Park
- Tudyah Lake Provincial Park
- Mackenzie
- Bear Lake
- McLeod Lake
- Fort McLeod National Historic Site
- Pine Pass:
 - » Bijoux Falls Provincial Park
 - » Pine Le Moray Provincial Park
 - » Powder King Mountain Resort
 - » Azouzzetta Lake
- Chetwynd
- Chetwynd Visitor Centre
- Little Prairie Heritage Museum
- Dawson Creek
- Hudson’s Hope Visitor Centre
- East Pine Provincial Park
- Carp Lake Provincial Park and Protected Area
- Fort McLeod Historic Park: Fort McLeod National Historic Site and old First Nations village site

Main theme:

The John Hart Highway connects Prince George to Dawson Creek, linking residents, travellers, outdoor enthusiasts and industries like forestry, mining, and oil and gas extraction to the rest of BC and world markets.



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Michael Arnold

Potential interpretive topics:

- Traditional travel and trade
 - » *McLeod Lake Indian Band and other nations (Tse’Khene People) travel and trade routes in this area [*more engagement needed to determine key topics and messages]*
 - Pine Pass was and is a hunting area for McLeod Lake Indian Band
 - Before the highway, travel in the area was mostly by boat
 - Lhdesti (Giscome Portage) is an ancient travel corridor in this area
 - The highway changed the way that Tse-Khene People moved around the region and changed the social dynamics of sharing. There was less sharing of resources (i.e., moose or elk meat) between communities
- Highway development
 - » *Highway completed in 1952*
 - » *Named for British Columbia’s 23rd premier, John Hart*
 - » *Built to connect Prince George and Dawson Creek, without having to drive through Alberta*
- Modern trade and travel
 - » *New route utilised by industries like forestry, mining, oil and gas, and hydroelectric energy*
 - » *Early highway travel stories*
 - » *Travellers in this region come here to experience winter sports (downhill skiing, snowshoeing, etc at Powder King Mountain)*
 - » *There is great fishing in the many lakes and streams along the way. Summit Lake is situated on the Arctic-Pacific divide and here you will find excellent char and rainbow trout fishing*
 - » *Pine Pass is known for its rugged mountain scenery, stunning views, waterfalls, lakes (and summer resorts), bird watching, diverse wildlife*

Moving Forward

- Indigenous perspectives
 - » *Continued input from First Nations is needed to determine how highway construction impacted their ways of life.*
 - » *McLeod Lake Indian Band workshop participants expressed a desire for the Visitor Centre at the Highway 97 junction to be updated.*
- Great Northern Circle Route signage
 - » *Currently in progress, the next steps for this project will be identifying specific rest stop locations along the highway where wayfinding and interpretive signage will be located. Interpretive signage should be developed following the above content outlines.*





Implementing the Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework

Credit: Destination BC/Grant Harder

5.0 Implementing the *Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework*

Using the *NBCTF*

The *NBCTF* is intended to be used by regional, provincial and federal governments and agencies, band councils, communities, tourism associations, businesses, planners, interpretive facilities, funders, consultants and others as they develop and implement plans and projects across Northern BC. Use of the plan will be guided by several key tactics, which are presented below as:

- alignment with current projects
- awareness building
- future planning and initiatives
- managing the framework over time

5.1 Alignment with Concurrent Projects

The *NBCTF* was developed concurrently with other planning initiatives within the region and province. The framework will have an immediate influence on and inform:

- *GNCR Signage Master Plan*: The same regions, sub-regions and corridors outlined in *NBCTF* are reflected in the *Great Northern Circle Route (GNCR) Signage Master Plan*. They have been used to guide the siting of signage around the GNCR. Themes, sub-themes and topics from this document will form the basis for future content developed within the GNCR signage program over time, including Indigenous content.
 - » *At present, an example of this is the Gotta Go signage initiative, which aims to install signage at three pull-offs on the Alaska Highway in late 2022. The themes, sub-themes and topics identified for the Northern Rockies region, the Muskwa-Kechika sub-region and the Alaska Highway corridor (where the pull-offs lie) will be referenced in developing signage for these sites.*
- DBC’s *Invest in Iconics* program: This important project has been closely aligned with work for the *NBCTF*, and vice versa. As the Iconics program is rolled out, specifically for Northern BC, coordination of messaging and themes will be required to ensure continuity, specifically for programs and associated branding.
- Other signage, wayfinding and trail signage projects currently underway in the NTR should be directed to reference this document to ensure alignment of themes, sub-themes and topics with current development, design and writing where possible.
- accessibility (to come from *NBCTA*)
- biosphere (to come from *NBCTA*)

5.2 Awareness Building

A thorough roll-out of the *NBCTF* is required to communicate its usefulness to decision-makers within the NTR (and elsewhere). The *NBCTF* should be referenced and applied in ongoing and future planning work, especially where there are heritage interpretation and other visitor experiences planned. Several tactics to accomplish this include:

- Posting the *NBCTF* online, ideally via NBCTA’s website, as a downloadable PDF resource. This can be posted as a full document as well as region-specific files. It is recommended that an executive overview statement be crafted for the posted resources which explains the NBCTF and its purpose, use, etc.
- Presenting the *NBCTF* to key agencies, including provincial and federal agencies (Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, BC Parks, Public Services and Procurement Canada, Destination BC), regional districts, municipalities, communities, band councils and iconic sites.
- Funding agencies, in particular, should be asked to reference the *NBCTF* as part of their approvals processes for heritage-related and visitor experience projects (as they might other tourism-focused guidelines), so that it is seen as being tied to successful development of projects being funded.
- Involving the NW and NE DD Advisory Committees in promoting and applying the *NBCTF*. The committees and individual members are well-connected to the tourism infrastructure of their region. They are in a position to influence infrastructure, interpretive and experience development to align with the themes, sub-themes and topics of the *NBCTF*.
- Targeted outreach to interpretive and destination planners, tourism operators, interpretive facilities, funders, and consultants known to be working in the region.
- NBCTA may wish to undertake periodic messaging campaigns that promote the *NBCTF* through their social media feeds and industry news. Maintaining a sense that the framework is active and important will help drive its adoption.

5.3 Future Planning and Initiatives

The *NBCTF* is to be used for future heritage-related interpretive and tourism projects, and as such is intended to be referred to by stakeholders when developing plans, projects, experiences and tourism programs and products. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Museum exhibits
- Visitor centres
- Attractions
- Signage (interpretive and wayfinding)
- Tours
- A Visitor Experience Framework (see below)

This can be accomplished in several ways:

- The *NBCTF* should be identified and referenced in future planning documents, such as regional tourism strategies and official community plans. It can be recommended to others who are undertaking planning work in the NTR.
- The funding applications process can include references to the *NBCTF* (ideally as a stated requirement) for applicants to reference as part of their submission, as a way to emphasise connections between their proposed project and the overall thematic and topic emphasis in their region.
- Region-specific content identified in the *NBCTF* should be used as a foundation for thematic and content development work related to interpretive projects (e.g., signage). This work would typically be produced by a consultant, regional agency and/or site staff members.
- The *NBCTF* is intended to provide guidance so that individual projects are more closely aligned with considered regional values and themes, and that there is minimal overlap and thus more variety for visitors to enjoy. It is not intended to provide detailed content or stories per se.

