

Minutes - ICH Committee Meeting
5 May 2016
Newman Building, 1 Springdale Street, St. John's

In attendance:

Joan Cranston (Chair)

Dale Jarvis

Frank Crews

Jerry Dick

Review of minutes from previous meeting and business arising

The committee reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. All actions have been completed.

Youth Heritage Forum 2016

On March 19, fifty-four participants gathered at The Lantern in St. John's to participate in this year's forum. Eastern Owl started with a smudging ceremony and played traditional and original music. Stephanie Chipilski, Assistant Registrar at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and member of the Youth Advisory Council under the Canadian Commission for UNESCO was flown in from Winnipeg to be a keynote speaker. She talked about networking, and how mentorship can help in all aspects of your career. The tradition bearers arrived and participants had the opportunity to learn a new skill from them. The heritage skills included darning, rug hooking, knot tying, net knitting, Morse code, and Northern games. Lunch included a "speed-dating" session where eight established people in different fields of heritage mentored participants. After lunch, four breakout sessions were offered, on public programming, social media, tradition safeguarding, and entrepreneurship. After the sessions, the Public Folklore graduate class held the "Lives in Heritage" plenary with four guests to discuss their experience in the heritage field.

Joan Cranston: HFNL should think about the best way help YHNL. One way is to let them do their own work and organization, but support them with technical assistance when requested.

Dale Jarvis: \$2000 allocated in the 2016/2017 budget to assist with the 2017 Youth Heritage Forum; HFNL will assist YHNL with professional services as needed and as budget allows.

ICH at Risk Survey

In March, we completed the ICH at Risk survey. The goal of the survey was twofold: a) to give people across the province the opportunity to influence the direction of the ICH Office's workshops and programs; and b) to get a better idea of both the perceived vulnerability and importance of ICH in communities.

- Knowledge of the land and sea was said to be the most at risk by 29% of survey respondents. "Preserving food" was said to be the most vulnerable form of knowledge relating to land and sea.
- Oral traditions was said to be the most at risk by 22% of respondents. Nearly half (45.5%) of the people who said oral traditions are the most at risk also said "storytelling" is at risk.
- Traditional crafts was said to be the most at risk category by 17% of respondents. More than half of the people (61%) also said traditional construction of rural architecture is at risk.

Grey Sock Project

In March the ICH office wrapped up the Grey Sock Project, completed with funds from the City of St. John's. The Grey Sock Project included:

- A workshop on traditional darning techniques, which had twenty participants
- Two traditional Newfoundland sock "knit-alongs" which had over fifty participants each
- Helped coordinate and promote the knitting of socks for Syrian refugees and new Canadians, in partnership with the NL Libraries and the "Some Warm Welcome" project
- Interviewed knitter Shirley "Shirl the Purl" Scott on the history of knitting for the Living Heritage Podcast
- Promoted knitting classes organized by the City of St. John's
- Completed research and a bibliography on the history of the Women's Patriotic Association
- Researched and completed a nomination for Dr. Anna Templeton, submitted to the Provincial Historic Commemorations Board, for her work in establishing and promoting craft industries in the province
- Media coverage from CBC, VOXM, and CHMR
- Distribution of 400 "Knitting Our Heritage" buttons at events, craft fairs, and workshops!

Delivery of workshops for Museum Association of Saskatchewan and Heritage Saskatchewan

Dale Jarvis has been asked to provide ICH workshops for organizations in Saskatchewan. The role of Saskatchewan's museums as repositories for tangible heritage is well established, but sometimes museums lack the skills and knowledge necessary to become a hub for recording and transmitting the practices and stories unique to their communities, including the practices and stories that make more tangible forms of heritage meaningful. This workshop will provide

participants with tools to collect information about, and facilitate community-led education around, the unique cultural traditions of communities. The three-day workshop will be presented twice, in different locations, to increase its accessibility to participants around the province. The Museum Association will cover \$6000 in professional fees for services over ten days of work, and Heritage Saskatchewan has committed to covering travel and accommodations.

A question was raised about the legendary story of salt cod being sent to Saskatchewan during the depression, and then used as roofing tiles. Dale Jarvis will investigate!

