

## **PG Heritage Commission Chair's Report August 29, 2024**

Since the last meeting of the Commission on June 13, Ayesha Rogers and I met with the new Executive Director of the Exploration Place, Alyssa Leier and Lheidli T'ennah councillor Josh Seymour, regarding heritage signage and a broadened definition of heritage. They were very enthusiastic about updating the city's heritage signs to include the First Nation and receptive to the idea of bringing stakeholders together to discuss the future of heritage in Prince George.

The Registry Working Group was most active during the summer. We met in person on July 20 and August 12 to flesh out the concept presented at the last meeting and to develop some forms to go along with the broadened definition of heritage. Thanks to Ayesha, Jon and Linda for all their work this summer! An outstanding item is the Knox Church submission from several years ago.

The Signs Working Group did not meet this summer. An attempt to bring everyone together in August did not work because of everyone's conflicting schedules. Outstanding items are: the sign ideas that have been in the works since 2021 (Sager and Berlinic), working more with the Lheidli T'ennah on signage, identifying signs that need updating, and in the meantime, putting the pdfs of existing signs on the Heritage Commission's website. A good sign is that the Zion Lutheran Church sign on Tabor Blvd has been fixed! We now know that new signs cost approximately \$1400. Evann Campbell (of Silky Head Designs) gave us the name of a Montreal company that makes weatherproof and graffiti-proof signs – [kalitec.com](http://kalitec.com) – and let us know what the design costs were for the project at Mount Robson with the Simpcw First Nation.

The Outreach Working Group – Linda, Neil and I – were unable to connect over the summer. Imogene connected Linda with the Comms dept., but the idea of a heritage Facebook page that Linda would moderate did not fly. We still need to talk to the city's communications folks about publicizing/highlighting the work of the Commission.

I was invited to give a Labour History Walking Tour of PG by the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) who brought 40 or 50 staff in from western Canada for a three-day training event. There was a good turnout for the walk on the afternoon of July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Google maps has 47 signs & 78 photos of PG's heritage signs with combined views of over 130,000. Mr. PG alone has been viewed over 32,000 times.

Finally, Paul Bury, director of the PG Public Library, has invited me to be on the committee that reviews submissions for the Jeanne Clarke Local History Awards. I look forward to helping out.