

Pimachiowin Aki Corporation is a non-profit organization working to achieve international recognition for an Anishinaabe cultural landscape in the boreal forest as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site.

Pimachiowin Aki members include the First Nations communities of Bloodvein River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Poplar River in Manitoba and Pikangikum First Nation in Ontario and the Manitoba and Ontario Governments.

## THE CORPORATION'S GOAL

"To safeguard and celebrate Anishinaabe culture and the boreal forest as one living system to ensure the wellbeing of the Anishinaabe who live there and for the benefit and enjoyment of all humanity"



# THE CORPORATION'S OBJECTIVES

- To create an internationally recognized network of linked protected areas and managed landscapes (including aboriginal ancestral lands) which is worthy of UNESCO World Heritage inscription;
- To seek support and approval from governments of First Nations, Ontario, Manitoba, and Canada to complete the nomination process and achieve UNESCO designation;
- To enhance cooperative relationships amongst members in order to develop an appropriate management framework for the area; and
- To solicit governments and private organizations in order to raise funds to implement the objectives of the Corporation.



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## Message from the Co-Chairs

This report reviews the activities of the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation for 2015. The Board of Directors has overseen all of the Corporation's activities during this period.

Among the Board's key objectives this year were the completion and submission of a new Pimachiowin Aki nomination dossier and the planning and implementation of a field mission, an on-site tour of the nominated area involving UNESCO representatives. A field mission is a requirement of the nomination evaluation process. The Board also continued to promote Pimachiowin Aki internationally.

We noted with interest a number of changes adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2015 which reflect sincere interest in improving the evaluation of mixed nominations. We witnessed positive changes during the field mission to Pimachiowin Aki in August and, overall, were very pleased with the mission. Following the mission, we wrote to the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), to express our appreciation for the work by evaluators Mr. Greg De Vries and Mr. Bastian Bertzky.

The World Heritage Committee this year acknowledged the rights of indigenous peoples within its Operational Guidelines. We congratulate the Committee and are hopeful that such changes will improve the ability of indigenous peoples around the world to protect, share and pass on their heritage.

We remain optimistic that Pimachiowin Aki will be inscribed on the World Heritage List in July, 2016 during the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee. This underscores the importance of our continuing efforts to position the Corporation to evolve to assume new roles and responsibilities.

As always, we acknowledge and thank the Elders who provide the inspiration and the guidance for this project. Our sincere thanks also go to the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario, to our colleagues from the government of Canada, and to many others who have shared their time and expertise toward achieving the vision of a Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site.

Alex Peters, President

Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation

**Bruce Bremner**, Assistant Deputy Minister Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship



# Co-Chairs, Board of Directors and Staff

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - CO-CHAIRS



**ALEX PETERS** is a Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation. He is president of Whitefeather Forest Management Corporation of Ontario and is leading the development of the Whitefeather Forest Initiative with the Elders of Pikangikum First Nation. He has worked for Pikangikum in a variety of capacities including as a Community Liaison Officer and as a police officer. He has also served as Chief of Pikangikum First Nation for six years. Prior to this experience Alex worked for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada on community development projects involving Pikangikum First Nation.



**BRUCE BREMNER** is also a Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation. He has worked for the Manitoba government for 35 years in a variety of positions and locations in northern, western, and eastern Manitoba. During his career Bruce has worked as a Park Ranger, Park Planner, Park Manager and Director of the Eastern Region. His current position is the Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Services and Parks, which includes responsibility for the wildland fire program, natural resource enforcement and compliance program, and parks operations and policy development.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LIAM YOUNG of Bloodvein River First Nation owns Bloodvein River Lodge and is Chair of Eastside Aboriginal Sustainable Tourism Inc. of Manitoba. He is a former Chief and served as Band Councillor for four terms.



AUGUSTINE KEEPER of Little Grand Rapids is his community's Land Use Planner. Born in Winnipeg, he was educated in both Winnipeg and in his community and is fluent in Ojibwe. Previously he worked for several years at the nursing station in his community.



**GRAEME SWANWICK** has been a member of the Pimachiowin Aki Board of Directors and treasurer since its inception in 2006. Graeme has been an Ontario Public Servant for 25 years and is currently the district manager for the Red Lake District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.



JOE OWEN of Pauingassi First Nations served as Chief for six years before becoming his community's Lands Coordinator. His varied career includes being a Health Care Representative taking care of birthing mothers and sick children before his community had a nursing station.



**ED HUDSON** of Poplar River First Nation is a business owner and former elected Band Councilor serving eight terms. He has managed transportation, housing, education and training projects for his community. He has also been a Justice of the Peace and Magistrate.



## Advisors to the Board of Directors



**STEPHAN BARG** is an Associate of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, where he worked for 18 years directing research regarding the implications of sustainable development for government and corporate policy.



**ALISON HAUGH** is a Manager of the Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship Lands Branch, responsible for the development and implementation of land management plans in collaboration with First Nations.



MARILYN PECKETT is the Field Unit Superintendent for Parks Canada in Manitoba responsible for the operation of Wapusk National Park and nine national historic sites, most notably Lower Fort Garry and The Forks.



