Foreword

Canada's national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas offer Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast unique opportunities to experience and understand our wonderful country. They are places of learning, recreation and fun where Canadians can connect with our past and appreciate the natural, cultural and social forces that shaped Canada.

From our smallest national park to our most visited national historic site to our largest national marine conservation area, each of these places offers Canadians and visitors unique opportunities to experience Canada. These places of beauty, wonder and learning are valued by Canadians – they are part of our past, our present and our future.

Our Government's goal is to ensure that each of these special places is conserved.

We see a future in which these special places will further Canadians' appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of Canada, the economic well-being of communities, and the vitality of our society.

Our Government's vision is to build a culture of heritage conservation in Canada by offering Canadians exceptional opportunities to experience our natural and cultural heritage.

These values form the foundation of the new management plan for Hopedale Mission National Historic Site of Canada. I offer my appreciation to the many thoughtful Canadians who helped to develop this plan, particularly to our dedicated team from Parks Canada, and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated their good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In this same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Hopedale Mission National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

John Baird
Minister of the Environment
Recommendations

Recommended by:

[Signature]

Allan Labourette
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada

[Signature]

Peter Gearing
Acting Field Unit Superintendent
Western Newfoundland and Labrador
Parks Canada
The Hopedale Mission is symbolic of the intersection between the Labrador Inuit and the Moravian Missionaries. It is also a fine representative example of Moravian Mission architecture in Labrador. The focus of the management plan will be on the protection and presentation of the 1817 Provisions Warehouse. This is the only building in the Mission complex that is owned by Parks Canada and is therefore the only portion of the site that Parks Canada has direct administrative authority. Key actions focus on Parks Canada's direction for the 1817 Provisions Warehouse and on how Parks Canada will continue to collaborate with the Agivituk Historical Society on the Hopedale Mission complex to promote the Commemorative Integrity of the site. The plan also guides the provision of meaningful learning opportunities so that onsite and offsite visitors may come to appreciate and enjoy the rich cultural and natural values of the Hopedale Mission.

Visitors will also understand the significance of this site as a landmark in Canadian history and as a vital component of the system of National Historic Sites in Canada.

This management plan is the product of the efforts of a planning team of community representatives, the Agivituk Historical Society, and Parks Canada staff who brought their wealth of experiences, expertise and values to bear on its creation. The team members’ sense of ownership developed management actions that would ensure the commemorative integrity of the site.

The management plan outlines long-term strategies to ensure the commemorative integrity of the Hopedale Mission National Historic Site of Canada. The management plan includes direction for:

- Engaging Canadians through improved heritage presentation that has a broader outreach with students, the local community, and partners.
- Providing a memorable site experience resulting from personal connections with cultural resources and settings that respond to diverse visitor needs and expectations.
- Presenting all messages of national significance
- Continuing public involvement beyond the management planning process

Through ongoing consultations and annual public reviews of the management plan implementation, Parks Canada will continue to ensure the commemorative integrity of the site. This plan will be subject to a review process in five years.
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1.0 Introduction

Canada's national historic sites illustrate thousands of years of human history and hundreds of years of nation-building. They are special places, recognized under an Act of Parliament as being of national significance to the history of our great land. These are places that reflect the diversity of our heritage and identity, where we preserve the tangible remains of our past, tell our stories, and celebrate our defining moments. At national historic sites we honour the people, places and events that are the proud inheritance of all Canadians.

The community of Hopedale is located on the central Labrador coast (MAP 1). It is one of the most southerly Inuit communities in the world and is part of Inuit lands governed by the Nunatsiavut Government. Hopedale Mission National Historic Site of Canada is situated within the community of Hopedale and is comprised of a complex of buildings that formed the core of a mission established by United Brethren (Moravian) missionaries in 1782. The Moravian Church owns most of the complex, but one building, the 1817 Provisions Warehouse, is administered by Parks Canada. The Aqvik Historical Society operates the national historic site on behalf of both Parks Canada and the Moravian Church.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada first considered the Hopedale Mission Complex in November 1970, when it recommended that the "Old Mission Building" (1817 Provisions Warehouse) be designated as having national historic significance. In 1983 the Board recommended that the mission church (1862), the mission house (1883) and the link connecting them be added to the designation. In 1999 the Board clarified its earlier recommendations and further recommended that the designated place encompass the surviving complex of mission buildings at Hopedale (MAP 2).

Hopedale Mission National Historic Site of Canada is symbolic of the interaction between the Labrador Inuit and the Moravian Missionaries. It is also a fine representative example of Moravian Mission architecture in Labrador.

1.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING AT HOPEDALE MISSION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

A management plan is a strategic guide for future management of a national historic site. It is required by legislation, guided by public consultation, approved by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada and tabled in Parliament. The management plan directs the long-term development and operations of a national historic site, and constitutes the framework within which subsequent management, detailed planning and implementation will take place.

Under the Parks Canada Agency Act (1998), Parks Canada has mandated responsibility for ensuring the commemorative integrity of all national historic sites. This commitment lies at the heart of the Hopedale Mission management plan, and is the key to its future. Parks Canada's Guiding Principles and Operational Policies (1994) provides further guidance towards meeting this mandated responsibility, and the Act requires that every national historic site under Parks Canada's administration prepare a management plan to be tabled in Parliament every five years.

