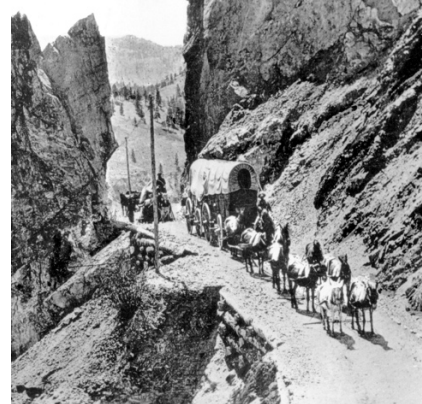
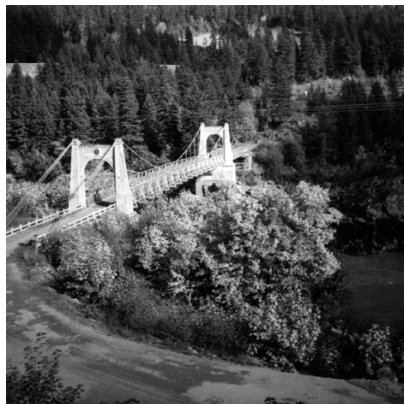


# **SPUZZUM NATION – TIKWALUS PROJECT**

## **HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE CONCEPT**

August 2020



# HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE CONCEPT

## 1.0 Executive Summary

### Introduction

The Spuzzum First Nation project location presents multiple layers of history, containing a wealth of heritage assets, including traditional First Nation sites, iconographic industrial settings and artifacts. The existing tangible and nontangible resources encompass exceptional heritage tourism and educational opportunities.

This interpretive strategy articulates how the unique history of the site and people will be communicated to the public. It will inform the planning process, selection of media, and future design. It should be considered as an integral part of the overall project development process such that it can inform the visitor settings being created (e.g. campsites, day-use and rest areas).

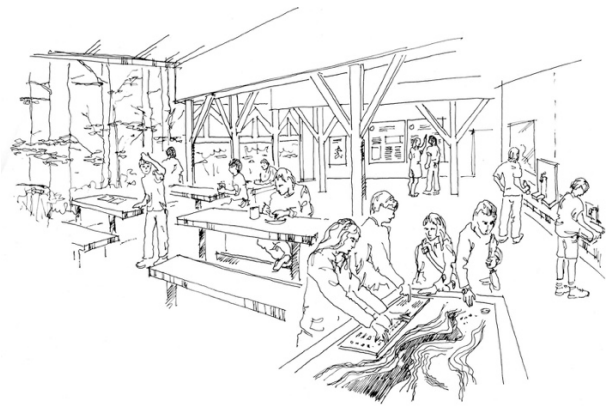
Significant opportunity exists to create compact, meaningful experiences, with the site's physical and nontangible resources.

### Overall Interpretive Strategy and the Site

This interpretive strategy outlines ways in which the site and trails can be enhanced, and the heritage of the site be conveyed to different types of visitors.

The proposed content organization distributes the interpretive materials between strategically located '**Hub**' (Orientation, Information, Overview), and the series of **Interpretive Nodes** associated with the trails. The Interpretive Nodes focus on individual stories supported by specific locations.

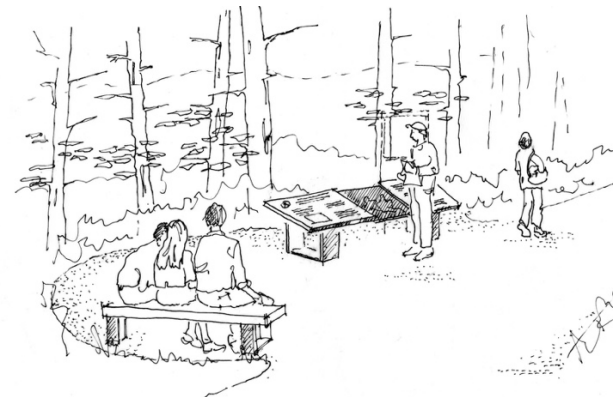
### Interpretive Hub(s) - Primary



## Secondary Hub and Programming Area



## Interpretive Nodes



## Interpretive Objective

To provide users with knowledge and to inspire emotional connections with the site by interpreting its natural and cultural heritage in a manner that is accessible to all.