RAY RABLIAUSKAS of Poplar River First Nation was his community's Land Use Planner for more than a decade, directed by community elders. He's also worked as an advisor for Southeast Tribal Council serving several First Nations in Manitoba.

## THE PIMACHIOWIN AKI STAFF



**GORD JONES** is the Project Manager for the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Project. He joined the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation in 2007 following a career in the Manitoba public service in parks and forestry.

## HISTORY

In 2002, Little Grand Rapids, Poplar River and Pauingassi First Nations of Manitoba and Pikangikum First Nation of Ontario – signed the Protected Areas and First Nations Resource Stewardship: A Cooperative Relationship Accord (the Accord). Through the Accord the First Nations agreed to work together to propose lands within their traditional territories as a World Heritage Site. A short time later, Bloodvein River First Nation also signed the Accord. These First Nations are linked by a shared Anishinaabe/Ojibwe culture and identity.

The Accord states, "Our First Nations are joining together in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. We are joining together so that we may support each other and work together in our shared vision of protecting the ancestral lands and resources of our respective First Nations."

As part of the Accord, the First Nations committed to "cooperatively and collectively pursue the shared objective of creating an internationally recognized and designated network of linked protected areas on our ancestral lands" and to "seek support and recognition for our network of linked protected areas in the form of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage and World Natural Heritage designation." The study and planning area for this proposed World Heritage Site encompassed over 40,000 square kilometres.

Following the Accord's approval by the First Nations, the provincial governments of Ontario and Manitoba joined with the First Nations to develop a submission to Parks Canada, the government agency responsible for the World Heritage program in Canada. In May 2004, Parks Canada published its new Tentative List of sites that would be forthcoming from Canada to the World Heritage Centre over the next 10 years. The Pimachiowin Aki site was included on that list.

The next major milestone was the creation of the Assembly of Partners, which originated in a meeting held in December 2004. The First Nations and the provincial governments together agreed that a formal process should commence to develop the nomination dossier.

The Pimachiowin Aki Corporation was incorporated in 2006 as a legal entity that could manage money, attain charitable status, hire employees and consultants and, generally, undertake all of the work necessary for the development of the dossier. A Project Manager was hired in April 2007 and work began on further defining the approach to the project, the recruitment of project teams and the development of the background information required to complete the nomination.

The Board of Directors oversaw the development of the Pimachiowin Aki nomination dossier between 2007 and 2012. The Pimachiowin Aki nominated area encompasses 33,400 square kilometres of land and water in the North American boreal shield. The nominated area is comprised of the protected areas established in First Nation planning areas as well as Atikaki Provincial Park in Manitoba, and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve in Ontario. During this same period, the First Nations prepared land management plans for their traditional territories with provincial support. Manitoba and Ontario each introduced new legislation to enable all First Nations in the Pimachiowin Aki region to create and implement land management plans.

IUCN and ICOMOS carried out a field mission to Pimachiowin Aki in 2012 as part of the technical evaluation of the nomination. In May 2013, these Advisory Bodies recommended that the nomination of Pimachiowin Aki be deferred. The Board of Directors, in concert with Parks Canada, after careful review of the Advisory Bodies' evaluation reports, decided to let the nomination stand on the agenda of the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Phnom Penh. Cambodia in June 2013.



The World Heritage Committee upheld the Advisory Bodies' recommendation to defer the nomination and suggested that Canada invite a joint ICOMOS and IUCN Advisory Mission in order to address issues raised during the evaluation. The Committee also requested the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies, to examine options for changes to the criteria and/or to the Advisory Body evaluation process to address broader concerns resulting from the Pimachiowin Aki evaluation process, and to discuss this matter during the Committee's 38th session in 2014.

The Advisory Mission to Pimachiowin Aki was held in October 2013 and a joint ICOMOS/IUCN report on the mission was issued in November 2013.

A new Pimachiowin Aki nomination dossier was completed between November 2013 and December 2014 and was submitted to the World Heritage Center in January 2015.

The 39<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee in July 2015 marked a number of significance changes in World Heritage processes. The Pimachiowin Aki project has been a catalyst for change.



Rapids on the Bloodvein River (H. Otake, 2015)

# PIMACHIOWIN AKI NOMINATED AREA





# 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2014 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on March 6, 2015 in Winnipeg and was well attended by community representatives. Simon Hall of Simon Hall Chartered Accountants, Auditor to Pimachiowin Aki, joined the AGM to present the 2014 financial statements. The Corporation's transition to the new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act in 2014 was referenced.

The meeting included and overview of the new nomination and management plan, and a summary of activities to enhance international awareness of Pimachiowin Aki. Following the AGM, members of the planning teams for each First Nation planning area joined the gathering to give presentations and share information about each team's activities.

# 2014 Nomination for Inscription ON THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

Compared with the 2012 nomination, the 2014 nomination document better describes and illustrates Anishinaabe relationships with the land--aki. The Anishinaabe cultural tradition of *Ji-ganawendamang* Gidakiiminaan (Keeping the Land) is the central theme of the new nomination.

The nomination included justification for inscription on the basis of two World Heritage cultural criteria, and retained the concept of a "mixed" cultural and natural World Heritage site. The use of an additional cultural criterion in this nomination gives added emphasis to Pimachiowin Aki's status as an indigenous cultural landscape. The nomination also includes more maps showing cultural attributes such as cabins and campsites, travel routes, traplines and named places. A new cultural comparative analysis was completed focusing on sites within North America.

