

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Party: Canada

Region: Yukon Territory

Name of Property: Tr'ondëk-Klondike

## Geographical coordinates to the nearest second

Component Name	Latitude	Longitude	NTS Map	Area (in ha)	Buffer Zone (in ha)	Total Area (in ha)	ID	Map No.
Fort Reliance	64° 8' 49.63017" N	139° 29' 41.93155" W	116B/03	1.6	1.4	3	1	1.2, 1.3 B.2, B.3
Ch'ädähdëk (Forty Mile)	64° 25' 14.8307" N	140° 32' 03.3147" W	116C/07	40.1	10.8	50.9	2	1.2, 1.4 B.2, B.4
Ch'ädähdëk Tih'än K'et (Dënezhu Graveyard)	64° 25' 12.5989" N	140° 31' 10.57489" W	116C/07	2	2	4	3	1.2, 1.4 B.2, B.4
Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine	64° 25' 59.9615" N	140° 31' 34.5357" W	116C/07	37	7.75	44.75	4	1.2, 1.4 B.2, B.4
Tr'ochëk	64° 3' 1.24892" N	139° 26' 23.81066" W	116B/03	49	6.5	55.5	5	1.2, 1.5 B.2, B.5
Dawson City	64° 3' 39.9213" N	139° 25' 44.82717" W	116B/03	181.5	16.8	198.3	6	1.2, 1.6 B.2, B.6
Jëjik Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it (Moosehide Village)	64° 5' 39.4801" N	139° 26' 14.5729" W	116B/03	13.64	4.3	17.94	7	1.2, 1.7 B.2, B.7
Tthe Zrąy Kek'it (Black City)	64° 49' 04.566" N	138° 21' 00.3134" W	116B/16	9.7	4.3	14	8	1.2, 1.8 B.2, B.8
		<b>Total</b>		<b>334.54</b>	<b>53.85</b>	<b>388.39</b>		

## Textual Description of the Boundary of the Nominated Property

The nominated property is a serial nomination consisting of eight components: Fort Reliance; Ch'ädähdëk (Forty Mile); Ch'ädähdëk Tih'än K'et (Dënezhu Graveyard); Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine; Tr'ochëk; Dawson City; Jëjik Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it (Moosehide Village); and Tthe Zrąy Kek'it (Black City). Composed of 334 hectares of land in the subarctic region of Northwest Canada, the property is located within the homeland of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

All components are geographically separated and located near Dawson City, within the central region of the Yukon Territory. Seven component sites are located along a section of the Yukon River from *Tr'ochëk* to *Ch'ëdähdëk* (78 kilometres) and one is located along the Blackstone River, approximately 170 kilometres northeast of *Jëjik Dhà Dënezhu Kek'it*.

The boundaries of the component parts were assigned to include the archaeological and historic resources that represent an Indigenous people's evolving experience of, and adaptation to, European colonialism at the turn of the twentieth century.

The buffer zone comprises 54 hectares of land surrounding the component parts of the nominated property. It includes a thirty-metre area immediately adjacent to the component boundaries, except where the boundary is the ordinary high-water mark on a riverbank, where this buffer is ten metres. The total area of the property and buffer zone is 388 hectares.

### **Map(s) of the nominated property**

A4 maps of the nominated property and buffer zones are annexed to the nomination in Appendix B.1 including:

**Map 1.1 Regional Setting of Nominated Property**

**Map 1.2 Nominated Property Boundary and Buffer Zone**

**Map 1.3 Cadastral: Fort Reliance**

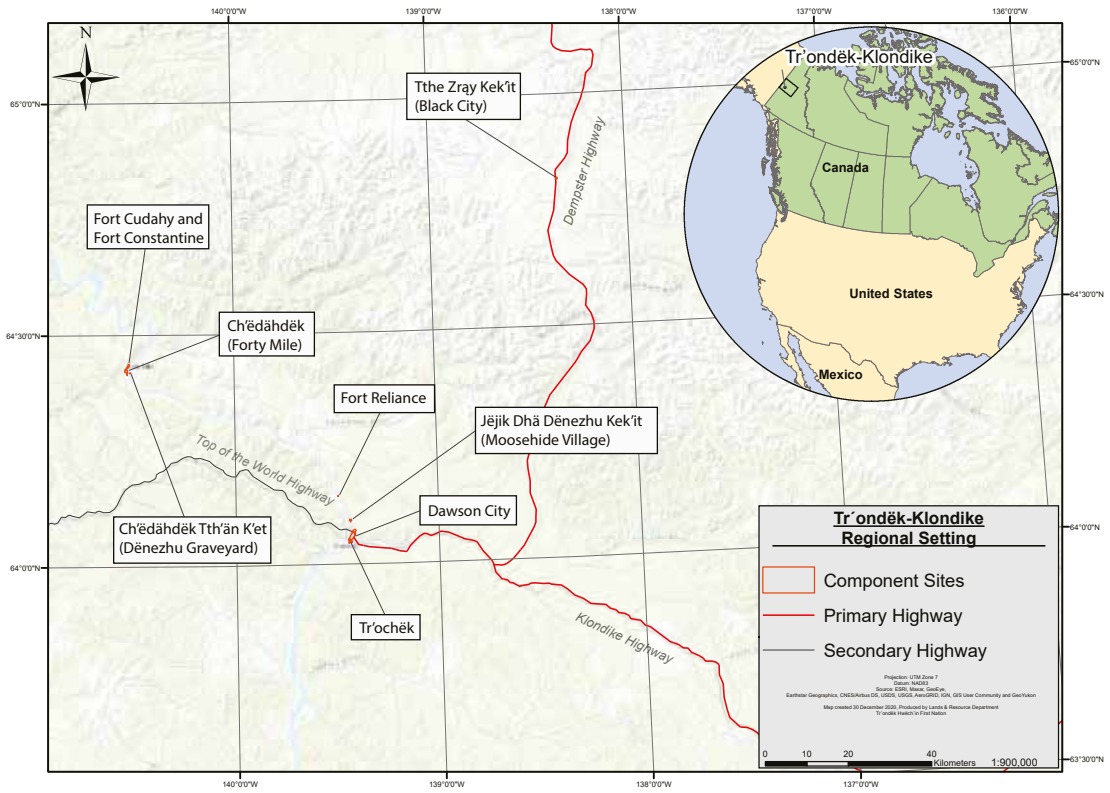
**Map 1.4 Cadastral: Fortymile River Components**

**Map 1.5 Cadastral: *Tr'ochëk***

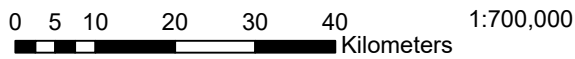
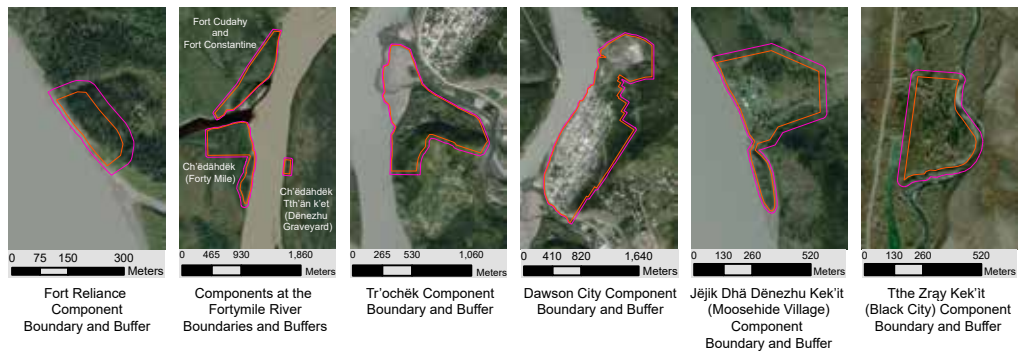
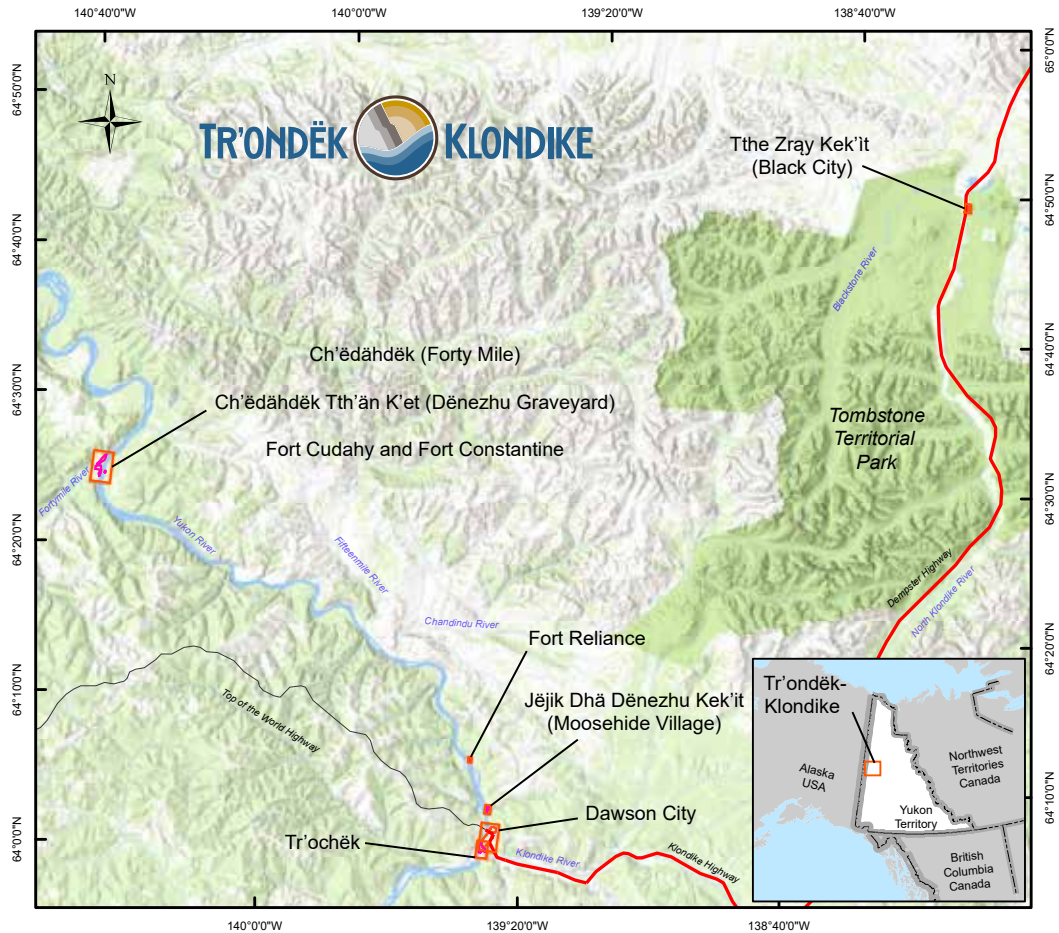
**Map 1.6 Cadastral: Dawson City**