Informing a Visitor Experience Framework

A crucial application of the *NBCTF* is in the development of unified visitor experiences across Northern BC via a proposed *Visitor Experience Framework*. A Visitor Experience Framework will provide the bridge between the heritage-related themes and stories defined in the *NBCTF* and the “how” of presenting the said interpretation across Northern BC. A Visitor Experience Framework will:

- Build directly on the logic and organisation of the *NBCTF*
- Identify gaps in the interpretive experience; where there is no experience that speaks to an important theme or topic
- Identify priorities for experience and product development
- Identify actionable recommendations at the region, sub-region and corridor level that benefit a cohesive visitor experience for visitors in Northern BC
- Include priorities for interpretive investment, projects, media and programming
- Identify potential capital costs and funding sources

5.4 Managing the Thematic Framework Over Time

The *NBCTF* is a living document that requires management so that it can be efficiently applied to future projects. As well, it can be added to and adjusted over time as new knowledge becomes available, and, most importantly, as the circle of stakeholders broadens and deepens.

A Thematic Framework Working Group

Based on comparable regional thematic frameworks, a working group of 8-10 members is recommended to take responsibility for the ongoing management and updating of the *NBCTF*. This group would ideally be composed of members of both regional NE and NW destination development advisory committees, NBCTA staff and DBC staff. The working group would have a mandate which includes:

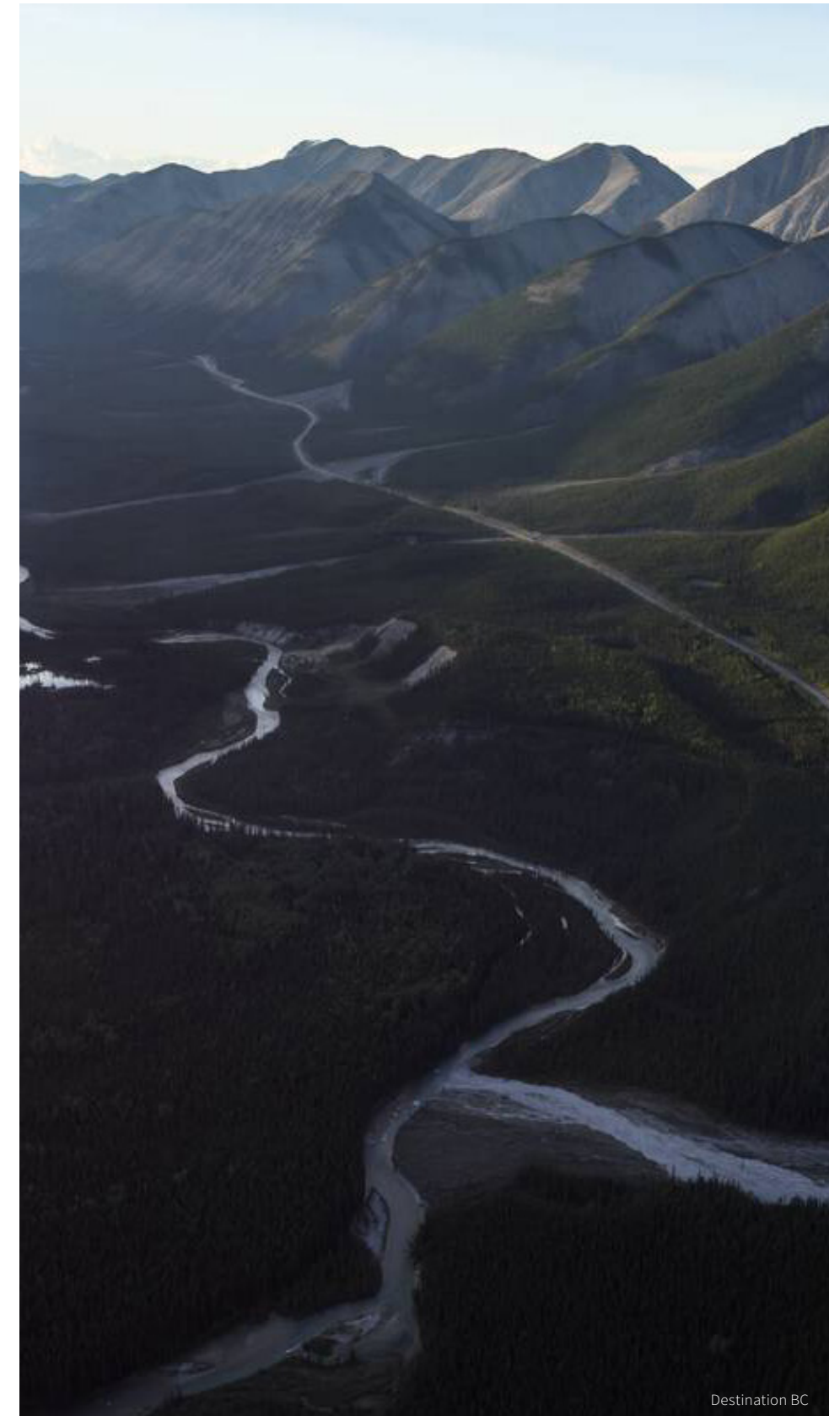
- Promotion and distribution of the *NBCTF*
- Coordinating with local agencies, planners and communities who require guidance on how to use the *NBCTF*
- Advising on project approvals, if feasible
- Fielding questions and issues as they arise
- Leading new engagement and workshops with communities (Indigenous and Non-Indigenous), including creation of appendices to the *NBCTF* (see below)
- Periodic review (every 2-3 years) of the framework to ensure it remains relevant, and to oversee updates based on new engagement and community input (in these cases detailed updates to the *NBCTF* would need to be made by an interpretive planner).

Continuing engagement with Indigenous communities

There is the opportunity to deepen the themes and topics by continuing engagement with ITBC, Indigenous communities or other groups who wish to see their perspectives more fully represented in the *NBCTF*. It is strongly recommended that NBCTA continues engagement and outreach with Indigenous communities in support of the “living” document concept. This includes engagement:

- as communities develop heritage-related interpretive projects (e.g., signage) and could benefit from guidance from the *NBCTF*
- as new engagements and workshops take place with Indigenous communities who have been unable to participate to date, but whose input is acknowledged as being valuable for a living and relevant framework to succeed
- as new initiatives and revelations come to light within the province and region, where there may be a direct impact on current themes and sub-themes.

Through these types of activities, it remains vitally important to discuss and understand ownership of traditional knowledge, stories and work done with Indigenous Peoples. Themes and topics referenced in the *NBCTF* should always be vetted with Indigenous communities before any information (i.e., stories) are communicated through signage, interpretive experiences, programs and/or tourism experiences and products. Individual communities may wish to use the *NBCTF* as a guide, while others may not see it as directly relevant to their way of sharing their stories for the public. Ideally, the *NBCTF* has anticipated this, and/or future iterations of the framework will be able to accommodate local and unique ways of providing Indigenous interpretation. NBCTA remains committed to updating this document and opportunities as continued consultation brings new information to light.