This is the first management plan for Hopedale Mission nmc. The focus of the management plan is on the protection and presentation of the 1817 Provisions Warehouse. This is the only building in the Mission complex that is owned by Parks Canada and is therefore the only portion of the site of which Parks Canada has administrative authority. Key actions focus on Parks
Canada’s direction for the 187 Provisions Warehouse and on how Parks Canada will continue to collaborate with the Agatik Historical Society on the Hopedale Mission complex to promote the commemorative integrity of the entire site. The management actions outlined in this plan will also include the application of cultural resource management principles and practices. Likewise, direction relating to the Provisions Warehouse should also contribute to the Mission’s ability to provide opportunities for visitor experiences and learning opportunities so that both onsite and offsite visitors can appreciate and enjoy the rich cultural and historic values of the Hopedale Mission area.

The Hopedale Mission Management Plan comes at the end of a consultation process that began in 2000 with a meeting between Parks Canada representatives, initial members of the Agatik Historical Society and other local representatives. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future development of heritage resources in the community. Parks Canada, followed up on this meeting with several projects in partnership with the Agatik Historical Society, including the stabilization of the 187 Provisions Warehouse and the development of interpretive panels for that building. A Commemorative Integrity Statement for Hopedale Mission area was approved in 2006, based on the Statement of Commemorative Intent that was established in 1999 by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (now called National Historic Sites of Canada).

1.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN
The management plan provides long-term strategic direction for the Hopedale Mission. It provides a framework for detailed planning and decision-making and is an important reference for capital expenditure forecasts, future management and operations. Implementation of this management plan is the responsibility of the Field Unit Superintendent and is dependent upon the availability of financial resources. Future management and operations will be linked directly to the Field Unit’s business plan. Implementation of this plan will begin immediately and a review of the implementation will be provided during annual management plan reviews.
2.0 Importance of the National Historic Site to the National Historic Sites System

Hopeland Mission, an essential part of a nationwide family of nearly 900 sites representing a rich variety of themes spanning political, economic, intellectual, cultural and social life. Each site has had a nationally significant impact on Canadian history and is a distinct and vibrant symbol of our national identity. Collectively, our national historic sites recognize the contributions made by all those who came before us and tell the stories we hold in trust for future generations.

Building Social and Community Life, a major theme identified in the National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan (2000), celebrates organizations that have enriched community life and assisted those in need. The sub-theme of Religious Institutions explores the imprint of religion on Canadian life and society. Hopeland Mission Site is representative of the missions established by the United Brethren (Moravian) missionaries among the Labrador Inuit during the 18th and 19th centuries. It commemorates the interaction between the missionaries and the Inuit of Labrador as well as the unique architecture and social structure of the mission.

The Moravian missions in Labrador were part of a worldwide missionary effort by the Church of the Brethren. Apart from a brief and unsuccessful attempt to establish a mission at nearby Nialet Harbour in 1732, the first Moravian Mission on the Labrador coast was founded at Nain in 1771. Hopeland, founded in 1782, was the third mission to be built as the Moravians, the first permanent European settlers north of Hamilton Inlet expanded their presence in a country occupied by widely scattered bands of seasonally nomadic Inuit.

The impact of the missionaries on the lives and culture of the Labrador Inuit was profound. Although the missionaries' primary objective was conversion, they engaged in continuous trade with the Inuit in order to persuade them to settle down in the vicinity of the missions and to prevent them from contacting or trading with Europeans further south or the unconverted Inuit to the north. The change from a nomadic to a sedentary lifestyle based on trade led to major changes to the traditional subsistence economy, material culture, social relations, health and spiritual values of the Labrador Inuit. The direct and indirect consequences of these changes are reflected in Inuit society in Labrador to this day.

In addition to their religious role, the missionaries provided the educational, medical and dental services in northern Labrador until the last third of the 20th century, and were also often the face of government and law enforcement in the area.

The Hopeland mission initially consisted of a single building that had been pre-fabricated in Nain in 1782 which served as both Church and Mission House. From 1782 to 1800 other buildings were added, including a new church, a sawmill, woodshed, a boathouse, various provision storage houses, and a gunpowder house. Of all these early buildings, only one, the provisions warehouse built in 1817 and now administered by Parks Canada, survives.

Around the middle of the 19th century, the Mission was transformed by the erection of a large new Mission House (1853) and Church (1856) with a two-storey passageway connecting it to the Church, and a Dead House...
or morgue behind the Church. In subsequent years, various buildings were added to the Mission complex and others were demolished, including the original 1782 Mission Building which was torn down in 1897 to make way for a new annex erected to the east of the 1853 Mission House.

Outside the main complex of buildings, other scattered structures associated with the mission were erected. Of these, only the boathouse built in 1893, and the gunpowder house now remain. A cemetery belonging to the mission also exists. No detailed recording or assessment of these buildings has yet been carried out.

3.0 Commemorative Integrity

One of Parks Canada's fundamental objectives is to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites by protecting and presenting these places for all Canadians in a manner that respects their significant and irreplaceable legacy. Commemorative integrity is a way of describing the health, or wholesomeness, of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- The resources directly related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat.
- The reasons for designation as a national historic site are effectively communicated to the public.
- The site's heritage values (including those resources and messages not related to its designation as a national historic site) are respected in all decisions and actions affecting the site.

Statement of Commemorative Integrity

Commemorative Intent Statement (CIS) refers to the reasons for a site's designation as a national historic site, as determined by the Minister of Environment on recommendation of the HSMC. The CIS is fundamental to the decision-making process for any national historic site, and is used as a framework to prepare each management plan and assess the impact of proposed actions at the site.