Collective Memories

The Collective Memories Project is an initiative which will invite seniors to record their stories and memories for archiving and sharing. It will be a pilot project running till 31 March 2017, administered by the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, in partnership with a Working Group with representation from the Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors, the Interdepartmental Working Group on Aging and Seniors, and the Department of Seniors, Wellness and Social Development, who will oversee this project. The Collective Memories Project will have three major objectives:

- to conduct a survey of existing oral history collections (print, video, and audio);
- to conduct oral history interviews with seniors; and
- to create a plan and toolkit for communities wishing to record and collect their own stories at the local level.

Collective Memories Workplan

Week 1 - 6: A student or recent graduate will be contracted for this initiative, and trained in oral history collection, archival metadata. This staff person will then conduct a web-based and phone survey of existing oral history collections in print and in oral form, in consultation with community organizations, municipalities, and umbrella heritage organizations such as the Association of NL Archives (ANLA); identify issues and those collections ready to start digitizing.

Week 9 - 10: Compilation of report on survey, with recommendations; Selection of target communities for oral history work.

Week 11- 14: Development of Collective Memory workshops and workshop material;

Week 15 - 25: Delivery of community workshops, identification of seniors for interviewing;

Week 26 - 30: Oral history interviewing, including interviews as part of the CHMR Living Heritage radio show and podcast;

Week 31 - 40: Metadata, and prepping of collected materials for upload to Memorial University's Digital Archive Initiative;

Week 41- 46: Research and development of a Collective Memories Oral History Toolkit;

Week 46-47: Writing of final report and recommendations.

Jerry Dick: Suggested that there needs to be work on project focus, or to collect stories on a specific theme

Frank Crews: referenced a biography which had been done where the author interviewed his father, and then tied life of father into history of town.

Joan Cranston: Recommended that communities be presented with a list of possible themes or topics, and let them select the one that matters to them to best engage communities. Also suggested tying the project into community radio programs

2016-2017 revised budget (attached)

Dale Jarvis presented the revised ICH Budget for 2016-2017. The committee recommended approval of it, to be ratified by HFNL Board.

Selection of volunteer members for the committee

The ICH committee reviewed volunteer applications, to select possible candidates. Three were selected: Joan Butler (CBS); Ema Kibirktis (St. John's); and Winston Fiander (Portugal Cove-St. Philips). Two backup members were selected, in case the three finalists can't participate.

ACTION #001: Dale Jarvis will contact the top three candidates, and then the remaining candidates. Rather than say they are not accepted, he will see if they are interested in participating in other events/projects on an as-needed basis.

2017 conference summary

Dale Jarvis presented on a possible grant application for the Canada 150 fund, for a project tentatively titled "Folklife 150: Celebrating Canada's Living Heritage" -- a project to bring together Canadian youth with elders in order to celebrate expressions of a century and a half of Canada's living heritage through the sharing of folk dance, performance, storytelling, craft, traditional skills, and indigenous knowledge. Over five days, youth from across the province and Canada will participate in activities to showcase the skills and talents of tradition-bearers and explore the diversity of Canada's many heritages.

There was a general discussion about pursuing this type of project, or rather to focus on a provincial ICH forum, with some kind of ICH showcase, more similar to the Living Heritage Symposium held in 2006.

General consensus was that the smaller provincial forum might be a better approach.

ACTION #002 - Jerry Dick and Dale Jarvis will meet with Dept of Canadian Heritage to discuss both options, and to see if HFNL is eligible for funding under the Canada 150 program as a Crown Agency.

Other business

Frank Crews: Noted that there had been discussion of doing an event in St. John's to hand out plaques for heritage buildings, asked for an update.

Dale Jarvis: Noted there had been talk of doing a plaquing event around Discovery Day, but that nothing had moved forward with the project. Suggested that further discussions on the issue be deferred to the HFNL board, and incorporated into larger discussions around heritage plaques and the new work of the Provincial Historic Commemorations program.

Date of next meeting

Date of the next ICH committee meeting will be set to coincide with the meeting of the Board.

Joan Cranston: Requested that future teleconference meetings be held in the evening, rather than daytime.

Meeting concluded at 9pm.