

Minutes of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Provincial Advisory Committee meeting
May 6th, 2008
10 am – 12 pm, HFNL Boardroom, 1 Springdale Street.

In attendance:

George Chalker, HFNL
Gerald Pocius, Memorial
Jerry Dick, Dept TCR
Karen Hewitt, Dept Education
Robert Parsons, HFNL
Lloydetta Quaicoe, Sharing Cultures
Peter Latta, MANL
Ken Flynn, MANL
Mary Ellen Wright, ANLA
Sherry House, NLFAC
Dale Jarvis, ICH Development Officer
Patrick Carroll, Parks Canada (by phone)

Regrets:

Jennifer Butler, Labrador Metis Nation
Tammy Lambourne, Labrador Metis Nation
Mark Fergusson, The Rooms
Karen Thistle, Dept. Innovation, Trade & Rural Dvt.

1. Introduction of members

2. Review of “Intangible Cultural Heritage Newfoundland Labrador: A Discussion Document”

MOTION by Gerald Pocius that the ICH committee adopt, circulate and publish the document as the official plan of the committee. SECONDED by Robert Parsons.

AMENDED by Peter Latta that HFNL Board be recommended to adopt the document as their official policy for dealing with intangible cultural heritage.

General discussion – plan should be official document of HFNL, but implementation of plan will be the responsibility of the committee. It should be a shared plan between HFNL and the Committee.

Motion carried.

ACTION: Dale Jarvis and Robert Parsons will work with the Board by email to adopt the document.

3. Discussion and identification of priorities for 2008

Robert Parsons – Monitoring, to know we are on track

Gerald Pocius – Documentation, Training, and Preservations
-already getting requests from cultural groups

Mary Ellen Wright – Requests from museums and seniors groups for oral history info

- looking for best practices
- awareness has been raised, now they need good how-to info

Jerry Dick – seeing regional development proposals, aboriginal proposals, need for best practices and training.

Mary Ellen Wright – priorities for ANLA are (1) best practices and (2) inventory of ICH resources

- preservation of recorded material important
- need to work with community groups

Gerald Pocius – need to set formal markers for success, benchmarks, some outcomes

- look at what is happening globally

Sherry House – key priorities include:

- support for tradition bearers in their work
- transmission within community
- internships and getting people into schools
- elders don't know the value of what they have
- communities need to be shown economic potential of ICH

Karen Hewitt – NL culture should be affirmed in curriculum

- identified items 1.1, 2.4, 3.1 and 3.2

Gerald Pocius referenced the folk artists in the schools program

Lloydetta Quaiocoe – new Canadians are not aware of what exists in terms of local culture or programs to promote culture

- great opportunities for cultural exchanges
- promote developing cultural capital

Patrick Carrol – help communities create pride in their own living, current cultures

Peter Latta – need for directed training information for curators and boards, within the year, both for collection and showcasing ICH

- museums should be better informed
- they are still at the introductory stage with ICH

Mary Ellen Wright – need an “intro to ICH” document/workshop

Gerald Pocius – we need to do more than just document, need to show groups, “here is what you do to make it useful and accessible”

George Chalker – will there be one clearing house for information? Who is doing what?

Ken Flynn – how do we find out what is being done?

- need for inventory of what has been done to date, and a general ICH database

Patrick Carroll – suggested a central list of ICH projects, and suggested that a brochure should indicate where ICH lives, exists already, rather than “dead” culture.

Gerald Pocius – DAI has the potential to be the central repository for digital material
-the technology is there to have a central database

Three priorities were identified, with three working sub-committees:

- Training and Standards committee: Gerald Pocius, Dale Jarvis, Mary Ellen Wright, someone from MANL, Jillian Gould
- “Transmission” committee: Sherry House, Lloydetta Quaicoe, Karen Hewitt
- Inventory and Website: ANLA, Folklore Dept, Dale Jarvis

ACTION: Dale Jarvis to develop a “What is ICH?” brochure, and distribute it.

3. Dale Jarvis circulated the “Living RICH” document, for the interest of the group

4. Dale Jarvis described a possible research/presentation project involving Mrs Belle Fennelly from Renews, to record and perform traditional music/dance material. General discussion thought it might be an interesting project; Peter Latta raised the caveat that it should be presented clearly as a demonstration project, not an ongoing program

ACTION: Dale Jarvis will draft a description of the project, with budget.

5. Lloydetta Quaicoe gave an overview of the “Sharing Our Cultures” program, which has been running since 1998, bringing together youth from different cultural backgrounds for education, reducing isolation and fostering understanding and socialization. Next year will be the tenth anniversary of the program, and their committee would like to showcase something at The Rooms.

ACTION: Dale Jarvis will arrange a meeting between Lloydetta Quaicoe and Mark Ferguson to discuss next steps.

6. Visiting Elders Program – Karen Hewitt gave an overview of the Cultural Connections program, including the Visiting Artists Program and Learning Through The Arts, where artists go into the schools. General discussion followed about getting traditional artists/elders/tradition bearers into the schools with some sort of funded “Visiting Elders Program”.

ACTION: Gerald Pocius would send some links to similar programs in the US to the committee

7. Dale Jarvis gave a brief overview of the proposed “Rural Producers Conference”. Dept. Innovation, Trade & Rural Development is talking about organizing a rural producers conference to recognize and celebrate the craftspeople who work in rural Newfoundland and Labrador and to highlight opportunities for growth between the craft and tourism sectors, with the conference happening in rural NL – possibly in the Gros Morne area. The tentative dates are May 29-31, 2009. Conversations have been focused around 3 main areas for content. They include:

- Demonstrators – featuring some of our core traditional skills such as baskets, tea dolls, boot making, snowshoes, beading, broom making (not necessarily all of the above) and more recent skills such as pottery, felt making, machine knitting, jewellery, others?

- Skills development workshop series – in textiles areas (quilting, rug hooking, knitting, felting) and other areas (wood, glass, clay, print making, jewellery) with well-recognized (from here or elsewhere) masters in their field, leading a day-long workshop around a particular technique, assuming that the people taking the workshop are already skilled in this area.

- Conference program – presentations and workshops centred around the theme “connecting with tourism’ including such topics as experiential tourism, learning vacations, studio rallies, product development for cultural sites, economusees, etc. An exhibition - the Craft Council are considering mounting an exhibition of craft that reflects the theme of the conference and (funds permitting) have it travel to other rural locations after the conference.

This is all very tentative as funds are not yet secured. Dale Jarvis has offered to act as the ICH committee’s contact for the project.

8. Selection of executive. There was general discussion on the need to have a small executive to deal with day-to-day matters of the committee. After the discussion, it was agreed unanimously that Gerald Pocius will serve as Chair, with Robert Parsons as Vice Chair, Jerry Dick as Government Representative.

Meeting adjourned.