The November 1999 HSMC Statement of Significance for Hopedale provides clear direction as to the commemorative intent of this site and can be adopted almost verbatim as follows:

Hopedale Mission was designated a national historic site in 1970. The reasons for national significance, as derived from the 1999 Board minutes, are:
- It symbolizes the interaction between the Labrador Inuit and Moravian missionaries, and
- Singularly and collectively, the mission buildings are fine representative examples of Moravian Mission architecture in Labrador.

Designated Place

The term 'designated place' refers to a place of national significance designated by the Minister of Environment on recommendation of the HSMC. Information on what constitutes the designated place for a particular historic site is drawn from the minutes of the HSMC.

In its 1999 recommendation, the HSMC defined the designated place at Hopedale in terms that can be used here (MAP 3):

The area encompassing the existing Mission Buildings at Hopedale, as defined in Figure 3 on p. 635 of Submission Report 1999-58, excluding the now-defunct oil and salt storage house building.

[Note: The designated place shown in Map 2 of this Management Plan is a modified version of the "Figure 3" referred to above, with the western boundary redrawn to exclude the defunct Oil & Salt Storage house.]

Within the designated place, Parks Canada administers only the 1817 Provisions Warehouse.
4.0 Current Situation Analysis

The 1817 Provisions Warehouse is part of a complex of historic buildings contained within the designated place of Hopedale Mission site. The Moravian Church owns the other buildings, and the Agvituk Historical Society runs the complex as an historic site.

The majority of visitors to Hopedale arrive via cruise ships and the coastal steamer Northern Ranger. In addition, approximately 5% of visitation to the site is from the local community. The church is still used by the community residents today. This involvement in the church indicates a level of community interest in the site and the way that it will develop and evolve. The following identifies the range of challenges this management plan must address to position Hopedale Mission site for long-term success.

4.1 RESOURCES OF NATIONAL HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Resources directly related to the reasons for the site's designation are Level 1 cultural resources as defined in the Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy (CRM) Policy. At Hopedale Mission site, Level 1 resources consist primarily of built structures: the 1817 Provisions Warehouse and other structures associated with the mission complex (church, mission house, passageway between them, morgue and reserve stonehouse). All of these buildings exhibit characteristically Moravian architectural forms and motifs. A heritage recording exercise and stabilization strategy for the 1817 Provisions Warehouse were completed in 1994.

Several Level 1 landscape features are associated with the built structures, including the bedrock outcrop adjacent to the 1817 Provisions Warehouse that helped provide access to it, brick pathways, fences and a garden plot.

There are no Level 1 objects directly associated with the 1817 Provisions Warehouse, but the Agvituk Historical Society maintains a large collection of objects associated with mission operations. No archaeological sites have been identified. Minor mitigation excavations associated with the 1817 Provisions Warehouse have been carried out.

4.2 PRESENTING MESSAGES OF NATIONAL HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Presenting the site's national historic significance is fundamental to ensuring its commemorative integrity. Presentation of Hopedale Mission's key messages provides Canadians with an understanding of why the site is important to the history of our nation. It is through this understanding that appreciation and respect for the site is achieved.

There are two messages of national historic significance associated with Hopedale Mission site. These messages express why this place was designated a national historic site. The CRM also identifies five context messages that are essential to understanding the site's reasons for designation. These messages are outlined in Section 6.2.2.

The Agvituk Historical Society operates the Hopedale Mission complex as an historic site. As such, the Society has assumed responsibility for the presentation of messages related to the reason the site was designated and the context messages. Personal and non-personal media are being used to present these messages. Visitors to the site receive a guided tour that includes a visit to the Church, the Interpretation Centre, and depending on the size of the group, the Mission House and the 1817 Provisions Warehouse. The latter two structures are interpreted from the exterior for groups of 20 or more.
The visit to the Interpretation Centre includes an exhibit on two floors that tells the story of the Moravians in Labrador, the changes that they brought about for the Labrador Inuit, and the establishment and evolution of the Hopevale Mission. The exhibit also showcases part of the large collection of artefacts related to both the Hopevale Mission and the pre-contact Inuit cultures of the area.

New heritage presentation initiatives are planned for the site. Interpretive panels have been developed by Parks Canada for the 1817 Provision Warehouse that explain the history of that particular building; its significance to the mission and the community of Hopevale, and its various architectural features.

On site and outreach communication initiatives are in the early stages at Hopevale Mission site. It is important that Parks Canada continue its partnership with the Agvituk Historical Society and nurture new partnerships in order for these heritage presentation initiatives to be successful.

4.3 ADDITIONAL LEVEL 2 CULTURAL RESOURCES AND MESSAGES

The following Level 2 resources are identified by the Hopevale Mission NHC's CII:

1. The landscape encompassed by the designated place is valued as a Level 2 resource because it shows the compact physical organization and functional complexity of the mission establishment as it evolved over time.

2. Some objects in the collection maintained by the Agvituk Historical Society are considered Level 2 objects because some of them are a tangible manifestation of the variety of activities carried out by the missionaries to operate and maintain the mission, and some of them provide valuable information about Inuit use of the area before the arrival of the Moravians.