Destination BC

5.5 NBCTA Action Plan

Alignment with Concurrent Projects

- Alignment with Destination BC *Invest in Iconics* program
 - » NBCTA's will ensure that internal staffing resources are available for the development, communication and implementation of the *Invest in Iconics* program to the regional stakeholders
 - » Attend monthly meetings with DBC regarding updates on the program
 - » Ensure ongoing alignment with the *Invest in Iconics* program and the NBCTF
- Alignment with the GNCR Signage Master Plan
 - » Ensure that there are staffing resources to ensure the work of the GNCR Signage Master Plan is developed from the NBCTF
 - » Provide ongoing support to sustain the partnership with the Gotta Go group
 - » Coordinate the development of the content and design of the Gotta Go signage and kiosks at each of the rest stops and work with partners to include the Indigenous perspective and elements of universal design
 - » Commit to holding the design files and working with partners to make any updates to the Gotta Go sign content if necessary
- Alignment with other signage, wayfinding and trail signage projects in the NTR
 - » Research and identify projects for outreach
 - » Provide outreach and support in referencing the NBCTF with these types of projects for alignment of themes, sub-themes and topics with current development, design and writing, where possible

Awareness Building

- Coordinate a thorough roll-out of the NBCTF
 - » Post the NBCTF to the NBCTA website, including an executive summary
 - » Develop presentation toolkit for the NBCTF
 - » Present the NBCTF to key agencies / stakeholders
 - » Engage funding agencies to ensure that reference and alignment to the NBCTF is part of their approvals process for heritage-related and visitor experience projects
 - » Engagement of NW and NE DD advisory committees to endorse and promote the NBCTF
 - » Do targeted outreach to interpretive and destination planners, tourism operators, interpretive facilities, funders and consultants known to be working in the region
 - » Provide periodic corporate communications, including government relations, which include regular updates on the NBCTF and continue to promote it, maintaining its importance in destination development for the region
 - » Report to stakeholders through our corporate communications; quarterly to Board and DBC, and Annual General Meeting

Future Planning and Initiatives

- Ensure NBCTF is identified and referenced in future planning documents
 - » Ensure NBCTA is up-to-date on the tourism planning activities of it's regional stakeholders to ensure that communities and organizations are referencing the NBCTF in their tourism planning work
 - » Develop application messaging for community partners in support of grant applications, clearly identifying the connection to the larger regional NBCTF plan
 - » Develop funding sources to support the implementation of the NBCTF
 - » Develop funding application for NBCTA-managed projects that supports NBCTF implementation and provide support for external agencies applying for funding
- Develop a Visitor Experience Framework
 - » Identify resources to support the development of the Visitor Experience Framework
 - » Build on the logic and organization of NBCTF
 - » Identify gaps in the interpretive experience
 - » Identify priorities for experience and product development
 - » identify actionable recommendations at the region, sub-region and corridor level that benefit a cohesive visitor experience for visitors in Northern BC
 - » Include priorities for interpretive investment, media and programming
 - » Identify potential capital costs and funding sources

Managing the Thematic Framework Over Time

- Develop and support NBCTF Group
 - » Establish NBCTF Group
 - » Promotion and distribution of the NBCTF
 - » Coordinate with local agencies, planners and communities
 - » Advise on project approvals
 - » Field questions and issues as they arise
 - » Lead new consultations and workshops with communities
 - » Provide periodic review (every 2-3 years) of framework to ensure it remains relevant, and oversee updates based on new consultations and community input
 - » Be responsible for reviewing and updating NBCTF addenda with future workshop results, so that it may be applicable to future editions of the NBCTF
- Continue Indigenous community engagement
 - » Develop and nurture relationships with Indigenous communities across the NTR
 - » Identify opportunities related to Indigenous tourism in Northern BC, including partnerships, marketing, training and capacity, and experience development
 - » Carry out engagement as communities develop heritage-related interpretive projects and require guidance from the NBCTF
 - » Carry out new consultation and workshops with Indigenous communities who may not have been included in this iteration of the NBCTF
 - » Follow through on Indigenous community workshops planned for Fall 2022
- Continue community engagement
 - » Continued engagement with communities (geographic, sector, etc) on developments and projects that may require guidance from the NBCTF
 - » Update addenda with workshop results that may be applied to future editions of the NBCTF



Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Ryan Dickie

Appendix

This appendix provides supplemental materials, including a glossary of terms and a number of sample and template documents that can be used to update the NBCTF over time.

- 1. Glossary of Terms
- 2. Sample workshop Powerpoint
- 3. Sample Indigenous community workshop Powerpoint
- 4. Sample workshop summary
- 5. Sample interview questions/survey questions
- 6. Template for supplementary input to the NBCTF

1. Glossary of Terms

NBCTA: Northern British Columbia Tourism Association

Northern BC Tourism Association is a regional destination management organisation (RDMO) working to promote Northern British Columbia through destination development programming, media relations, travel trade and marketing activities. They work with communities, First Nations, businesses and operators to strategically develop sustainable, responsible tourism and strengthen the visitor economy.

DBC: Destination British Columbia

Destination BC is the provincial destination marketing and management organisation (PMO) that works with federal to regional governments, industry, regional, community, and Indigenous partners to develop and deliver programs, with the ultimate goal of attracting visitors to British Columbia and ensuring the quality of their experience that keeps them coming back.

ITBC: Indigenous Tourism British Columbia

Indigenous Tourism British Columbia is a non-profit, stakeholder-based organisation committed to the continued growth of a sustainable, authentic and culturally rich Indigenous tourism industry in British Columbia.

DDS: Destination Development Strategy

Through an iterative, consultative and collaborative process between 2016 and 2019, led by Destination British Columbia in partnership with Northern British Columbia Tourism Association, Destination Development Strategies were produced for the Northeast and Northwest areas of Northern BC, outlining a series of recommendations to strengthen the supply side of tourism. The *Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework* supports the implementation of several recommendations from these strategies.

GNCR: Great Northern Circle Route

The Great Northern Circle Route is a 3,190-kilometre long, 10+ day driving route through Northern BC that joins the Alaska Highway (Highway 97), Yellowhead Highway (Highway 16), John Hart Highway (Highway 97) and the Stewart-Cassiar Highway (Highway 37) way in a loop.

Iconic Destinations

NBCTA has developed a list of Iconic Destinations for the NTR that will be highlighted through marketing efforts, visitor experience development and signage—and are referenced in the *Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework*. These destinations were chosen as they have had work completed, are timeless, are different than other shortlisted iconic destinations in the planning area, have potential to build experiences, and have past and current engagement with visitors.

Iconics: Invest in Iconics Strategy

Destination British Columbia is currently developing an *Invest in Iconics Strategy* to responsibly increase tourism revenue and visitation to British Columbia through dispersion, using Place-Branding and Place-Making (destination development) to competitively differentiate BC on the world stage. By identifying a small number of globally compelling routes and places, this strategy provides a powerful new way to package and market British Columbia to international visitors and facilitate the development of remarkable in-destination experiences. The *Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework* and *Great Northern Circle Route Signage Master Plan* will align with this provincial activity.

TRTD: Targeted Regional Tourism Development Funding

Funding provided by the Province of BC. Through this funding, NBCTA will be investing \$1 million dollars into remarkable signage infrastructure along the Great Northern Circle Route.


Interpretive Theme

Interpretive planning uses themes to organize and develop stories, perspectives and messages. A theme is the underlying message we are aiming to communicate through interpretation—the “moral of the story”. Themes express larger ideas or concepts related to a place, culture, idea or concept that helps us understand a place.

Interpretive Topic

The *Northern British Columbia Thematic Framework* includes potential interpretive topics under each theme or sub-theme. These topics are the areas of focus, or subjects, of interpretation in each area.