There is also more detailed discussion and mapping of natural features (e.g. drainage patterns, caribou habitat and large-area ecosystems) in this nomination. A revised natural comparative analysis distinguishes Pimachiowin Aki from other sites within the global boreal biome and demonstrates that this is the very best example of a natural site in the North American boreal shield. A comprehensive species list was developed and included in the nomination package.

An updated Management Plan reflects changes in the nomination criteria and important developments that have occurred since 2012 such as the evolution of First Nation and provincial government planning teams.



William Young at the January 26, 2015 media event to announce **completion of the new nomination** (Pimachiowin Aki Corporation

## Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

The draft statement of Outstanding Universal Value from the nomination document is reproduced in full below.

#### **Brief Synthesis**

Pimachiowin Aki (the Land that Gives Life) is a 33,400-square-kilometre cultural landscape of Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe people). Through the cultural tradition of *Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan* (Keeping the Land), Anishinaabeq have for millennia lived intimately with this special place in the heart of the North American boreal shield.

Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan consists of the beliefs, values, knowledge, and practices that guide Anishinaabeg in their interaction with aki (the land and all its life) and with each other in ways that are respectful and express a reverence for all creation. The cultural tradition is given tangible manifestation in habitation, harvesting, and processing sites, traplines, travel routes, named places, ceremonial sites, and sacred places such as pictographs associated with powerful spirit beings. These attributes are dispersed widely across a large landscape and concentrated along waterways, which are an essential source of livelihood resources and a means of transportation. Anishinaabe customary governance and oral traditions ensure continuity of the cultural tradition across generations.

Pimachiowin Aki is a vast area of healthy boreal forest and wetlands, exposed bedrock, myriad lakes, and long free-flowing rivers. Waterways provide ecological connectivity across the entire landscape. Wildfire, nutrient flow, species movements, and predator-prey relationships are key, naturally functioning ecological processes that maintain an impressive mosaic of ecosystems. The nominated area supports an outstanding diversity of boreal plants and animals, including iconic species such as wolf, moose, woodland caribou, and loon.

Pimachiowin Aki is the most complete and therefore exceptional example of a landscape within the North American Subarctic geo-cultural area that provides testimony to the cultural tradition of *Ji-ganawendamang* Gidakiiminaan. This could not be without Pimachiowin Aki also being an exceptional example of a large, healthy and diverse mosaic of the typical North American boreal shield ecosystems. Anishinaabeg are an integral part of the boreal ecosystems in Pimachiowin Aki, which are the foundation for their survival as a people. The beliefs, values, knowledge, and practices that reflect this intimate adaptation have preserved the boreal forest of Pimachiowin Aki. In this way, Pimachiowin Aki exemplifies the indissoluble bonds between culture and nature.

An innovative and collaborative, cross-cultural partnership has been formed between five Anishinaabe First Nations and two provincial governments with the shared vision of sustaining this living cultural landscape. The cultural tradition of Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan will sustain this outstanding cultural landscape into the future.

#### Criterion (iii)

Pimachiowin Aki provides the most complete testimony to the ancient and continuing cultural tradition of Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan (Keeping the Land). Through the beliefs, values, knowledge, and practices embodied in this cultural tradition, Anishinaabeg have lived for millennia with the boreal forest that sustains them. Ancient and contemporary livelihood sites, habitation and processing sites, travel routes, named places, traplines, and sacred and ceremonial sites provide tangible representation of *Ji-ganawendamang* Gidakiiminaan. These sites are found throughout Pimachiowin Aki and are especially evident along waterway travel routes, which provide connectivity throughout the landscape.



#### Criterion (vi)

Pimachiowin Aki is directly and tangibly associated with the living cultural tradition of Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan through which Anishinaabeg uphold a sacred trust to ensure aki (the land and all its life) is cared for and respected. Anishinaabe customary governance ensures collaborative use of the land, including between neighbouring and related communities. The cultural tradition is maintained across generations through a vibrant oral tradition that includes legends, stories, and songs. The deep and abiding connection between Anishinaabeq and the land through Ji-qanawendamanq Gidakiiminaan is a compelling example of the inseparability of an indigenous culture and its local environment that can inspire people around the world.

#### Criterion (ix)

Pimachiowin Aki is the most complete and largest example of the North American boreal shield, including its characteristic biodiversity and ecological processes. Pimachiowin Aki contains an exceptional diversity of terrestrial and freshwater aquatic ecosystems and fully supports wildfire, nutrient flow, species movements, and predator-prey relationships, essential ecological processes in the boreal forest. Predatorprey relationships are sustained among species such as wolf, and moose, and, caribou, and lynx and snowshoe hare. Sustainable hunting and trapping by Anishinaabeg are part of predator-prey interactions. Pimachiowin Aki's remarkable size, intactness, and ecosystem diversity support characteristic boreal species and species of conservation concern such as woodland caribou, wolverine, lake sturgeon, leopard frog, and Canada warbler.