**Map 1.7 Cadastral: *Jëjik Dhà Dënezhu Kek'it* (Moosehide Village)**

**Map 1.8 Cadastral: *Tthe Zrąy Kek'it* (Black City)**

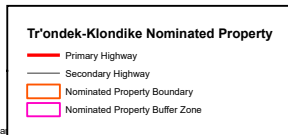


Map 1.1: Regional Setting of Nominated Property.



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Yukon Albers  
 Projection: Albers  
 Datum: North American 1983  
 Date: 12/30/2020

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community  
 P Corp., NPS, NRCAN, Ordnance Survey, © OpenStreetMap contributors, USGS, NGA, NASA, CIGAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasysteisen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geologia  
 Created By: Government of Yukon



Map 1.2: Nominated Property Boundary and Buffer Zone.

## Criterion Under Which Tr'ondëk-Klondike is Nominated for Inscription

Tr'ondëk-Klondike is nominated for inscription to the World Heritage List under criteria (iv) of Paragraph 77 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (2019), which states that such properties shall:

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*“be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.”*

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Canada wishes Tr'ondëk-Klondike to be considered as a serial site.

## Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

### Brief Synthesis

Tr'ondëk-Klondike is located in the homeland of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, in northwestern Canada. For thousands of years, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have lived in close connection with the land and organized their society around the animals and natural resources they needed to succeed. Between 1874 and 1908, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in lived through a period of intense and dramatic upheaval as their territories were colonized. The attitudes and economic ambitions of the colonizing newcomers, as supported by the newly established Dominion of Canada, profoundly impacted their traditional lifeways and relationship with their ancestral lands. The eight component sites of the Tr'ondëk-Klondike serial property tell this story and contain one of the most complete and exceptional ensembles of archaeological and historic evidence that reflects an Indigenous peoples' experience of, and adaptation to, the global phenomenon known as European colonialism. The eight component sites have been significant resource areas for their ancestors for thousands of years and were places that were fundamentally transformed in the course of the colonial occupation of these lands. The geographic, structural, and archaeological evidence of the property chronicles dramatic modifications of land use, settlement patterns, and economy that testify to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in experiences of colonialism, ranging from their active and inclusive socio-economic engagement in new economies to their dispossession and marginalization as an Indigenous people. The sites are also places where, through the endurance of traditions, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in fostered and maintained their distinct cultural identity.