2. Sample Workshop Powerpoint



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NBCTA Thematic Framework
Community Workshop

Atlin & Area

September 28, 2021

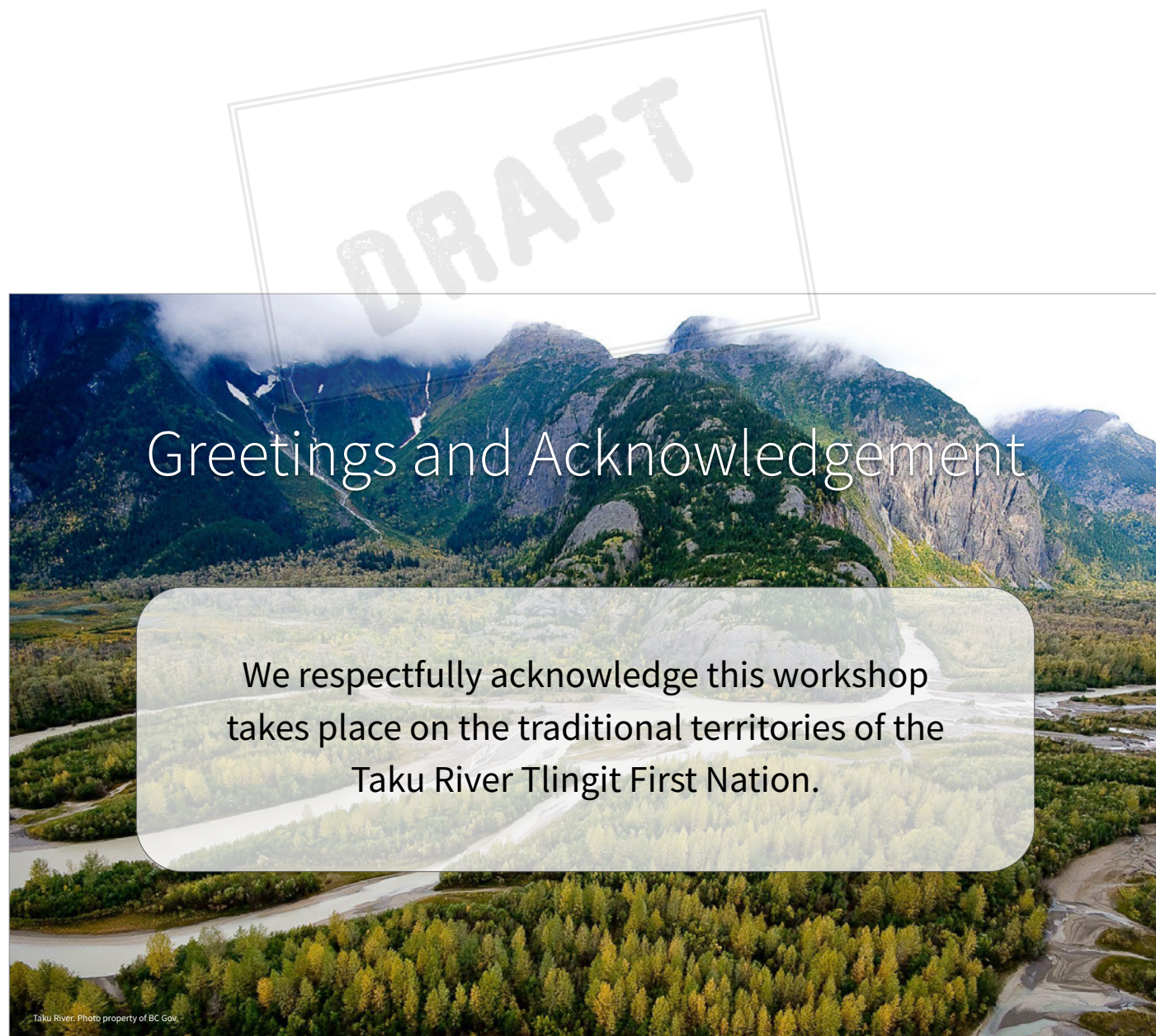
ALDRICHPEARS ASSOCIATES



Greetings and Acknowledgement

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional territories of the Indigenous Peoples of the land we call British Columbia whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. We are grateful to be living, learning, and working on this land.

Taku River. Photo property of BC Gov.



SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

Introductions

Participants

What intrigued you about participating in this workshop and / or why are you here today?

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Northern BC Tourism Association

Our region, a vast area that spans along Highway 16 from Mount Robson west to Haida Gwaii, and north to the Yukon and Northwest Territories border.

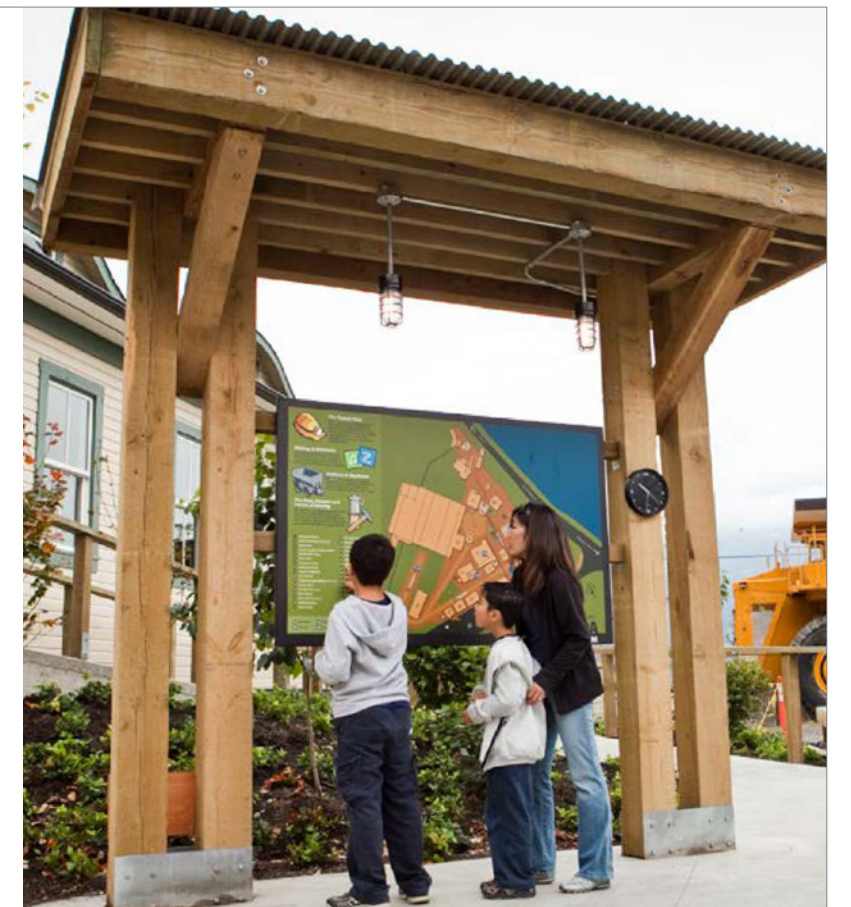


200 km
124 mi

SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

Thematic Framework

Identify the stories that make each community unique while tying together communities across the regions and corridors through overarching themes





Great Northern Circle Route & Signage Master Plan

A design manual and implementation guide that uses the thematic framework to guide the signage system's design

SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

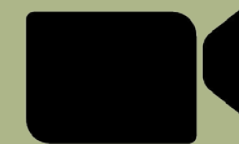
Housekeeping



Mute



Raise hand



Keep camera on



Chat



No recording

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Project Introduction

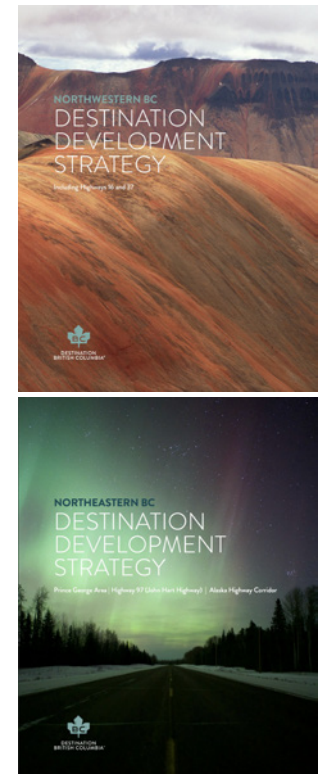
Credit: Northern BC Tourism/Andrew Strain

SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

Project Introduction

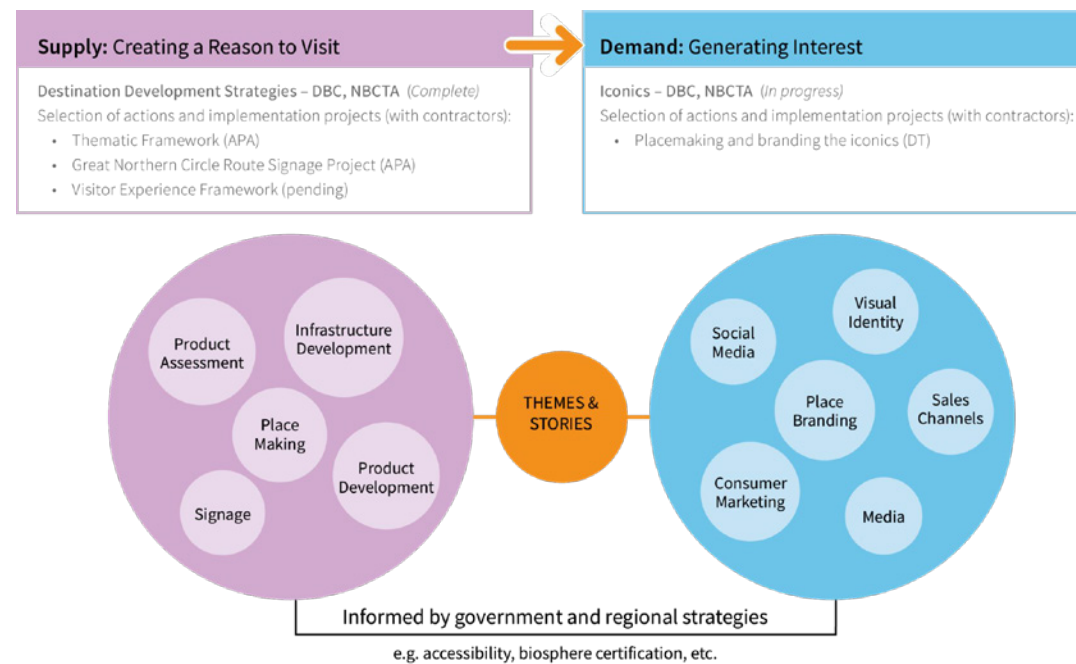
- Builds on the Destination Development (DD) work done from 2016-2019
- Ties to advancing DD theme - experience development
 - Action D-4-1 - develop thematic corridors and circle routes
- Connects to provincial level recommendations on infrastructure and signage (B-3-1)
- Will be used to inform future product and experience development

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Project Introduction - Coordination with Other Efforts



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Project Introduction - Goals

Through research, interviews and workshops across Northern BC, the Thematic Framework project aims to:

- **Action** work done to date
- **Gather** stories
- **Uncover** the emerging and lesser-known stories and experiences
- **Engage** local residents including Indigenous communities
- **Develop** themes that allow fulsome storytelling
- **Associate** themes and stories to places
- **Inform** future visitor experience development

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SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

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Project Introduction - Process & Engagement

Fall 2021

24 workshops with communities and FN across Northern BC:
what makes your **community unique**?

3 regional workshops:
what **connects people and communities** across Northern BC?

Winter 2021/22

Synthesize information into a draft report for stakeholder review

Spring 2022

Incorporate stakeholder feedback and finalize report

Summer 2022

Visitor Experience planning begins

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Project Introduction - Implementation

What does this mean?

- Thematic Framework: one place that contains the stories of Northern BC, as described by the residents themselves
- Cohesive, authentic, place-based interpretive signage around the GNCR
- Support for museums telling their stories
- Better integration of Indigenous perspectives into interpretive signage, experiences
- Development of local destinations that help communicate these stories to visitors and residents alike

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SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

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Workshop Goals

1. Communicate the purpose of the project
2. Gather stories to inform thematic framework and signage project
3. Identify interpretive resources in this area

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Agenda

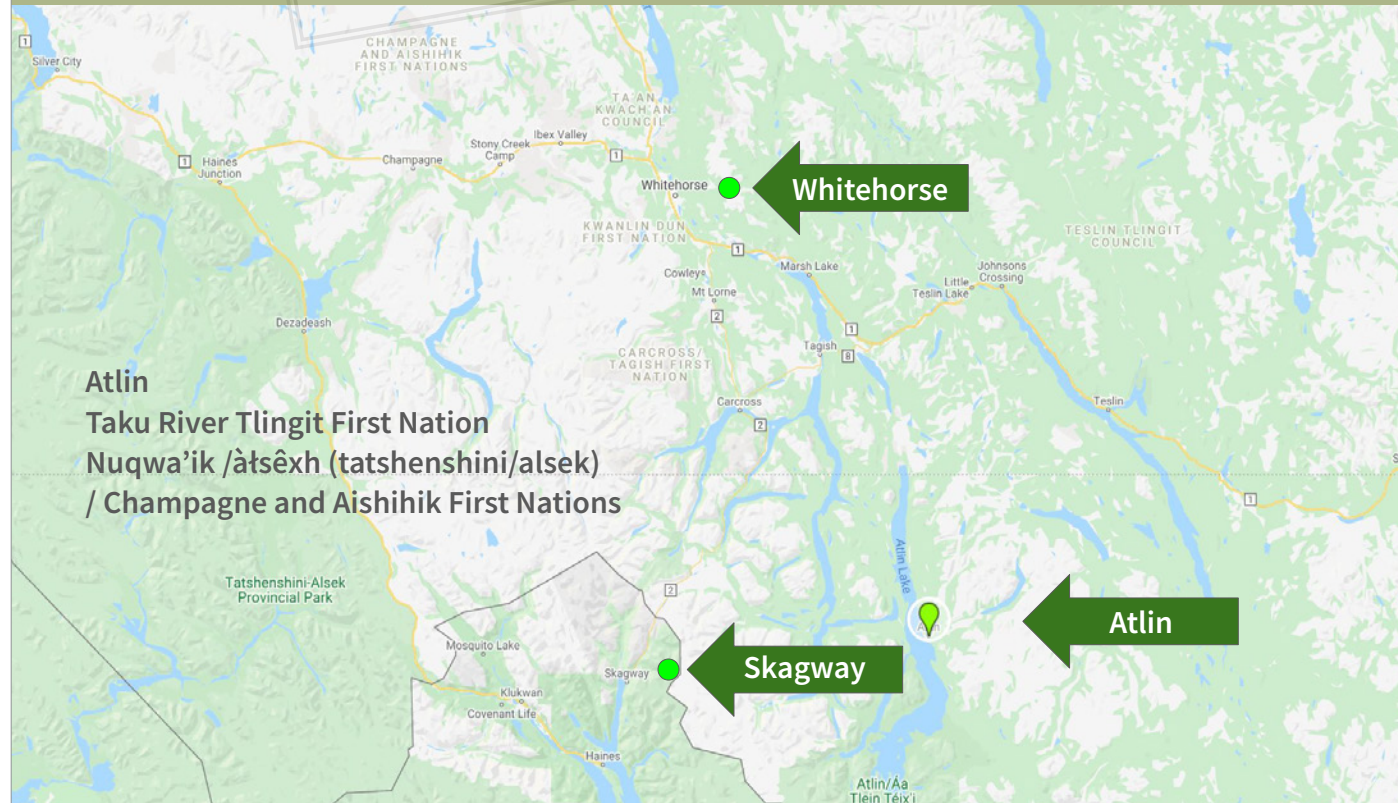
- Project Overview (10min)
 - Community Context/Slideshow (10min)
 - Identifying Interpretive Features (20min)
- BREAK (5 min)
- Community Stories Workshop (40min)
 - Summary (20min)
 - Wrap up/Next Steps (10min)