## Resources

The basis of interpretation is the resource inventory. The resource inventory can be broken down into the following categories:

- In-situ physical resources (artifacts, site natural features, views)
- Historical Images (archives, publications)
- Quotes and oral histories (first person accounts, written and oral history)
- Commissioned art enhancing interpretation (artistic interpretation/expression)

## 2.0 Interpretive Strategy

### Establishing the ‘Voice’

The strategy is based on telling stories from all of the site's various epochs and people over history, led by Indigenous hosts. The hosts will introduce visitors to first-person accounts from different characters who spent time at the site throughout its unique history.

### Proposed Content Organization – ‘Hub and Spokes’

The interpretive content and associated exhibits (interpretive tools) are distributed between the main interpretive shelters (Hubs), and the interpretive nodes which are part of the existing, and new trails.

**The Hub** – provides a big picture overview, connects all the stories, creates a gateway to the site and introduces the host (giving the voice to First Nation).

**Spokes** – are the Interpretive Nodes with individual stories supported by specific locations.

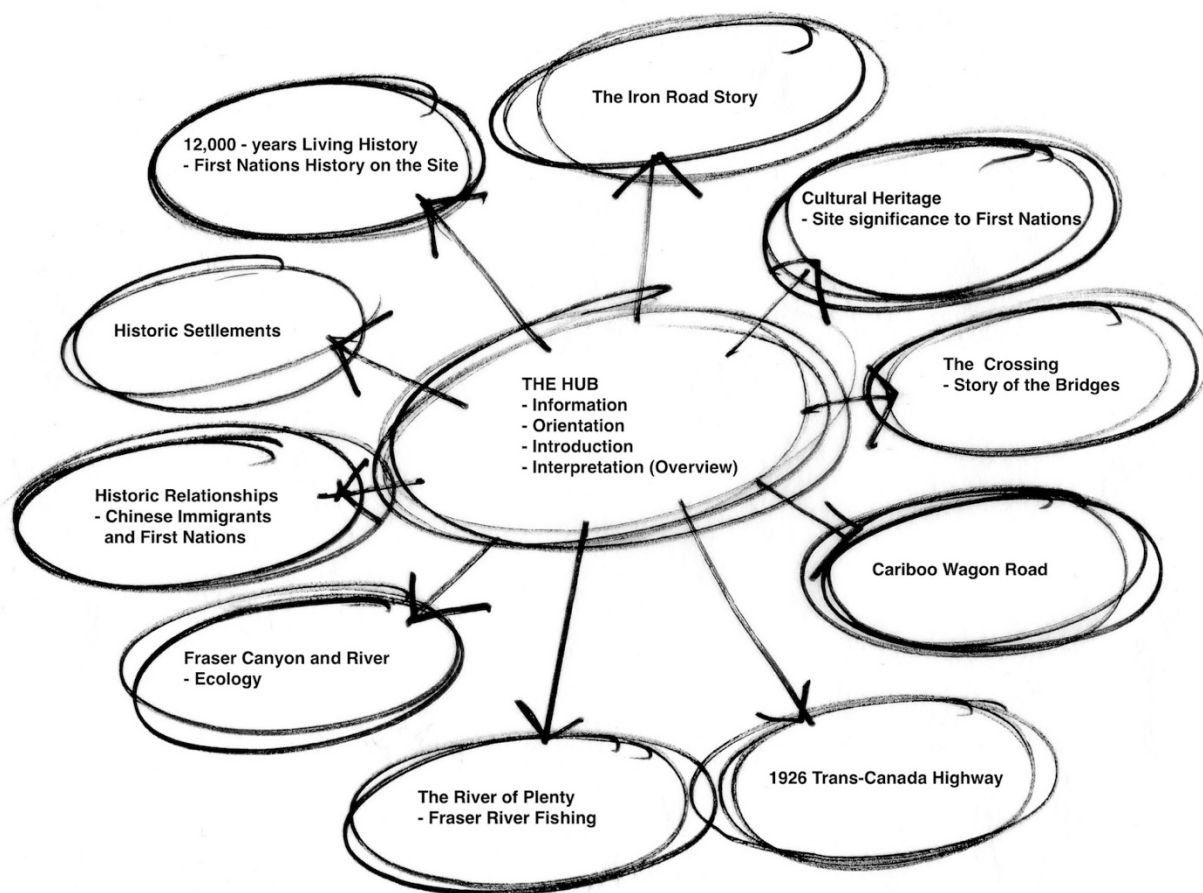
### Specific Design Guidelines

- The centralised (hub) interpretive exhibits will introduce the site and illustrate connections between diverse themes/stories relevant to the site and the area.
- The centralised exhibit, or **hub**, as part of a shelter should be associated with the day-use, parking and camping areas, and function as the interpretive gateway for the whole site.
- The hub should also provide information, (seasonal activities, regulations), and orientation to the trails and the area.
- The interpretive hub should also introduce other relevant opportunities beyond this site. It should serve as a guide to plan a multi-day stay and exploration in the area. (Yale Museum, Tuckkwiowhum Village, Tikwalus Heritage Trail, other)
- A secondary, smaller hub - **introductory kiosk**, possibly as part of a small amphitheatre, or gathering area, could be created for the RV park across the highway. (Smaller version of a hub, with edited content)