The CII for Hopevale Mission NHC's CII identified five messages not related to the reason for designation as a national historic site:

1. The mission church continues to be a functioning place of worship.
2. Hopevale Mission site is a national historic site, one of a family of national historic sites across Canada that are part of a system of national and international heritage places in Canada.
3. A national historic site is a place designated by the Government of Canada as a site of importance to all Canadians because of its national historic significance.
4. Hopevale Mission site is closely related to Hebron Mission site (founded by the Moravians in 1750), and is one of eight Moravian Missions established along the Labrador coast.
5. Other national historic sites in Labrador are Olukku site, Red Bay site, L'Anse Amour site and Battle Harbour site.

The challenge at Hopevale will be to present the Level 2 messages, particularly #1 and #4, without having them overwhelm the reasons for designation and associated context messages.

4.4 VISITOR USE AND OPERATIONS

Hopevale Mission site is maintained and operated as an historic site by the Agvituk Historical Society. Under contract to Parks Canada, the society maintains the 1817 Provision Warehouse. The Agvituk Historical Society conducts guided tours of the site. Visitors receive information concerning the construction and function of the building as well as its importance to the Hopevale Mission. In addition, the interpretive display in the Interpretation Centre tells the story of the development of the Hopevale Mission, including the 1817 Provision Warehouse. It is important that Parks Canada continue its partnership with the Agvituk Historical Society in order to ensure the continued operation of Hopevale Mission site.

5.0 Vision

At Hopevale Mission NHC, Parks Canada will work with the Agvituk Historical Society, the Nunatsiavut Government, and other community partners to ensure that the site's commemorative integrity will be protected and presented for the enjoyment and appreciation of present and future generations. Local residents, Canadians and other visitors will understand, appreciate and enjoy the unique story of the site. Visitors to the site will experience the Mission story through contemporary media and through the living community of Hopevale, of which the Mission is an integral part. They will also understand the sense of place that the Labrador Inuit feel for Hopevale Mission site and the role that it plays in celebrating our national heritage through the family of national historic sites.

Hopevale Mission was designated a national historic site because it represents the interaction between the Labrador Inuit and the Moravian Missionaries. The site is also representative of Moravian mission architecture in Labrador. Hopevale Mission is at the heart of a Labrador Inuit community and represents a vital part of the history of that community. The church, part of the Hopevale Mission complex, is still used as a place of worship and, as such, is a focal point in the community. Visitors and local people alike will appreciate the important role that Hopevale Mission site has played and will continue to play in the life of the community.

The arrival of the Moravian Missionaries in Labrador had a profound effect on the lifestyle and culture of the Labrador Inuit. Modern Inuit and Moravian culture in Labrador are one and the same; there is no real boundary between the two. Hopevale Mission is a site at which modern Inuit of Labrador can explore their rich traditions and the changes that occurred under the influence of the Moravians to create the vibrant culture that exists today. These attachments that the Inuit of Hopevale have for the site will require a strong sense of stewardship and ownership. They will be instrumental in ensuring the commemorative integrity of this remote and remarkable site.
6.0 Management Objectives and Actions

6.1 Protecting Hopedale Mission WHSC
Parks Canada is committed to providing high quality, authentic experiences that help visitors appreciate and understand the varied and diverse heritage of this country. An important element in achieving this goal is providing an opportunity for visitors to experience heritage resources first-hand, allowing them to develop a sense of place and a personal connection to our national historic sites. Parks Canada therefore places a great deal of emphasis on ensuring the protection of cultural resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Strategic Goal
The Commemorative Integrity of the Hopedale Mission National Historic Site is protected.

6.1.1 Level 1 Cultural Resources
The resources related to Hopedale Mission’s reasons for designation as a national historic site include the building and structures associated with the mission that are encompassed by the designated place, as well as landscapes and landscape features.

6.1.1.1 Buildings and Structures within the Designated Place
The surviving buildings and structures associated with Hopedale Mission WHSC are contained within the designated place and include a church, a mission house with an annex, a two-storey linking passageway between the church and the mission house, a mortuary (“dead house”), a reserve storage house, and a provisions and wood-storage building. All these buildings exhibit characteristically Moravian architectural forms and motifs. The provisions and wood storage building (referred to as the 1857 Provisions Warehouse) is administered by Parks Canada. The other buildings in the complex are the property of the Moravian Church.

In November 1970 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended that the “Old Mission Building” (in actual fact the 1857 Provisions Warehouse) be designated as being of national historic significance and that it be used “... for museum purposes to illustrate the history both of the Moravian missions in Labrador and of Eskimo culture.” The Board considered other buildings in the Hopedale complex in June 1975 and recommended that the mission church (1865), the mission house (1853) and the link connecting them be designated as being of national historic significance. In November 1979 the Board clarified its earlier recommendations, stating that use of the “Old Mission House” included use for public interpretation and that “... the history of... Eskimo culture” meant the history of the Labrador Inuit from the time of the founding of the mission onwards. The Board also considered the extent of the designated place at Hopedale and recommended that it encompass the surviving complex of mission buildings (Map 2).