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SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

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Community Context



SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT



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SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT



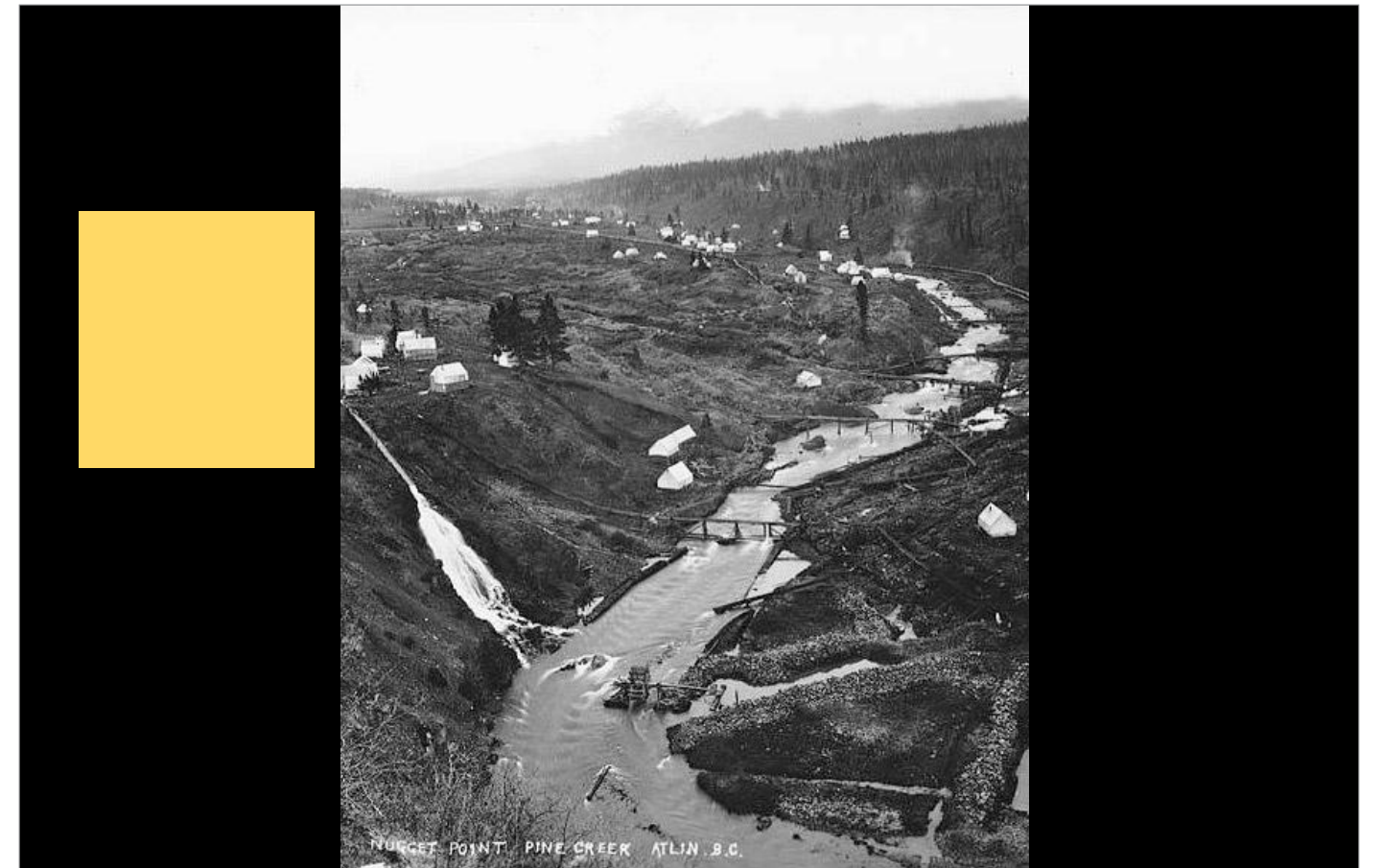
PHOTO COURTESY OF DESTINATION BC

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Photo property of Taku River Tlingit First Nation

SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT



MURGET POINT PINE CREEK ATLIN B.C.



SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT



Question to consider:

- What is do you love about your community?
- What is it important for visitors to understand about your community?
- What is something that might surprise me about your community?