#### Integrity

Pimachiowin Aki contains all of the attributes that express the cultural tradition of *Ji-ganawendamang* Gidakiiminaan (Keeping the Land) and all the elements necessary to ensure continuity of the key ecological processes of the boreal shield. The robust combination of First Nation and provincial protected areas forms the largest network of contiguous protected areas in the North American boreal shield. The vast size of the nominated area provides for the future livelihood and cultural needs of Anishinaabeg and for ecological resilience, especially in the context of climate change. Extensive buffer zones further contribute to integrity.

The cultural attributes and natural features of Pimachiowin Aki are remarkably free from the adverse effects of development and neglect. There is no commercial forestry, mining, or hydroelectric development in the nominated area. Waterways, the lifeblood of aki, are free of dams and diversions.

#### **Authenticity**

The authenticity of Pimachiowin Aki is remarkable. Anishinaabe knowledge, ethical and spiritual teachings, and customary governance associated with Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan guide behaviour in relation to the nominated area today, as has been the case for millennia. Oral traditions in the Anishinaabe language continue to be central to the expression and intergenerational transmission of the cultural values of Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan. The nominated area illustrates more than 7,000 years of indigenous occupancy that is centred on the traditional land use areas of the five Pimachiowin Aki Anishinaabe First Nations. Archaeological evidence demonstrates contemporary cultural sites and travel routes have been used from ancient times through to the present.

#### **Protection and Management**

First Nations have played the leading role in defining the approach to protection and management of Pimachiowin Aki. Protection and management of Pimachiowin Aki is achieved through Anishinaabe customary governance, grounded in Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan, contemporary provincial government law and policy, and cooperation among the five First Nations and provincial government partners. Through First Nation-led planning and application of legislation, protection of the nominated area has been established. First Nation and provincial partners have created the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation and developed a consensual, participatory governance structure, financial capacity, and a management plan for the nominated area.

The Pimachiowin Aki Corporation enables the partners to work in an integrated manner across the nominated area to ensure the protection and conservation of all cultural attributes and natural features and processes. The management framework is designed to meet potential challenges in the protection and conservation of the nominated area, such as monitoring and mitigating the potential impacts of the construction of an all-season road over the next 20 to 40 years.

Through an accord signed by the five First Nations, Anishinaabeg of Pimachiowin Aki affirmed a sacred trust to care for the land for future generations. A Memorandum of Agreement between the provincial governments provides assurances about protection and management of the nominated area. The Pimachiowin Aki partners share a commitment to work together to safeguard the potential Outstanding Universal Value of Pimachiowin Aki for present and future generations.

## 39<sup>TH</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee

Board Co chair, Bruce Bremner, Project Manager, Gord Jones and Sophia Rabliauskas from Poplar River, attended the 39th World Heritage Committee meeting in Bonn, Germany, in July 2015. ICOMOS and IUCN reported on various ways to improve the evaluation of mixed World Heritage nominations based on the results of a joint initiative called "Connecting Practice". This initiative is exploring how a more genuinely integrated consideration of natural and cultural heritage can be considered under the World Heritage Convention.

Separate meetings were held among representatives of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation, Parks Canada and ICOMOS/ IUCN to review the proposed itinerary for the 2015 Pimachiowin Aki field mission and to discuss changes that could be anticipated as a result of connecting practices.

The World Heritage Committee approved changes to its operational guidelines that specifically recognize the international rights of indigenous peoples, whose cultural contributions and connections to the natural world are central to many UNESCO nominations. Indigenous people are now recognized as a distinct group with distinct rights, and the 'free, prior and informed consent' of affected indigenous peoples must be obtained during World Heritage Site nomination processes.



Sophia Rabliauskas attending the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Pimachiowin Aki Corporation 2015)



# **EVALUATION OF THE 2014 NOMINATION**

Nominations are evaluated by ICOMOS and IUCN to assess whether prospective sites have Outstanding Universal Value, meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity and meet the requirements of protection and management. For mixed sites like Pimachiowin Aki, evaluation is carried out jointly by the Advisory Bodies. A field mission and desk reviews by experts worldwide are key steps within the process.

Following confirmation from the World Heritage Centre in February 2015 that the Pimachiowin Aki nomination dossier was complete, experts were selected to conduct the field mission. Evaluators from the United States (ICOMOS) and Italy (IUCN) were identified for the mission that took place between August 23 and August 31. Representatives of the Canadian government also participated throughout the mission.

#### Overview of the Field Mission

The mission sought to present the nomination of Pimachiowin Aki through:

- meetings with indigenous knowledge, cultural and natural heritage experts and government representatives;
- site visits and experiential learning; and
- aerial inspection of the nominated area to illustrate boundaries, buffers, cultural attributes and natural features, and current land use patterns.

Specific objectives of the mission were to:

- address any questions related to the site, the proposed statement of Outstanding Universal Value, boundaries and buffers;
- illustrate the state of conservation and factors effecting the site:
- describe and illustrate the approach to protection and management of the site; and
- demonstrate public support for the World Heritage nomination.