The authenticity of the property is manifested through each of the component sites in a specific geographic space related to this colonial incursion. Whether being a place where Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in first began interacting with foreign traders at Fort Reliance; experienced increasing marginalization at Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy, and Fort Constantine and segregation demonstrated by *Ch'édähdëk Tih'än K'et* (Dënezhu Graveyard); or suffered dramatic disenfranchisement, such as at *Tr'ochëk*, the authenticity of the property is conveyed through evidence where a plurality of historic experiences can be interpreted through the preserved attributes of the property. The completeness of the serial property is enhanced by including Dawson City and *Jëjik*

*Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it* (Moosehide) at the epicentre of demographic and cultural upheaval, as well as the hinterland site, *The Zrąy Kek'it* (Black City), where Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in adaptations to these impacts are well illustrated.

The history of events that occurred at the eight component sites is told through oral histories, documentary resources, photographic evidence, and the archaeological and historical record. The physical evidence present in the component sites includes landscape features, distinct pre-contact and colonial-era archaeological localities, buildings, and historic resources that are related to both settler and Indigenous occupations.

Collectively, this ensemble of sites are authentic testaments that illustrate the experiences of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and their responses to the expansion and consolidation of European colonialism, which had been occurring worldwide since the fifteenth century. The incremental impacts of colonialism over the course of three decades in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in homeland are illustrated through the conserved, protected, and well-managed component sites, which together demonstrate the Outstanding Universal Value of the property.

### **Justification for Criterion**

The property is inscribed under criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape, which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.*

European Colonialism is considered a significant stage in human history, a driver in extraordinary global demographic movements accompanied by socio-economic upheavals that resulted from the expansion of European nations over the past 500 years. European colonial expansion from the sixteenth to the twentieth century created a dramatically altered world, and its effects are still perceptible in the governments, economies, and cultures across the globe to this day. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in experience, presented through Tr'ondëk-Klondike, vividly echoes the experiences of Indigenous people in North, Central, and South America; Oceania; Africa; and throughout many parts of Asia during this period. Tr'ondëk-Klondike chronicles the consolidation of colonial power and the cultural impacts to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in between 1874 and 1908. The nominated property conveys Outstanding Universal Value through its complete and exceptional ensemble of component sites that have tangible evidence of the distinct experiences and adaptations of an Indigenous people to a dramatic foreign incursion. These experiences were instigated by expanding commercial interests associated with the fur trade and the western North American gold rushes that were startlingly intensified during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896–1898.

Tr'ondëk-Klondike is a serial property that includes eight component sites: Fort Reliance; *Ch'édähdëk* (Forty Mile); *Ch'édähdëk Tih'an K'et* (*Dënezhu* Graveyard); Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine; *Tr'ochëk*; Dawson City; *Jëjik Dhä Dënezhu Kek'it* (Moosehide Village); and *The Zrąy Kek'it* (Black City). Each component contains archaeological and historic resources illustrating the experiences of the colonized and the colonizer and provides evidence of nuanced and multifaceted perspectives on an event often narrated only from the perspective of immigrant Canadian and American populations.

Together, the components of this serial property provide remarkable evidence of growing colonial influence through a concentrated timeframe—from the construction of the first commercial fur-trading post at Fort Reliance, in 1874, to the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896–1898, and, ultimately, the consolidation of colonial authority by 1908. The well-conserved physical evidence throughout Tr’ondëk-Klondike bears witness to the evolving adaptations of lifeways enacted by the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in in response to the sudden and massive encroachment of migrants on their traditional encampment and harvesting sites. This evidence also documents the transition from a life “lived close to the land as it had been for thousands of years”<sup>1</sup> to one irreversibly changed by myriad transformative experiences due to the arrival of foreign populations and envoys of the Canadian government in the latter decades of the nineteenth century.

The property, with its archaeological and historic resources, convincingly and comprehensively illustrates the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in experience of a significant stage in human history. The property illustrates the First Nations’ dispossession of their lands and marginalization from the new colonial society. Most significantly, Tr’ondëk-Klondike demonstrates how, through the continuity of cultural traditions and the continued use of established and familiar land-use areas and resources, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in adapted to and positioned themselves to endure a colonial event characterized by the un-negotiated establishment and consolidation of colonial power. The property provides evidence of the impact of escalating immigration, as well as the rapid enactment of new administrative, legal, and spiritual policies that changed the character of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in’s relationship with much of their lands and challenged their ability to be self-determining people.