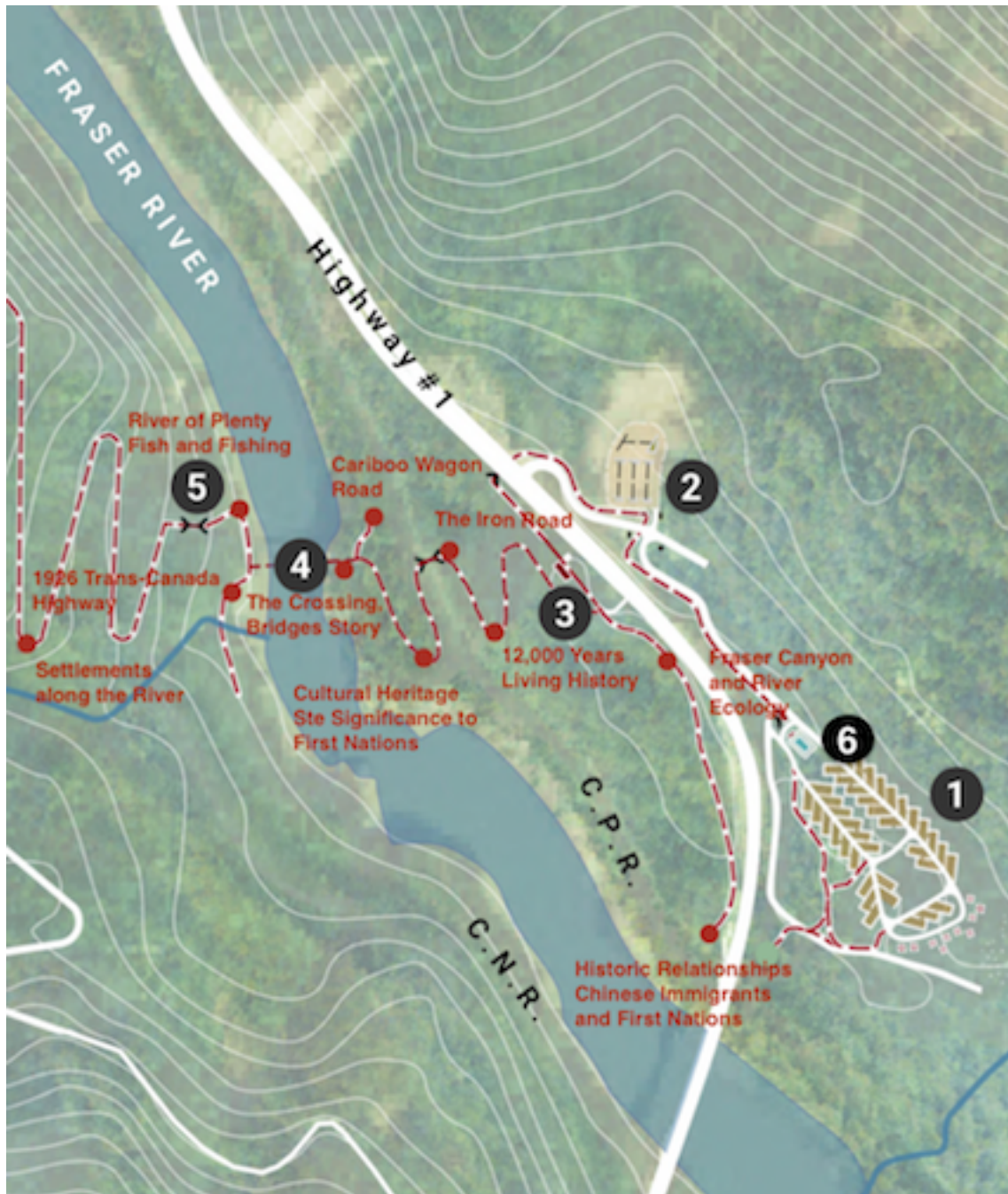


- **Interpretive nodes** for existing and new trails will present themes and topics relevant to the location, taking advantage of the existing resources including artifacts, and views.
- The number of **Interpretive nodes** should be limited to avoid overpowering the site experience. These nodes could be associated with other exhibits such as view framing scopes, tactile models, and small interactive exhibits.

### Overall Interpretive Strategy – ‘Hub and Spokes’ Diagram



## Interpretive Strategy – Site Plan



- **Interpretive Nodes**
- 1 RV Campground
- 2 Day Use / Visitor Parking
- 3 Main (Primary) Interpretive Hub
- 4 Alexandra Bridge
- 5 Pedestrian Underpass
- 6. Secondary Hub/Programming Area

### **3.0 Design Approach – Interpretive Concept**

#### **The Interpretive Hub/Shelter**

The hub will create a portal to the site experience, and it will support the interpretive nodes and other interpretive programs associated with the site and trails.

Characteristics:

- The interpretive components will be seamlessly incorporated into the shelter design. These are: large scale graphics, tactile models, interactive exhibits, topographic display, changeable display for seasonal programs and messages.
- Graphic elements and exhibits can be incorporated into the walls, partitions, and furnishing. (Tables and benches)
- The interpretive hub will function as a gathering space, shelter, space with seating, tables, and amenities.
- Location adjacent to the parking, camping, and day-use area, but screened from the noise and view of cars and traffic.
- Gathering space should be scaled for conducting group activities, and special programs.

#### **Hub General Content**

- Information
- Orientation
- Introduction (Overarching theme)
- Interpretation (Overview of themes and topics)