Evaluators travelled the length and breadth of Pimachiowin Aki over the course of the mission, meeting with First Nations' community members on the lakes and rivers of their ancestral lands, at trapline cabins and in communities. Evaluators experienced the vastness and ecological diversity of Pimachiowin Aki in guided flights which also helped to illustrate the area's state of conservation. Public support for the nomination of Pimachiowin Aki was demonstrated in meetings and events held in Red Lake and Winnipeg. A brief daily record of the mission follows:

Day 1 began in Red Lake, with briefing meetings among the evaluators and representatives of Pikangikum First Nation, Pimachiowin Aki Corporation, Parks Canada, and the Ontario and Manitoba governments. During an evening reception at the Red Lake Heritage Centre, evaluators were greeted by officials from Ontario and the Town of Red Lake.

Day 2 started with a road trip into Pikangikum First Nation traditional lands (the Whitefeather Forest). Upon arriving at Stormer Lake, the group then travelled by boat and canoe on nearby waterways, guided by community elders, to see and experience habitation sites, wild rice stands, sacred sites and archeological sites. Elders shared information and stories. A dinner hosted by the community included a presentation on recent archaeological research.



Alex Peters steers through wild rice (Bastian Bertzky, 2015)

Day 3 began with an aerial tour of eastern portions of the nominated area in the morning and an on-site experience at Artery Lake on the Bloodvein River during the afternoon. Artery Lake is situated in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the traditional territory of Little Grand Rapids First Nation. The evaluators enjoyed visiting with a local trapper and his family and joined them on a boat trip to an outstanding pictograph panel on the lake's granite shoreline. Elders spoke about the meaning of pictographs and their keepers, the memegwesiwag. The evaluators then travelled upstream on the Bloodvein River to Sabourin Lake, enjoying opportunities to view wildlife, the effects of recent forest fires and more pictographs along the way.



Dennis Keeper (right) gives a lesson in moose calling (Pimachiowin Aki Corporation 2015)

Day 4 started at Sabourin Lake where evaluators met with provincial biologists and park managers to hear about Woodland caribou research and to discuss management of Woodland Caribou and Atikaki provincial parks located in the southern part of the nominated area. An extensive helicopter flight throughout central and western portions of the nominated area focusing on various natural features took up the afternoon. The evaluators enjoyed a short hike and canoeing adjacent to the spectacular Shining Falls on Family Lake during the evening.



Day 5 saw the evaluators fly into Pauingassi First Nation. A short drive through the community was followed by a boat tour on Fishing Lake to see significant cultural sites and enjoy a shore lunch offered by community members. Representatives of the Manitoba Museum participated in this segment of the tour to share some of the documented history of the area. An afternoon helicopter flight brought the evaluators into Poplar River First Nation traditional territory in the northern portion of the nominated area. On the ground in Poplar River the evaluators toured the community by boat and were taken to the mouth of the Poplar River to view the vast expanse of Lake Winnipeg. Dinner with community members, followed by traditional ceremonies, singing and drumming in a tipi in the community concluded the day.



Joe Owen speaks with evaluators during a shore lunch (Pimachiowin Aki Corporation 2015)



Ed Hudson speaks with evaluators during a tour of the Poplar River (Pimachiowin Aki Corporation 2015)

Day 6 featured a low level flight along the extensive sand beach shoreline of Lake Winnipeg south of Poplar River en route to Bloodvein River First Nation. Evaluators boated on the Bloodvein River and joined with community members in presentations about medicines and discussions concerning various challenges communities are addressing. Evaluators participated in a sweat lodge ceremony and shared a meal with community members before departing by air to Winnipeg.

Day 7 at the Manitoba Museum included meetings with the Board of Directors and special quests. Evaluators heard about ongoing research related to a unique collection of photographs and audiotapes from Pimachiowin Aki held by the American Philosophical Society, based in Philadelphia. Representatives of the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the International Boreal Conservation Campaign



Martina Fisher shares her knowledge about medicines (Bastian Bertzky 2015)

spoke about their involvement in and support for Pimachiowin Aki. A special exhibit of artefacts held at the Manitoba Museum in cooperation with the Owen family of Pauingassi was put out for display.

Day 8 at the Manitoba Museum included some time for open discussions. Premier Greg Selinger and Manitoba Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship, Tom Nevakshonoff, joined the meeting to discuss Manitoba's

support for Pimachiowin Aki. A cultural event featuring a video presentation, drumming, singing and dancing, by all the participants, concluded the mission.

The evaluators remarked that they had developed an understanding of the connection between nature and culture in Pimachiowin Aki. They noted that the mission had enabled them to collaborate effectively in assessing, integrity, authenticity and protection and management. They described the mission as a great learning process that could further assist the development of evaluation "best practices" and which provided stories to share with their families.

The evaluators requested further mapping of the buffer zones and more details on how the partners made decisions with respect to the nominated area. In response to this request a brief paper on governance and decision-making in Pimachiowin Aki and additional maps were prepared and sent to ICOMOS and IUCN.

The evaluators' report along with the results of desk reviews will be considered by ICOMOS and IUCN later this year. Their recommendations to the World Heritage Committee regarding the Pimachiowin Aki nomination will be publicized in the spring of 2016.

## COMMUNICATIONS

#### Media Event at the Manitoba Legislature

Members of Pimachiowin Aki Board of Directors and staff participated in a media event at the Manitoba Legislature on January 26, 2015 to announce completion of the new nomination. Premier Greg Selinger and then Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship, Gord Macintosh, participated in the event.