As a result of the 1979 recommendations and to save the building from demolition, Parks Canada acquired the 1871 Provisions Warehouse in 1980. A heritage recording project and development of a stabilization strategy for the building was carried out in 1998. In 2001 Parks Canada provided funds for the preservation of the 1857 Provisions Warehouse. This project was directed at the interior and exterior stabilization of the building to ensure its structural integrity.
6.1.2 Landscape and Landscape Features

Within the designated place, the principal landscape characteristic is the thin vegetation cover over shallow soil covering bedrock. A large bedrock outcrop protrudes in the northeastern corner behind the 1817 Provisions Warehouse. In addition, there are traces of short sections of brick pathways in the areas between the buildings, and parts of old fence lines that once surrounded the perimeter of the complex, excluding only the Church itself. Historical photographs show that these fences were replaced using varying designs over the years. Along the front, or south, face of the Mission House there was a fenced garden where the missionaries grew vegetables and other plants. A fence still exists in this location, but the garden is no longer cultivated.

6.1.3 Objects

There are no objects associated with the 1817 Provisions Warehouse in the Parks Canada collection. The Agvitik Historical Society in the mission complex buildings maintains a large collection of items that were formerly used in various aspects of the mission operations and that relate to aboriginal activity in the Hope Dale area prior to the arrival of the Moravians. The collection includes more than 3,000 books and approximately 50 historic photographs associated with the Moravian Mission.

This collection has been partially inventoried. Some objects in the collection are considered Level 1 resources in that they represent the range of interaction (spiritual, medical, educational, musical, economic) between the Moravian missionaries and the Labrador Inuit.

**Objectives**

- To ensure the protection of the cultural resources which symbolize the national significance of Hope Dale Mission
- To administer the site in partnership with the Agvitik Historical Society to ensure that the site is maintained.

**Key Actions**

- Continue to work with the Agvitik Historical Society to ensure the commemorative integrity of the 1817 Provisions Warehouse.
- Continue to work with the Agvitik Historical Society in an advisory capacity to:
  - Ensure that the commemorative integrity of the structures and landscape features of the mission complex are protected.
  - Complete the inventory of objects associated with the Hope Dale Mission nsmc and identify those objects that should be listed as Level 1 cultural resources.
- Complete an evaluation of the commemorative integrity of the site within three years of the approval of the Management Plan.

6.1.2 Level 2 Cultural Resources

Additional cultural resources occur within the site boundary that are not considered to be of national significance but do have important historic value. These are identified as Level 2 resources, which also require protection under CHAT Policy.

6.1.2.1 Landscapes and Landscape Features

The landscape encompasses the designated area at Hope Dale Mission nsmc has value as a Level 2 resource because it shows the compact physical organization and functional complexity of the mission establishment as it evolved over time.

6.1.2.2 Objects

Some of the objects contained in the collection maintained by the Agvitik Historical Society are valued as Level 2 resources because some of them are a tangible manifestation of the variety of activities carried out by the missionaries to operate and maintain the mission, and some of them provide valuable information about Inuit use of the area before the arrival of the Moravians.

**Objectives**

- To ensure the protection and presentation of Level 2 cultural and natural resources.

**Key Actions**

- Work with the Agvitik Historical Society in an advisory capacity to:
  - Ensure the continued protection of the landscape features possessing Level 2 historic values.
  - Complete the inventory of objects associated with the Hope Dale Mission nsmc and identify those objects that should be listed as Level 2 cultural resources.

6.2 Presenting the Story of the Hope Dale Mission

6.2.1 Facilitating Meaningful Visitor Experiences

Parks Canada has recently begun focusing efforts to connect with Canadians by facilitating quality, meaningful visitor experiences. At the heart of this movement is a desire to ensure that our programs are representative of Canada, relevant and engaging to Canadians, and facilitated in ways that enable visitors to make powerful connections with their natural and cultural heritage.

**Strategic Goal**

 Invite visitors to connect with the Hope Dale Mission’s cultural heritage to facilitate the creation of lasting memories.

Parks Canada will continue work with the Agvitik Historical Society to present the 1817 Provisions Warehouse as an integral part of the Hope Dale Mission complex, and the larger story of the Moravian missionaries in Labrador and their impact on the lifestyle and culture of the Labrador Inuit.

The Moravian Church is still a vital part of the community of Hope Dale. Parks Canada’s partnership with the Agvitik Historical Society provides a unique opportunity to create quality visitor experiences based on the living, breathing culture of an Inuit community and its Moravian influences.

Currently, Hope Dale Mission nsmc’s visitors arrive on expedition cruise ships touring the Canadian Arctic or completing crossings from Greenland to Canada, and via the coastal boat m/v Northern Ranger. There are also a number of visits annually from residents of the community of Hope Dale. Their visitor experience is created through exhibits and tours at the site and interactions with the residents of Hope Dale. Visitors may also receive a guided tour of the Church, Interpretation Centre, the Mission House and the 1817 Provisions Warehouse. Exhibits showcase a large collection of artefacts related to both the Hope Dale Mission and the pre-contact Inuit cultures of the area. In response to demands from the expedition cruise lines, the Agvitik Historical Society has also developed special interpretation programs that focus on traditional Inuit games, crafts and food. Further research is required to better understand the audience and its needs specific to the 1817 Provisions Warehouse.

**Evaluation**

Comments from visitors indicate that the program is both sustaining visitor interest and enhancing understanding and appreciation of the site. The evaluation of the site's level of commemorative integrity at the site (outlined in Section 6.1) will include a review of the heritage presentation and provide a comprehensive review of the effective communication of messages.

**Objectives**

- To provide opportunities for Canadians and other visitors to discover and enjoy Hope Dale Mission nsmc through memorable, high-quality learning experiences, both on-site and off-site.
- To achieve 80% participation of national historic site visitors in learning experiences related to the natural and/or cultural heritage at the Hope Dale Mission.
- To achieve 85% visitor satisfaction (with 90% being very satisfied) with site heritage presentation programming.

