



PIMACHIOWIN AKI

WORLD HERITAGE PROJECT

The Land that Gives Life

For Immediate Release:

Pimachiowin Aki recommended for World Heritage Site listing

Now poised this summer to become Canada's first "mixed" cultural and natural WHS

Winnipeg, May 16, 2018. Pimachiowin Aki has received the two key recommendations needed to be added to the World Heritage Site list. These recommendations are from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which are the main advisory bodies to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

A decision will be made at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee to be held in Manama, Bahrain from June 24 to July 4, 2018.

Poised to become Canada's first "mixed" cultural and natural World Heritage Site, Pimachiowin Aki would be recognized for its outstanding indigenous cultural and boreal ecosystem values. The World Heritage Committee in 2016 commended the partnership for deepening the understanding of nature-culture connections in the context of the *World Heritage Convention*.

Pimachiowin Aki is Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) for "the land that gives life". A partnership of four Anishinaabe First Nations - Bloodvein River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Poplar River- and the Manitoba and Ontario governments has worked with the government of Canada for over a decade to achieve World Heritage status for 29,040 square kilometre boreal forest spanning the Manitoba–Ontario boundary.

Pimachiowin Aki spokesperson, William Young of Bloodvein First Nation acknowledged that the partners are optimistic. "We can't get ahead of the World Heritage Committee, as the final decision is theirs" said Young, "but we expect to share some good news this July about achieving another of the milestones the partners set for themselves 16 years ago."

"Our First Nations are proud of the work to protect their traditional lands, and to nominate Pimachiowin Aki to UNESCO. We thank the governments of Manitoba, Ontario and Canada, and our colleagues from Manitoba Sustainable Development, the Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Parks Canada, for their ongoing support. This unique partnership is committed to carrying forward the management of a Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation” Young said.

On behalf of all the Pimachiowin Aki partners, Young thanked the Advisory Bodies for their collaboration and positive contributions throughout the nomination process.

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Pimachiowin Aki Fact Sheet:

<http://pimachiowinaki.org/sites/default/files/PA%20FAQ%27s%20May%202018.pdf>

Website: www.pimachiowinaki.org