William Young from Bloodvein River spoke on behalf of the Board of Directors, highlighting various aspects of the new nomination and commenting particularly about the nomination's theme of *Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan* (keeping the land). William also commented about the international attention garnered by Pimachiowin Aki and noted that there a few projects that feature a national government, two provincial governments and five First Nations working together for the same cause. Pimachiowin Aki Corporation issued a press release at the event regarding submission of the new nomination.

#### Pimachiowin Aki Video Booklet

The Corporation produced a video booklet for use both locally and internationally. Designed to create a positive emotional connection with the viewer, the booklet was provided to various individuals at the World Heritage Committee meeting in Bonn, to the Ambassador, of the Permanent Delegation of Canada to UNESCO in Paris, and to the evaluators during the field mission. Travel Manitoba and the PR House were valued sponsors in the development and production of the booklet.



Pimachiowin Aki Video Booklet Cover

## **Connecting with Supporters**

E-newsletters and personal letters from the Board of Directors were issued twice this year to keep supporters and interested members of the public abreast of Pimachiowin Aki news.

## **Speaking Engagements**

In March 2015, Pimachiowin Aki staff gave a presentation to a class in Environmental Law at the University of Manitoba.



Staff gave a presentation in April 2015 at a Canada Environmental Assessment Agency event in Winnipeg titled "Engagement Project: Strengthening Aboriginal Relationships in Environmental Assessment Policy and Guidance" The Agency expressed sincere interest in maintaining and strengthening dialogue to facilitate needs and interests of aboriginal groups in participating in environmental processes under Canadian Environmental Assessment Act 2012. The agency is currently engaged with Pimachiowin Aki First Nations respecting a federal environmental assessment for the proposed Project 4 - All-Season Road Connecting Berens River to Poplar River First.

William Young, Board member from Bloodvein River, and Gord Jones, gave a presentation in June, 2015 to the Lake Winnipeg Indigenous Collective Gathering held in Brokenhead First Nation. Participants were interested in learning about Pimachiowin Aki as they strive to advance collective action to restore the health of Lake Winnipeg. Subsequent to the presentation, organizers requested a copy of the First Nations Accord. They advised that the gathering found the Accord to be both inspiring and helpful.

## **National Geographic Magazine**

National Geographic magazine writer, Edwin Dobb, participated in the Elder's gathering at Weaver Lake in 2010 and, since then, has followed progress on the Pimachiowin Aki project. This year the magazine published his story at nationalgeographic.com.

#### **Bloodvein Photo Project**

Japanese nature photographer, Hidehiro Otake, is a friend and supporter of Pimachiowin Aki. We took advantage of Hide's presence in Manitoba this summer to enhance our photo library. Hide spent two days in the Bloodvein River area, accompanied by Board member William Young, capturing some great images of both natural and cultural features.



Petroform near Lake Winnipeg (H. Otake 2015)



## FUNDRAISING

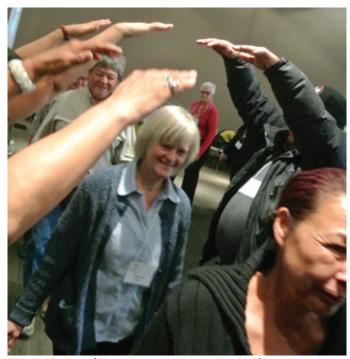
The Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund at The Winnipeg Foundation (TWF) is critical to the financial sustainability of the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation. The Fund will ensure a consistent stream of funding to support programs and projects related to the protection, conservation and presentation of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, ensuring that the world learns more about the Anishinabe people and our boreal forest environment.

To the end of August 2015 the market value of the fund was \$4,187,068.38. The Fund generated \$140,174.52 in revenue for the Corporation this year.

The Fund continues to grow as a result of contributions by individuals, organizations and the Province of Manitoba and due to excellent fund management by the Winnipeg Foundation. Every donor received a letter from a member of the Board of Directors in December providing a brief status report on the nomination and expressing appreciation for the ongoing support.

## **Event at the Museum for Human Rights**

The Board of Directors of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation was pleased to invite donors to attend an appreciation event a Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg in March 7, 2015. The event included a brief presentation on the new nomination and featured a traditional Anishinaabe cultural celebration. Representatives of each First Nation expressed appreciation to the donors. The event ended with a friendship dance and a tour of the indigenous perspectives gallery in the museum.



Friendship dance (Pimachiowin Aki Corporation 2015)



# FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The Corporation continues to be funded primarily by grants from the governments of Manitoba and Ontario. The attached Financial Statements show the position of the Corporation at the end of its Fiscal year, August 31, 2015

#### PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUGUST 31, 2015

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#### AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board Members of PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION, Winnipeg, Manitoba

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation, which comprise the statement of financial position as at AUGUST 31, 2015 and the statement of operations and changes in net assets, and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

#### Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting standards for Not For Profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan  $\,$ and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.



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#### Clear Opinion

In my opinion the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation as at AUGUST 31, 2015, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian Not For Profit Reporting Standards.

