

Draft Minutes: Communicating with Future Generations Working Group

Monday, March 2

1:15-2:15pm

Location: ENR Boardroom, Basement of the Scotia Building

Shin Shiga, NSMA	John Sandlos, Memorial University – <i>on phone</i>	Ryan Silke, NWT Mine Heritage Society – <i>not present</i>
Erika Nyssonen, GNWT	Mary Rose Sundberg, YKDFN – <i>regrets received</i>	Jeff Humble, City of Yellowknife- <i>not present</i>
Kevin O’Reilly, Alternatives North	Arn Keeling, Memorial University – <i>on phone</i>	Randy Freeman, YKDFN- <i>not present</i>
Rosanna Nicol, Toxic Legacies YK Coordinator	Natalie Plato, AANDC	Johanne Black, YKDFN <i>not present</i>
	France Benoit, Filmmaker	

Purpose was to discuss key messages that must be communicated about Giant Mine into the future. Ideally, over the next three meetings, the CFG Working Group will discuss the 5 types of messaging highlighted in the backgrounder and how they could apply at Giant.

1. Check-in/Approval of agenda

2. Brief overview of minutes from previous meeting/action items updates:

- Review of minutes including thermosyphons as existing monuments, the need to translate management and knowledge, the need for regular ceremony/facilitated access to the site as a way to keep the knowledge alive.
- It was discussed that the thermosyphon questions/requests for information (how often maintenance is required, etc.) have been passed along but no response just yet.
- Maps are in the DAR. *Natalie forwarded one that is now posted on the discussion forum.*
- Update regarding YKDFN parallel process and workshop in June with Elders/Youth (to discuss legends, ceremony, oral tradition techniques for passing on knowledge, youth ideas). Larger public meeting meeting and workshop in September to present CFG working group ideas for review.
 - Update received regarding guest speaker for Sept workshop: John’s line of inquiry was not current
 - Kevin to contact Johanne Barnaby;
 - Do YKDFN have suggestions for a guest speaker?
 - France to contact Tom Hanely
 - Shin to follow-up on graphic designers. Follow-up received: Roman Mars is a Bay-area architect, designer, and a host of very well-made design post-cast 99% Invisible. Lots of

good stuff related to communication by space and sound design. He may be able to give us ideas or point us to a good person. He had one episode on WIPP:

<http://99percentinvisible.org/episode/ten-thousand-years/>

- Deline experience, including prophecies as a means to communicate with future generations, was mentioned.

3. Discussion of Level 2 messaging: Signs, Symbols, Simple Text

- What sort of text messaging is needed for the thermosyphons?
- The main threat at Giant is not immediate release, rather it is that knowledge about the management requirements of the site will be successfully communicated. Remember the story at the visitors centre in town where the knowledge to flip a switch to activate the permafrost cooling system was not effectively shared, resulting in extensive and expensive renovations.
- First Principle: What is everything for at the site? An explanatory map and or site model is needed.
 - o What is the water treatment plant for? What are the thermosyphons for? Diffuser?
- Other Principles underlying the messaging:
 - o Rather than “Danger” signs should say “Stewardship” or “Maintenance Required”
 - o Multi-level messaging is needed: “Care for the Land, Care for the People”
 - o Messaging needs to maintain the relationship between the people and the place.
 - o Collaborative approach.
- “Don’t Shoot” Messaging & “How to Maintain” Messaging: example what is normal range for thermosyphons, instructions for maintenance.
- We should assume there will be a break in communication
- There should be signage underground, e.g. don’t drink any leaching water.
- Other signage ideas, perhaps 2 comic strips: 1. Everything is frozen 2. Unfrozen, with toxins leaching, fish floating with x’s on their eyes. Link it to a requirement for electricity: if no electricity, then the dangerous unfrozen set-up
- This should feed into the design, which must have low technology and low energy requirements wherever possible, with plain language instructions.

- The Discussion Forum on the website was mentioned as was the Shadow of a Giant multi-media project.
 - o Kevin forwarded link: <http://www.shadowofagiant.com/>
Shadow of a Giant is an interactive web documentary that tells the story of one Canada's largest environmental disasters, Yellowknife's Giant Mine. Buried in collapsing chambers, within the municipal boundary of Yellowknife, and beside the 9th largest lake in the world, sits 237,000 tons of the highly toxic contaminant, arsenic trioxide, a byproduct of the defunct gold mine. The city of Yellowknife and the surrounding aboriginal communities depend on a remediation plan that will refrigerate the arsenic into place, until a permanent solution can be found. Shadow of a Giant tells the story of Giant through the people who live on top of it and call it home. From the remediation (clean up) team, who work to stabilize the arsenic; to the people who live and work in Yellowknife; to those who worked at the mine; to the proponents of the extraction industry in the north; to the Yellowknives Dene First Nation that live within hundreds of metres of the contaminated site. Their collective voices tell the story of Giant's history. Their ideas of what the Giant mine site could become reflects a painful history for these communities, but also reveals a brighter future for this toxic legacy.

- There was discussion of having a Design Charette with local architecture firms.
 - o Rosanna to follow up about this.
 - o Natalie to follow-up with the architecture association.

Business Items:

4. Revised Terms of Reference were approved. Posted on discussion forum.

5. Discussion regarding including general public/artists in the CFG working group. Rosanna to follow-up with local interested party.

6. YKDFN parallel process: Planning is underway for a workshop with Elders and Youth in June. Elders portion will likely include a review of the project, seeking guidance for how oral tradition can best communicate danger, especially regarding building legends and hosting ceremony. It may include showing a clip of the video if possible. The youth portion will likely include a discussion/survey of how to communicate with future generations as well as a modeling exercise in building monuments and signs.