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Community Stories

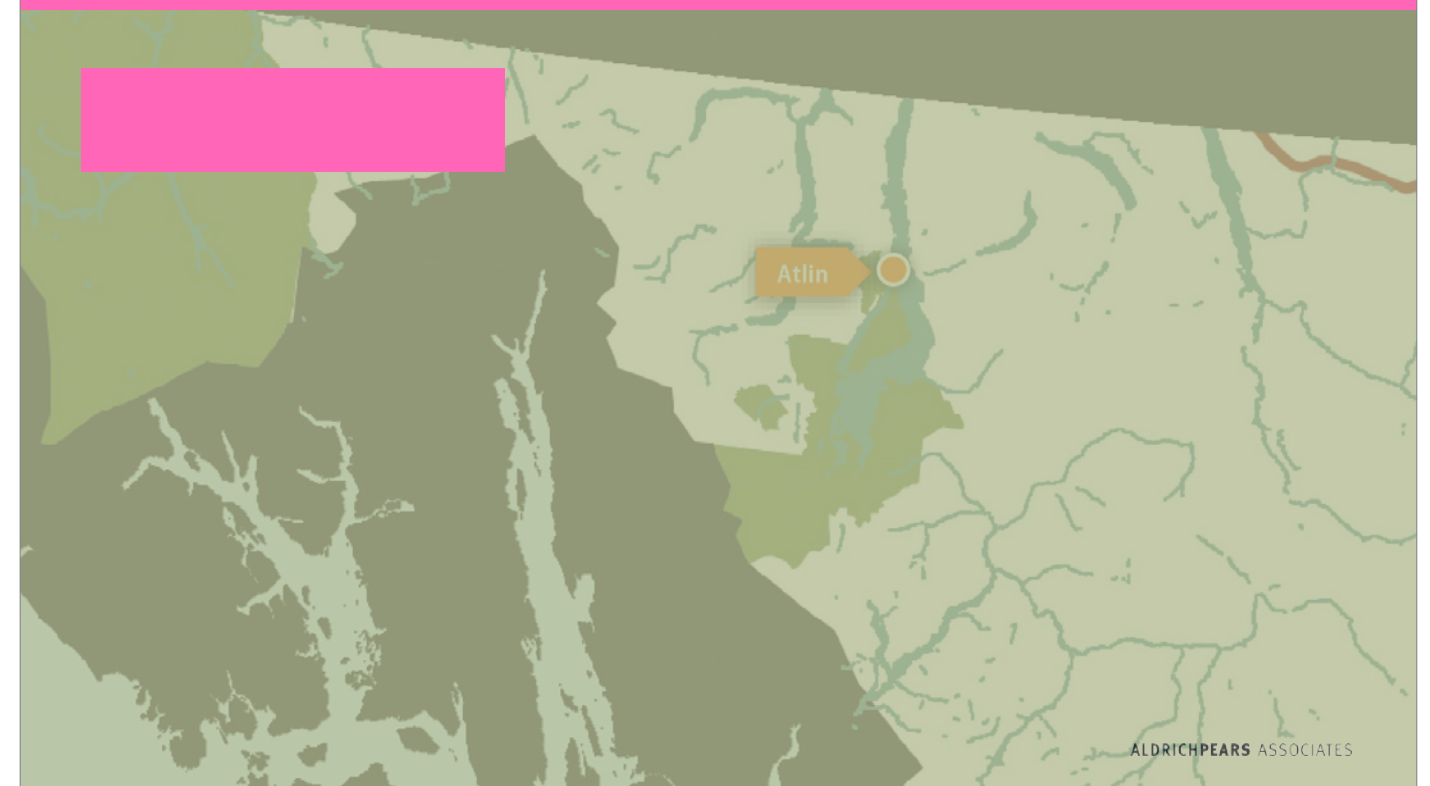
- What is do you love about your community?
- What is it important for visitors to understand about your community?
- What is something that might surprise me about your community?

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SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

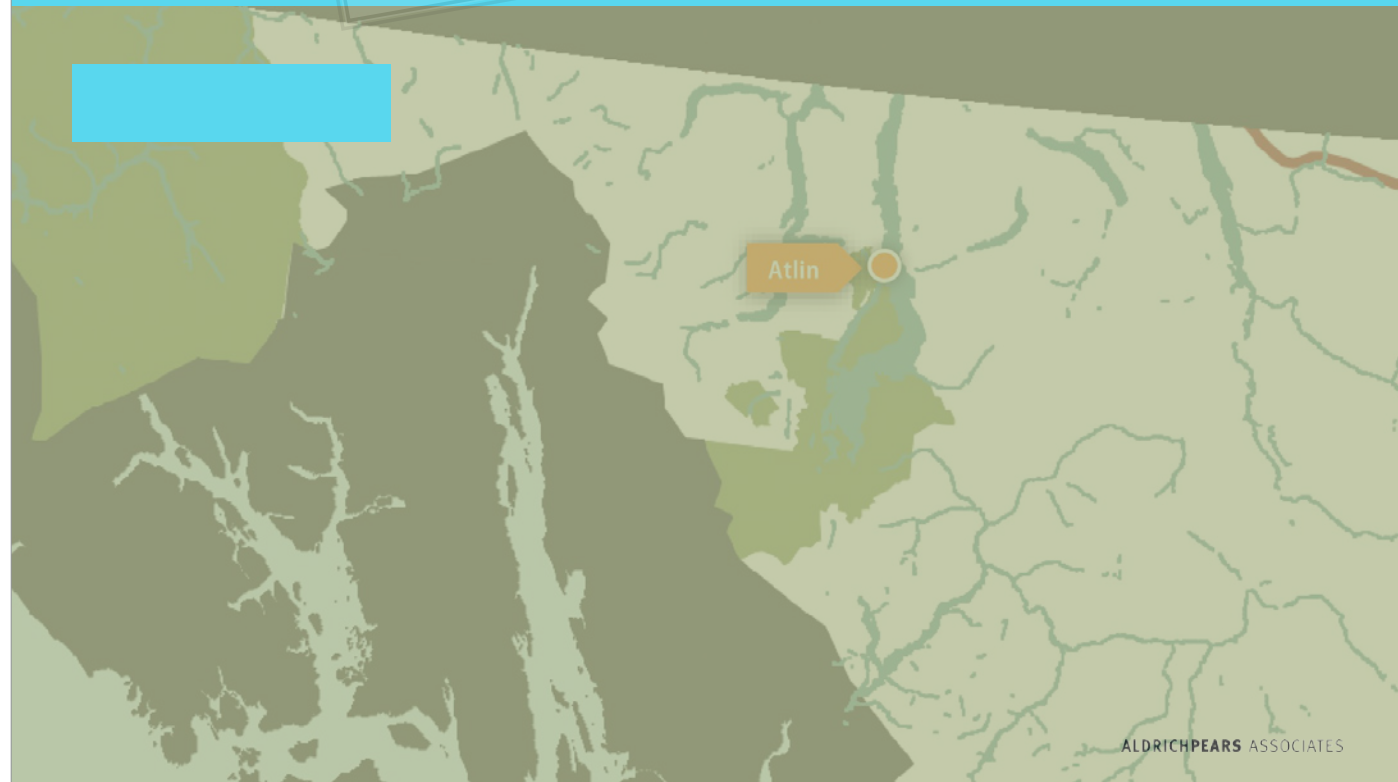
What do you love about your community?