> SIMON HALL CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

November 20, 2015 Winnipeg, Manitoba

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## AUGUST 31, 2015

	<u>2015</u> \$	<u>2014</u> \$
ASSETS	¥	Υ
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash in bank Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses	462,762 8,417 	415,514 7,410 2,662 425,586
NON-CURRENT ASSETS: Funds held in trust (note 3)	100,000	100,000
TOTAL ASSETS	573,799	525,586
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable (note 4) Deferred revenue	26,887 <u>136,500</u> 163,387	18,479 136,500 154,979
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	410,412	<u>370,607</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	573,799	525 <b>,</b> 586
APPROVED BY BOARD:		
: Director		: Director
: Director		: Director
Director		<u>:</u> Director



#### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	<u>2015</u>	2014
	\$	\$
REVENUES:		
Manitoba Conservation - Operating	234,000	234,000
Manitoba Conservation - Deferred from prior year	-	-
Ontario M.N.R. Sales	200,000 539	250,000
Sales Winnipeg Foundation	140,175	818 42,456
Miscellaneous Income	8,826	9,533
Donations	488	1,004
Total Revenues	584,028	537,811
EVDEND TEMPER.		
EXPENDITURES:		
Fundraising (Pg 10)	2,793	_
First Nation Participation (Pg 10)	25,511	14,976
Communications (Pg 10)	29,478	3,309
Advisory Bodies Mission (Pg 10)	210	58,772
Business Plan (Pg 11)	-	13,805
General Administration (Pg 11) Bloodvein River Tourism Access (Pg 11)	157,671 4,258	150 <b>,</b> 872
Revised Nomination (Pg 11)	196,909	111,083
Nomination - Printing (Pg 12)	2,485	-
International Awareness/Promotion (Pg 12)	26,664	_
Tourism Capacity Training (Pg 12)	1,875	3,750
Management Plan - Revised(Pg 12)	9,622	-
Comparative Review (Pg 13)	32,636	46,308
Nomination Evaluation (Pg 13)	54,111	
Total Expenditures	544,223	402,875
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over expenses	39,805	134,936
Net assets, beginning of year	370,607	235,671
Net assets, end of year	410,412	370,607

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	\$	\$
CASH PROVIDED BY (USED FOR) OPERATIONS:		
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over expenses expenses for the year	39,805	134,936
Change in working capital: Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses Accounts payable	(1,007) 42 8,409	635 (2,430) 13,900
Increase (decrease) in cash for the year Cash, beginning of year	47,249 415,514	147,041 268,473
Cash, end of year	462,763	415,514
Represented By: Cash in bank	462,762	415,514



#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2015

#### 1. FORM OF ORGANIZATION

Pimachiowin Aki Corporation (Pimachiowin hereafter) is a non profit corporation, federally incorporated in Canada. Pimachiowin Aki is working to create an internationally recognized network of linked protected areas and managed landscapes which is worthy of UNESCO World Cultural and World Heritage designation. Pimachiowin Aki is working with governments of First Nations, Ontario, Manitoba and Canada to complete the nomination process and achieve the UNESCO designation.

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for non profit organizations which encompass the following principles:

#### i) Revenue Recognition

The organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Restricted contributions are deferred and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Other donations are recorded on a cash basis since pledges are not legally enforceable claims.

#### ii) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are recorded at cost in the year of acquisition. The cost of the fixed assets less any expected residual value is expensed over the assets useful life.

#### iii) Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Accounts receivable are stated after evaluation as to their collectibility and an appropriate allowance for doubtful accounts is provided where considered necessary. These assumptions are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known.

# PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2015

#### iv) Financial Instruments

It is management's opinion that the corporation is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from its financial instruments

#### Accounting standards for Not-for-Profit organizations

Pimachiowin Aki follows Canadian Not For Profit accounting standards.

#### 3. FUNDS HELD IN TRUST

Pimachiowin Aki contributed \$100,000 to the Winnipeg Foundation for the benefit of the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site. The monies are held in trust for the benefit of the Pimachiowin AKI World Heritage Site and are restricted to that purpose.

4.	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	<u>2015</u>	2014
		\$	\$
	Accounts Payable and Accrued liabilities	26,887	18,479

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# PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2015

#### 5. COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Certain 2014 comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the 2015 financial statement presentation in order to provide meaningful comparative information.

#### 6. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The organization's primary source of funding is through government grants. The organization's ability to continue viable operations is dependent upon maintaining these grants.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## AUGUST 31, 2015

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## SUPPORTING SCHEDULES

		<u>2015</u> \$	<u>2014</u> \$
	FUNDRAISING		
EXPENDITURES:			
Meals & Accommodations Other	_	291 2,502	
	_	2,793	
	FIRST NATION PARTICIPATION		
EXPENDITURES:			
Honorarium Meals & Accommodation Other Travel		4,650 9,647 2,034 9,180	1,050 805 5,000 8,121
		25,511	14,976
	COMMUNICATIONS		
EXPENDITURES:			
Consultant fees Travel	<u> </u>	28,153 1,325 29,478	3,309
	ADVISORY BODIES MISSION		
EXPENDITURES:			
Consultant fees Accomodations & meals Travel	=	- 210 - 210	25,052 13,135 20,585 58,772