**Key Actions**

- Advise the Agvitik Historical Society in developing mechanisms to collect visitor feedback at Hope Dale Mission nsmc.
- Install interpretive panels developed for the 1817 Provisions Warehouse.
Continue to provide access to the 5th Provisional Warehouse for the delivery of heritage presentation programs by the Agvikul Historical Society.

Work with the Agvikul Historical Society in an advisory capacity to:
- Develop a personal interpretation program that presents the site's reasons for designation and helps visitors better understand and appreciate the significance of the site.
- Facilitate opportunities to incorporate the stories of local residents, including those with connections to the northern Labrador missions, into the heritage presentation program at Hope Dale Mission NMSC.
- Develop partnerships with other heritage sites in Labrador to present the story of the Hope Dale Mission to visitors at other, more accessible locations.
- Develop new learning experiences for site visitors.
- Develop outreach programs for the school children of the community of Hope Dale and incorporate the story of the Hope Dale Mission into various existing curricula and programs.
- Create an innovative and interactive website that will bring the Hope Dale Mission story to virtual visitors.

6.2.2. Conveying Significant Site Messages

Exposition and presentation are essential to the commemoration of national historic sites. A site is presented to ensure understanding of why it is important to our history and to all Canadians. Parks Canada’s Engaging Canadians external communications strategy emphasizes the importance of communicating significant site messages to key audiences. This management plan will therefore work towards informing, influencing and involving audiences by raising awareness, fostering understanding and enjoyment, and strengthening a sense of ownership of Hope Dale Mission NMSC.

The commemoration of Hope Dale Mission NMSC is based on the theme of Building Social and Community Life and the sub-theme of Religious Institutions. The site is representative of the missions established among the Labrador Inuit by the Moravian missionaries during the 18th and 19th centuries. Hope Dale Mission’s Commemorative Integrity Statement has identified key messages of national significance. They will guide the development and delivery of heritage presentation programs both on and off site.

Three message areas will be communicated to Canadians, site visitors and stakeholders through high-quality, meaningful learning experiences. They are:

1. Hope Dale Mission’s reasons for designation as a national historic site.
2. Context messages essential to understanding the designation.
3. Important messages not related to the site’s designation.

A. Reasons for Designation of Hope Dale Mission NMSC

- The mission complex symbolizes the interaction between the Labrador Inuit and Moravian missionaries.
- The mission buildings at Hope Dale are fine representative examples of Moravian architecture in Labrador.

B. Level 1 Contact Messages

- The Moravian Mission in Hope Dale was part of a worldwide missionary effort by the Church of the Brethren.
- The Moravian Mission in Hope Dale was one of several missions established in Labrador beginning in 1752.
- The religious work of the Moravian missionaries had a profound impact on the spiritual life of the Labrador Inuit.
- The interaction between Moravian missionaries and Labrador Inuit produced many changes in the Labrador Inuit way of life in settlement patterns, subsistence, health, education, and legal administration.
- Prior to the arrival of the Moravians, the Labrador Inuit had a long-established presence along the Labrador coast based primarily on the resources of the sea.
- The architectural tradition in which the Moravians built was designed for a more moderate climate than they encountered in Labrador.

6.2.3. Reaching all Canadians

6.2.3.1 Strategic Positioning of Hope Dale Mission NMSC

In some cases Hope Dale Mission NMSC’s location on the coast of Labrador will be considered a challenge. However, the site is part of an exciting Labrador Experience that is being protected and presented through our national historic sites and national parks in the region. The community of Hope Dale is part of Nunatsiavut, a large area of Inuit self-government that was officially created on December 1, 2004. The agreement that created Nunatsiavut also allowed for the establishment of the Togmt Mountains National Park Reserve in northern Labrador. National historic sites at Red Bay and Battle Harbour are in operation in southern Labrador. These locations, along with new national historic site designations at Hebron and Oolak, and work towards future designations in Labrador delineate how the story of Labrador is being protected and presented. Hope Dale Mission NMSC has an important place within this context of the family of national historic sites and national parks. Labrador is becoming a preferred destination at a time when travellers are seeking new and unique learning experiences. Parks Canada’s work with internal and external partners (including the National Historic Sites Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador) will help strengthen the position of Hope Dale Mission in this context as we reach out to visitors with the incredible story of Labrador.

6.2.3.2 Site Audiences

Parks Canada will focus on the following key audiences in order to achieve long-term results in keeping with the Engaging Canadians strategy.

Local Residents

An opportunity exists at Hope Dale Mission NMSC to engage residents of the local community. Hope Dale Mission NMSC includes the church built by the Moravians in 1865, which continues to function as a place of worship for the majority of the residents of Hope Dale. As such, it is the surrounding complex, holds a special place in the community and residents have an interest in its protection and presentation.

Cruise and Independent Travellers

Most visitors to Hope Dale Mission NMSC arrive on exhibition cruise ships. The Agvikul Historical Society has responded to the demand for special programming for these visitors by creating unique opportunities based on traditional Inuit culture. Independent travellers are visitors from outside the local area who are not travelling as part of organized groups. The majority of independent travellers visiting Hope Dale Mission arrive via the coastal boat M/V Northern Ranger.