### **Statement of Integrity**

All the elements necessary to demonstrate integrity of Tr’ondëk-Klondike are found within the boundaries of the serial property. The Outstanding Universal Value of the Tr’ondëk-Klondike property is demonstrated through the combined attributes of its eight component sites. Individually, each component contributes significant evidence, and when combined, provide a comprehensive understanding of the escalating effects of colonialism and its impacts on the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in. It is through the inclusion of each component of the nominated property that the Outstanding Universal Value is demonstrated.

All of the archaeological and historic resources—composed of encampments and harvesting sites, buildings, artifacts, and buried archaeological features—that testify to Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in experiences of the expansion and consolidation of colonialism in this far northwestern part of Canada are enclosed within the boundaries of the property. The property includes evidence related to both foreign colonial actors and Indigenous people that demonstrate narratives of both extreme and rapid socio-economic change, as well as an active continuation of cultural traditions, resource use, and established settlement patterns. The property also features outstanding examples of the establishment and consolidation of colonial power in the centre of a colonial jurisdiction, expressed in both archaeological and built forms, that can be related

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<sup>1</sup> Helene Dobrowsky, *Hammerstones: a history of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in*, 2nd Ed. (© Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, 2014), p. 4.

directly to a corpus of documentary evidence pertaining to the events of the period. The property thus includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value and is of ample size to portray the complete representation of the features and processes that convey the property's significance.

Tr'ondëk-Klondike falls entirely within the homeland of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The 334-hectare property is of sufficient size to incorporate the archaeological and historic resources that illustrate the breadth of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in experiences of, and adaptations to, colonialism. As a whole, the property does not suffer from the adverse effects of development or neglect. There is a relatively low population in and around the property, with moderate visitation, and the engaged presence of resident Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and other government stakeholders who ensure ongoing investment in conservation, maintenance, and management.

The physical evidence that transmits the heritage values of Tr'ondëk-Klondike is in good condition and the property's component sites are protected and managed under appropriate legislation and policy, with no component exposed to unplanned or unregulated developments. Joint stewardship, continuing use, and consistent conservation planning ensure Tr'ondëk-Klondike is intact.

### **Statement of Authenticity**

Tr'ondëk-Klondike displays a high degree of authenticity.

The authenticity of Tr'ondëk-Klondike is supported through Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stories and oral history about the property, the assessment and reporting on the archaeological and historic resources, and archival and documentary records. The archaeological and historical research is informed by published and unpublished documentary histories and photographic and documentary evidence, when combined provide credible and truthful information sources for the property. The authenticity of Tr'ondëk-Klondike is evident in the location and setting, changing land uses, and patterns of settlement by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in response to the incursion of foreigners in their homeland. The form, design, materials, and substance of the archaeological and historic resources throughout the property truthfully reflect Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in experiences of, and responses to, colonialism, illustrating evidence of engagement, marginalization, economic reorganization, and increasing sedentism. Authenticity is also evident in language and other forms of intangible heritage, such as place names and *Tr'ëhudë*, all of which testify to cultural significance and the continuation of cultural traditions, knowledge keeping, and practices.

### **Protection and Management Requirements**

The property is subject to a strong and comprehensive legislative and jurisdictional framework across four levels of government that protects the historic and archaeological resources of Tr'ondëk-Klondike. Protection and management of the serial property is secured through Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, territorial, federal, and municipal legislation and policies. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in legislation is consistent with traditional governance, traditional practices, community planning, and conservation policies. Territorial, federal, and municipal laws and policies contribute to the protection, conservation practices, management, and legal recognition of community-based planning and formal designation of historic sites. The collective legislation aligns and ensures the historic and cultural values of the site are protected. All component sites



within the property are designated as either national, territorial, or municipal historic sites or protected burial sites or identified in the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement*, which outlines provisions of protection and management. The "Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site Management Plan" provides a framework for the four levels of government that have regulatory, management, or administrative responsibilities for the property.

Long-term protection and management challenges for the property include the effects of climate change and other environmental factors. Riverbank erosion, extreme climate conditions, and permafrost are the primary focus of risk-management priorities at the sites, which effects are mitigated through planned maintenance. Historic buildings are a safe distance away from shorelines or, in the case of those in Dawson City, protected from floods by a dike. Periodic flooding of some of the component sites has contributed to the protection of archaeological resources through silt deposits and continues to do so. Cooperative and anticipatory measures are being pursued to mitigate the effects of climate change on the property, including the stabilization of built resources. Fire-management plans for the area prioritize the above-ground heritage resources of the property. The property will be monitored according to the "Tr'ondëk-Klondike World Heritage Site Management Plan" and relevant mechanisms under each jurisdiction and risks mitigated through advanced planning, monitoring, stabilization work, and coordination.

## **Name and Contact Information of Official Local Institution**

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