## SUPPORTING SCHEDULES

	<u>2015</u> \$	<u>2014</u> \$
BUSINESS PLAN		
EXPENDITURES:		
		2 222
Consultant fees Meals & accomodations	-	3,000 5,423
Training Travel	<u> </u>	250 5,132
		13,805
BLOODVEIN RIVER ACCESS	<u> </u>	
EXPENDITURES:		
Consultant fees	4,258	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	ſ	
EXPENDITURES:		
Audit Fees	4,212	4,996
Bank Charges Board - Travel	2,142 10,013	2,402 12,777
Bookkeeping	8,400	8,400
Community Coordination	5,134	_
Computer & Office Equipment	400	78
Courier & Postage	914	398
Employee Benefits GST	2,716 16,313	3,705 14,446
Insurance	2,403	2,340
Legal Fees	1,312	5,590
Internet	405	540
Miscellaneous	364	200
Office Supplies	1,482	1,632
Project Manager - Travel, Meals & Accommodation	7,881	1,681
Promotions Publications	5,403 95	<del>-</del> 644
Telephone	3,461	2,545
Website Hosting	2,663	2,503
Wages & Salaries	81,958	<u>85,995</u>
	157,671	150,872

<sup>&</sup>quot;See Auditor's Report and Accompanying Notes"



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#### PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION

## SUPPORTING SCHEDULES

		2015 \$	<u>2014</u> \$
	REVISED NOMINATION		
EXPENDITURES:			
Consultant fees Meals & Accommodation Other Travel		179,496 3,959 8,490 4,964 196,909	98,912 2,880 4,986 4,305 111,083
	NOMINATION - PRINTING		
EXPENDITURES:  Printing		2,485	
INI	ERNATIONAL AWARENESS/PROMO	TION	
EXPENDITURES:			
Consultant fees Meals & accomodations Travel		12,672 2,730 11,262 26,664	- - - -
	TOURISM CAPACITY TRAINING		
EXPENDITURES:			
Consultant fees		1,875	3,750
	MANAGEMENT PLAN - REVISED		
EXPENDITURES:			
Consultant fees	_	9,622	

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The following donors have generously contributed to Pimachiowin Aki, the Land that Gives Life. Thank you for contributing. Your support is greatly appreciated. Meegwetch!

R. S. Abbott David Allan A. Baderi Stephan Barg Susan Barkman Phil Barnett Laura Beare G. Beazley Ann Bickle Virginia Bjornson Anne Bolton Susan Boning Jean Guy Bourgeois Dawn Bronson Helen Brown Wendy Buelow Susan Buggey Ruth Calvert R. L. Carter Christina Cassels David Chadwick Stephen Challis Richard Cherewyk Paul Chorney **Christine Coltart** Isobel Combs Roger Coss Jo-Anne Cowen Dale L. Crosby Lori Darragh Richard Dawson Mary Dixon Monica Dominguez Amanda Downie Margaret Duncan Raymond Duncan Dale Edmunds

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D Zaplatynsky Tannis Zimmer John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation<sup>1</sup> Peak of the Market Province of Manitoba<sup>2</sup> Saint John's Ravencourt, School Student Council, Winnipeg, MB. Sisters of Our Lady of the Mission TAG creative studios The Winnipeg Foundation's 90 Hour Challenge 2011

Hartley Stinson

Christopher Sunde

Mary Sumka

Juris Svenne Joan Swain

S. J. Tankard

Doug Taylor

James Taylor

Helen Toews

Nicole Tygat

Vivek Voora

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David Whitmore

Andrew Woolford

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Frances Toews-Prystupa

John L. Stewart Nancy Mak L. Maksymetz Louise Stewart Upper Canada College Student Syed A. Masood Marlene Stimpson Jacqueline Field Council, Toronto, ON.

Bev Smith

Wilma Sotas

Paul Steffens

R. M. Sommerville

<sup>1</sup> Special thanks to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation whose support is allowing us to do the important work of strategic and business planning.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Corporation acknowledges the extraordinary leadership of the Government of Manitoba to establish the Pimachiowin Aki Fund (The Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund Act, S.M. 2010), and committing to contribute \$10 million to the Fund.



#### Gifts in Honour

These gifts celebrate and honour the lives of loved ones and friends as they contribute to the Campaign for the Land that Gives Life, which in turn support the efforts of the five First Nation communities of Pimachiowin Aki to nominate an area as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In Memory of Diana Jones from Jean Guy Bourgeois In Honour of Joanne Goldstone from Colin Goldstone Memory of Harry Venema from Sue Barkman In Honour of Kerry Skinner from Jamie Skinner In Honour of W. J. Berezowsky from Lisa Kelly

In Memory of Mr. And Mrs. Labun from their son Paul

In Honour of Julia Wiebe from Paul Labun

In Honour of Pam Lucenkiw from Holly Lucenkiw

In Honour of Juta Rathke from Willetta and William Preston

In Memory of Mr. Austin P. Rathke from Willetta and William Preston

In Honour of Evelyn Ruta from Tracy Ruta-Fuchs

In Honour of Nick Ruta from Tracy Ruta-Fuchs

In Honour of Sophia Rabliauskas from Shirley Muir

In Memory of Nelson Owen from Gord Jones

In Memory of Oliver Hill from Gord Jones