School Groups

With the exception of Amos Comenius Memorial School, located in the community of Hope Dale, the geographical location of Hope Dale Mission NMSC limits the number of school groups that will have an opportunity to visit the site. However, opportunities exist with Amos Comenius Memorial School in terms of class projects, website development and the development of resources to share with students from other schools unable to visit the site.
Historic Visitors

Historic visitors are an important audience for Hopedale Mission Inc. due to its remote location on the coast of Labrador. Many people who wish to learn about the site may not have an opportunity to visit it. Reaching this audience with the site's messages of national significance can be accomplished with the creation of a web page.

Visitors to Other Heritage Places

Other heritage places, administered by Parks Canada and others, within the Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit provide an opportunity to communicate the significance of the 1817 Provisions Warehouse and other components of Hopedale Mission Inc. to a wider audience. The communication of Hopedale Mission's messages may be through non-personal media such as brochures or through personal interpretive methods such as presentations.

Objectives

- To ensure that Canadians and others, both visitors and the general public, have meaningful opportunities to learn about the national significance of Hopedale Mission Inc.
- To achieve 75% visitor understanding of the significance of Hopedale Mission Inc.
- To create opportunities to engage local residents at Hopedale Mission Inc.
- To position Hopedale Mission Inc. in the larger context of a Labrador Expereince.

Key Actions

- Work with the Agvituk Historical Society in an advisory capacity to:
  - Facilitate partnerships within the family of national parks and national historic sites in Labrador to strategically position Hopedale Mission Inc. as part of a Labrador Experience.
  - Ensure that visitors with auditory, visual and mobility impairments have access to all messages of national significance.
  - Create partnerships with the local school to engage the community's youth at Hopedale Mission Inc.
- Create personal and non-personal methods of communicating Hopedale Mission Inc.'s messages of significance at other heritage places in Western Newfoundland and Labrador.

6.3 ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS

In partnership with the Agvituk Historical Society, Parks Canada will continue to operate Hopedale Mission Inc. in accordance with the Historic Sites and Monuments Act. The values and objectives of the-site's Commemorative Integrity Statement, Parks Canada's Guiding Principles and Operational Policies and Cultural Resource Management Policy will also apply.

6.3.1 Site Operations

Under contract, the Agvituk Historical Society maintains the 1817 Provisions Warehouse on behalf of Parks Canada. The society also has an understanding with the Moravian Church for the care and maintenance of buildings in the Hopedale Mission complex.

Given the remote location of Hopedale Mission Inc. and its distance from the administration office of the Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit, an ongoing partnership with the Agvituk Historical Society is essential to maintaining the Commemorative Integrity of the 1817 Provisions Warehouse. A formal agreement between Parks Canada and the Agvituk Historical Society is necessary to ensure the continued partnership.

Objective

- To ensure the continued protection of the Commemorative Integrity of Hopedale Mission Inc.

Key Action

- Develop a formal agreement with the Agvituk Historical Society to ensure the continued protection of the commemorative integrity of the 1817 Provisions Warehouse and other components of Hopedale Mission Inc.

6.3.2 Access and Circulation

The 1817 Provisions Warehouse was stabilized in 2002. Presently, when groups of 20 people or less tour Hopedale Mission Inc. they are given access to the ground level of the building. The ground level has a “floating floor” that can be removed, if necessary, for future archaeological investigations. This floor is at a higher level than the original floor, which limits head space and makes circulation for large groups difficult. In addition, the Agvituk Historical Society is using the ground level for materials storage. The second and third levels of the structure are not open for visitation.

Objective

- To provide safe access to the 1817 Provisions Warehouse and circulation throughout that prevents congestion and maintains Commemorative Integrity.

Key Actions

- Work with the Agvituk Historical Society to move materials stored on the ground level of the 1817 Provisions Warehouse to an alternate storage location.
- Carry out an assessment of the second and third levels of the 1817 Provisions Warehouse to determine their stability and capacity for visitation.

6.3.3 Public Safety

A Public Safety Plan, complete with contingency and operational guidelines, is in place for the Western Newfoundland and Labrador Field Unit, of which Hopedale Mission Inc. is a part. The objective of the plan is to provide high quality visitor experiences by reducing undue fear, pain or personal loss through application of the principles and practices of visitor risk management.

Objectives

- To promote visitor safety through prevention programs.
- To support opportunities for visitor experiences under safe conditions in a natural environment.
- To provide safe, well-maintained, accessible facilities with minimal impact on the environment.

Key Action

- Maintain and develop public safety programs, including training, signs and other forms of safety information so visitors are aware of, and informed about, potential risks when visiting the 1817 Provisions Warehouse.
7.0 Ongoing Partnerships and Public Involvement

The 1817 Provisions Warehouse, as an integral part of Hopedale Mission NMSC, belongs to the people of Canada. Everyone should feel confident that they have an opportunity to be involved in decisions concerning this site. The Hopedale Mission NMSC Management Plan was developed in partnership with the Agautik Historical Society and in consultation with other organizations in the community of Hopedale, including the Community Government of Hopedale and the local Moravian Church Committee, as well as Tormgasok, the cultural wing of the Nunatsiavut Government. These partnerships must be maintained and new ones created in order to ensure the successful implementation of this management plan. This section highlights the values and principles that will guide decision-making regarding the 1817 Provisions Warehouse at Hopedale Mission NMSC.

Values
- Adherence to principles and practices of cultural resource management.
- Open, participatory decision-making.
- Predictable, consistent and fair regulation.
- Competent, accountable management.
- Respect for others.