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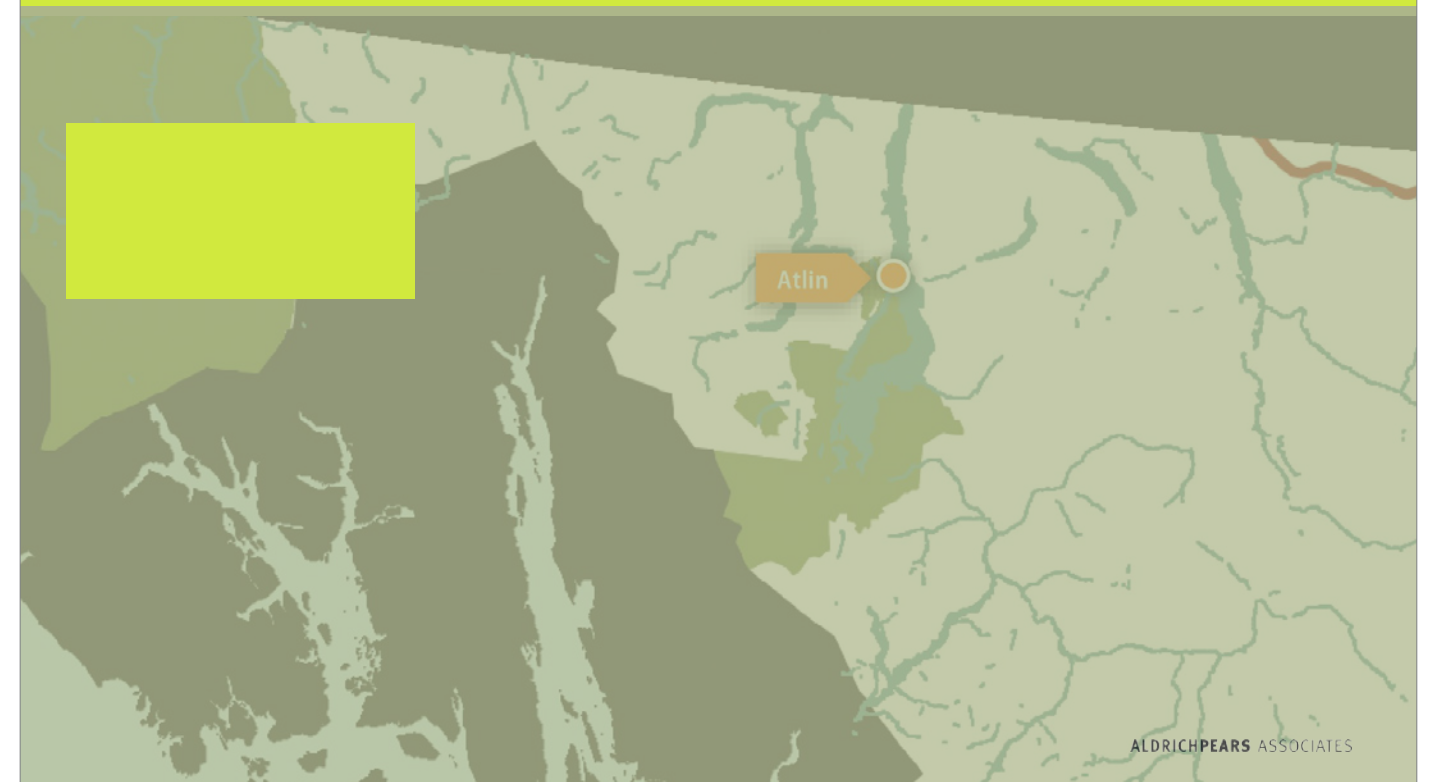
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What is important for visitors to understand about your community?



SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

What might surprise a visitor about your community?



DRAFT

Next Steps

- Notes will be distributed to all participants in the next week or so
- Please review for accuracy
- NBCTA will send a link to the draft Thematic Framework for your input in the new year

NBCTA Thematic Framework Community Workshop | September 28, 2021

ALDRICHPEARS ASSOCIATES

SAMPLE WORKSHOP POWERPOINT

Next Steps

Questions/ Comments?

Martina Bancroft

Email: martina@nbctourism.com

Web Portal:

<https://sites.google.com/aldrichpears.com/nbcta-masterplan/home>

Anyone else we should be reaching out to?

(also answer in chat or get in touch with Martina)

NBCTA Thematic Framework Community Workshop | September 28, 2021

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Reflection

In what you have heard/seen today,
what do you see as the most important thing
to consider moving forward?

(Could be about the stories, the process, the project, etc.)



THANK YOU

3. Sample Workshop Summary

NBCTA Thematic Framework
Atlin Summary

Summary

Atlin Community Workshop
NBCTA Thematic Framework

Atlin, Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN)

Atlin is out of the way! But it has always drawn people for its riches: a watershed teeming with salmon, a gold rush, and today, an adventurous community with a deep connection to the surrounding, largely intact wilderness.

Descriptions

- Pristine wilderness
- Emptiness
- Wildlife
- Calm
- Sacred
- It's like a dream
- Safe
- No roads
- Beautiful

How has the landscape shaped the community and vice versa?

- Gold history
 - Scars on the land, draw of people, supporting infrastructure
 - Northernmost tip of the Golden Triangle
- Isolation/access
 - Self-sufficient people, close community: First Nations (FN) and non-FN
- Proximity to wilderness
 - Deep respect/connection to nature (talking to bears, it matters even way out here)
- Waterways - *Áa Tlein*, the Tlingit word for "big body of water"
 - Taku River watershed supports over 2M salmon
 - Transportation by water only access for many years - paddlewheeler
 - Canoe journeys to Juneau, AK
 - Teresa Island in Atlin Lake highest elevation of any freshwater island in the world

NBCTA Thematic Framework
Atlin Summary

- Northern lights

What are the people like?

- Friendly
 - Always ready to help neighbours, visitors
- Strong and adventurous
 - Women keep the community together, lure of gold (past)
- Self-described misfits
 - Way of life attracts unique people, isolation, many come from a long way away

What is special about this community?

- First Nation integration
 - "There has always been reconciliation here" (should be further explored with other locals)
 - Taku Jack, Miner/FN cooperation - school, celebrations
 - TRTFN territories cover 3M hectares and are largely intact wilderness, low development threats, supports wide range of wildlife
 - T'akhu Á Tlén Conservancy is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of 4 First Nation Members and 3 Conservation Association Members
 - Taku River flows south through the Alaska panhandle, strong connections with Alaska
- Lots of hidden/surprising gems/discoveries awaiting
 - Huge music festival, trails that go on forever, miners shacks, horses, unmapped, Tlingit names
- Unincorporated - run by volunteers, no municipal or district governance, no mayor - if things need to be done, the community has to do it (relies on Board of Trade)
- Deep connection to the land

Visitors' connection to Atlin

- Follow in the footsteps of miners or Tlingit - walk the old trails, everywhere, endless - unmapped
- Respect for wilderness, remoteness
- Genuine northern hospitality

More input needed:

- Taku River Tlingit
 - In Atlin
- Champagne and Aishihik First Nations

- Web research shows their territory is in the northeast corner of the province, and the Yukon, not closely associated with the area directly around Atlin. Associated with Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park and salmon-rich Tatshenshini River. The river is a crossroads connecting people and regions

4. Sample Interview Template

Interviewer:

Interviewee:

Region:

Sub-region:

Corridor:

How long have you lived here? What brought you here?

What keeps you here?

What do you love about your community or territory? And the region?

What is special and unique? How is it different from other nearby communities?

What is surprising?

What are some of the places, events, features or experiences that really speak to what life is like here?

Where do you take visitors to get this sense of your community and region?

What are visitors most interested in?

What is new or changing in your community?

What do you see as some opportunities for tourism development?

Summary of topics to be added/updated in the thematic framework:

- Topic:
- Topic:
- Topic:

5. Template for Supplementary Input to the NBCTF

Community:

Region:

Sub-region:

Corridor:

Potential interpretive topics to add or expand:

- Topic:
- Topic:
- Topic:

Are these additions captured in the main theme and sub-themes for the sub-region?
If not, how should the themes be updated:

- Updated theme:

Are these additions captured in the main theme for the region?
If not, how should the main theme be updated:

- Updated theme:

Do any of these additions relate to the corridor themes and topics?

What topics should be added to the corridor?:

- Topic:
- Topic:

Are these additions captured in the main theme for the corridor?
If not, how should the theme be updated:

- Updated theme:

Moving forward:

- Are there considerations, projects or follow up that should be included in the moving forward sections of the *NBCTF*?

