

CRD HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

January 13, 2026

Members Present: Committee Chair John Massier (CRD Director Area C), Committee Vice-Chair Betty Anderson (CRD Director Area K), George Atamanenko, Greg Atherton, Elizabeth Hunter - via Teams, Brent Rutherford, Rocky Nenka – via Teams

CRD Staff: Nigel Whitehead (Manager of Planning Services; Committee Staff Liaison), Kathie Vilkas (Regional Economic Development Officer) – via Teams

Guest: Aaron Hutchenson

Regrets: Marilyn Buyar, Stephanie Masun (Manager of Intergovernmental Relations)

1. Meeting called to order: 10:04 by J. Massier, Chair
2. Adoption of agenda: Moved: G. Atherton; Seconded: B. Rutherford: Carried
3. Approval of meeting minutes from November 18, 2025. Moved: G. Atamanenko; Seconded: B. Anderson; Carried
4. Delegation
 - a. A. Hutchenson introduced himself and provided a brief history of his current research on Tomah LoLo and Long Baptist for their contributions to the start of the mining history in the Cariboo and that he is seeking a letter of support to include with his application to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) for a commemorative plaque to honor their legacy in either Lac La Hache or Likely, BC; N. Whitehead suggested that a letter of support come from the Cariboo Regional District Board and would present the letter at the February 6, 2026 board meeting. A. Hutchenson was OK to wait for the letter.

Motion: That the CRD Heritage Steering Committee recommend the CRD Board of Directors send a letter of support to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, recommending a commemorative plaque be placed in Likely or Lac La Hache in recognition of Tomah LoLo and Long Baptiste for their legacy and contribution to the beginning of mining history in the Cariboo.

Moved: B. Rutherford; Seconded: B. Anderson; Carried

5. Regional Heritage Network Planning
 - a. E. Hunter advised there is a tentative meeting date for April 16, 2026. N. Whitehead confirmed the CRD boardroom would be available for the meeting. She will advise once confirmed.
6. Heritage Tour – Spring 2026
 - a. N. Whitehead advised still on the table and that S. Masun is meeting with SXFN Kukpi7 Hank Adams and will bring back the discussion about interest in a tour.
7. Discussion – 2026 Priorities
 - a. N. Whitehead led a discussion to determine the top three priorities of the committee for 2026 and provided a brief review of the 2026 business plan.
 - b. E. Hunter advised that herself and M. Buyar will continue work on the SOS for Six Mile Corner Roadhouse.
 - c. J. Massier advised statements of significance and the Driving Brochure are his priorities.
 - d. Committee discussed Driving Brochure and heritage calendar insert logistics.
 - e. Committee discussed Lone Butte site.

8. Action Tracking Update

- a. Committee reviewed and updated the action tracking table.

9. Roundtable

- a. R. Nenka advised this is his last week with Indigenous Tourism BC and has accepted a position with Lhtako Dene supporting the business operations within Barkerville.
- b. E. Hunter is currently wrapping up student grants; working on special exhibits for Quesnel's 100 year anniversary.
- c. G. Atherton has been looking into the history in Hwy 24 area.
- d. B. Rutherford looking forward to learning more about indigenous cultural awareness.
- e. G. Atamanenko also looking forward to learning more about indigenous cultural awareness. He has been speaking with owner of the 150 Mile telephone exchange building about potential recognition of the building.
- f. Committee discussed historical importance of beehive burners to the region.
- g. B. Anderson no updates at this time but continues to think a lot about First Nation history.
- h. J. Massier no updates at this time and appreciates everyone involved in this committee.
- i. B. Rutherford mentioned he is currently reading a book by Ron Ignace – 10,000 years of Secwepemc.

10. Next Meeting — February 23, 2026 - 10:00 AM

11. Adjournment: 11:13 AM

Action Tracking		
Member	Meeting	Action
J. Massier	Ongoing	Engage with local Indigenous leaders regarding heritage committee as opportunities arise.
N. Whitehead	Jun 20/23	Contact Xat'sull First Nation and Sugarcane Archeology re: Committee presentation
N. Whitehead	April 8/25	Operating Surplus Workshop TBC
E. Hunter & M. Buyar	Feb 25/25	Six Mile Corner Roadhouse SoS drafting and photos of character defining elements.
M. Buyar & B. Rutherford	April 8/25	Alice Stapleton House SoS research and drafting
N. Whitehead w/ S. Masun	Nov 18/25	Research Indigenous/cultural training opportunities for committee