Principles
- All actions, initiatives and programs undertaken to realize the Vision will be implemented in full accordance with the spirit and requirements of the Historic Sites and Monuments Act, Parks Canada Agency Act, Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies, National Historic Parks Regulations and the Hopedale Mission National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.
- Standards will be defined, enforced and reviewed so as to ensure the maintenance of commemorative integrity.
- Regulation and decision-making will be responsive, open, participatory, consistent and equitable.
- Responsibility to provide for protection and preservation of heritage resources will be both individual and shared.
- Decisions will be made with integrity and common sense.
- Planning and decisions will be co-ordinated on a regional basis.
- Partnerships will be encouraged when founded on the principles of commemorative integrity.
- Commemorative, social, cultural and economic sustainability are shared goals.
- Public participation in decision-making will be guided by the following fundamental practices:
  - Access to clear, timely, relevant, objective and accurate information.
  - Adequate notice and time for public review.
  - Careful consideration of public input.
  - Feedback to participants on the nature of comments received and Parks Canada's response.
  - Respect for all interested parties and individual viewpoints.

7.1 Regional Relationships and Partnerships
It has been stated several times throughout this management plan that the continuation of a strong and ongoing partnership with the Agautik Historical Society is essential to maintaining the commemorative integrity of Hopedale Mission NMSC. The Agautik Historical Society in turn has an understanding with the local Moravian Church Committee, which is the legal owner of the
Hopetdale Mission Complex, with the exception of the 1817 Provisions Warehouse. The Church Committee permits the Agvituk Historical Society to use the mission buildings, including the church, for heritage presentation programs. In return, the Agvituk Historical Society performs routine maintenance on the structures.

The Agvituk Historical Society also brings other partnerships to Hopetdale Mission to the benefit of the community. Of significance to the presentation of the site is its involvement with the Nunatsiavut Tourism Committee. This committee was recently established to promote the Nunatsiavut area as a tourism destination. The Agvituk Historical Society’s participation in this committee will be key to the strategic positioning of the site as part of a Labrador Experience.

Also of importance to maintaining the commemorative integrity of Hopetdale Mission to the role of Torngatok, the cultural wing of the Nunatsiaq Government. The agreement that established the Government gives it custodial responsibility for all heritage resources in Nunatsiaq. The Agvituk Historical Society is therefore responsible to the Nunatsiavut Government for the protection and presentation of Hopetdale Mission to the public.

Strategic Goal
The commemorative integrity of the Hopetdale Mission is maintained through partnerships with community members, the Agvituk Historical Society and the Nunatsiavut Government.

Objectives
- To build partnerships that will lead to shared protection and presentation of the site’s national significance.
- To support partnerships that improve the experience of visitors to Hopetdale Mission to the public.

Key Actions
- Work with the Agvituk Historical Society in an advisory capacity to:
  - Co-organize a presentation at the sponsored in the presentation of Hopetdale Mission to the public.
  - Continue their participation with the Nunatsiavut Tourism Committee in order to position Hopetdale Mission as part of a Labrador Experience.
- Work with both the Agvituk Historical Society and the Nunatsiavut Government in an advisory capacity on issues relating to the commemorative integrity of Hopetdale Mission to the public.

7.2 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Parks Canada is committed to ongoing, meaningful public involvement. This involvement takes many forms and may vary in context from a local level to a broader, more regional one depending on the nature of the decision or initiative under consideration. Various groups and individuals will be asked to provide feedback as Parks Canada begins implementing the directions outlined in this management plan.

Objective
- To ensure that key policy and planning decisions are timely, fair, consistent and arrived at in an open and participatory manner.

Key Actions
- Provide members of the public with annual opportunities to review and discuss the implementation of the management plan.
- Report regularly to partners and stakeholders on implementation of the management plan and how this relates to the State of the Protected Heritage Areas Report.
- Set up appropriate processes to consult with members of the public on future issues while ensuring that all stakeholders are involved as early as possible.

8.0 Environmental Assessment

Parks Canada is responsible for assessing and mitigating the impact of its actions on ecosystems and cultural resources. The "Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals", requires environmental assessment of all plans and policies submitted to the federal Cabinet or to a Minister for approval, including management plans for national parks.

Accordingly, a strategic environmental assessment of the objectives, programs, and management actions outlined in this management plan was carried out. The objectives of the environmental assessment were:
- To ensure that the strategic directions, objectives, and specific proposals contained within the plan respect and support the commemorative integrity goals and objectives for the national historic site;
- To assess the implications of proposals included in the plan to ensure that they enhance positive environmental effects, and avoid or mitigate potential negative effects.

The assessment included evaluation of cumulative environmental effects from all proposals. It also considered the full range of potential impacts on the natural and cultural resources of the site, both from ongoing operations and from proposed projects.

Relevant federal environmental policies, including those of Parks Canada, were considered in a policy review. The proposed strategic directions outlined in the management plan are consistent with those policies. Opportunities for stakeholder involvement were provided during the planning process. Stakeholder views and comments are reflected in the plan.

The plan proposes no management actions that would result in adverse environmental effects. Implementation of the management direction and the specific actions proposed in the plan should result in greater protective integrity for the Hopetdale Mission National Historic Site. It should also contribute to the local tourism industry and social and cultural life of Hopetdale, Labrador.
APPENDIX 1:
Selected References