## The Main (Primary) Hub – Day Use Area



## The Hub – References



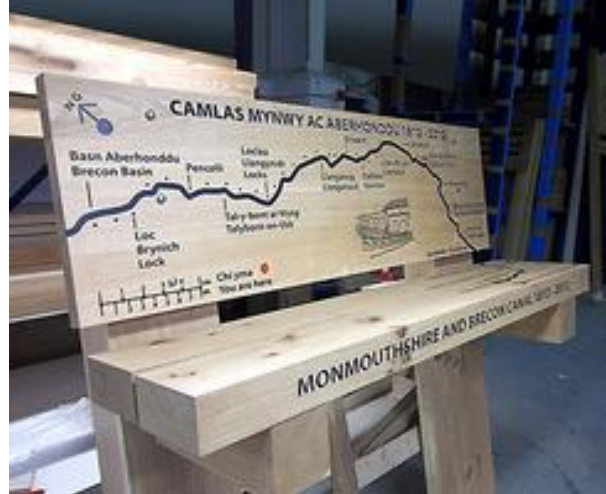












*Graphics and mobile topographic model*

## The Secondary Hub and Programing Area - Parking and RV Campground

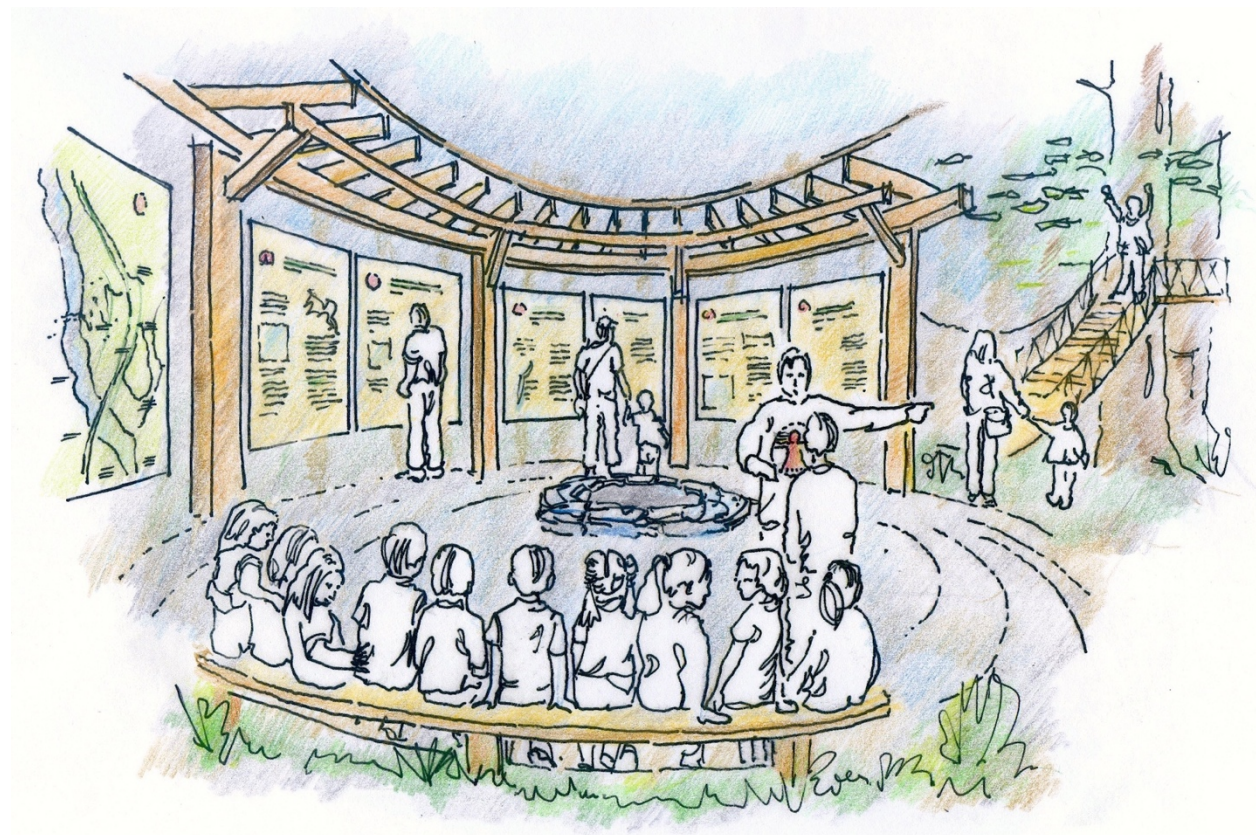
The secondary hub could include a small graphics display structure associated with amphitheatre/gathering place, serving the campsite for RVs and main parking area.

It could also include a thematic play area with climbable wood structures such us a pit house frame, or a bridge.

### Secondary Hub Content

The content should be similar to the main hub. Selected maps and information will be duplicated. The thematic introduction will be edited and shorter, with the intention to direct visitors to the main hub.

### The Secondary Hub





## The Secondary Hub/Structure – References













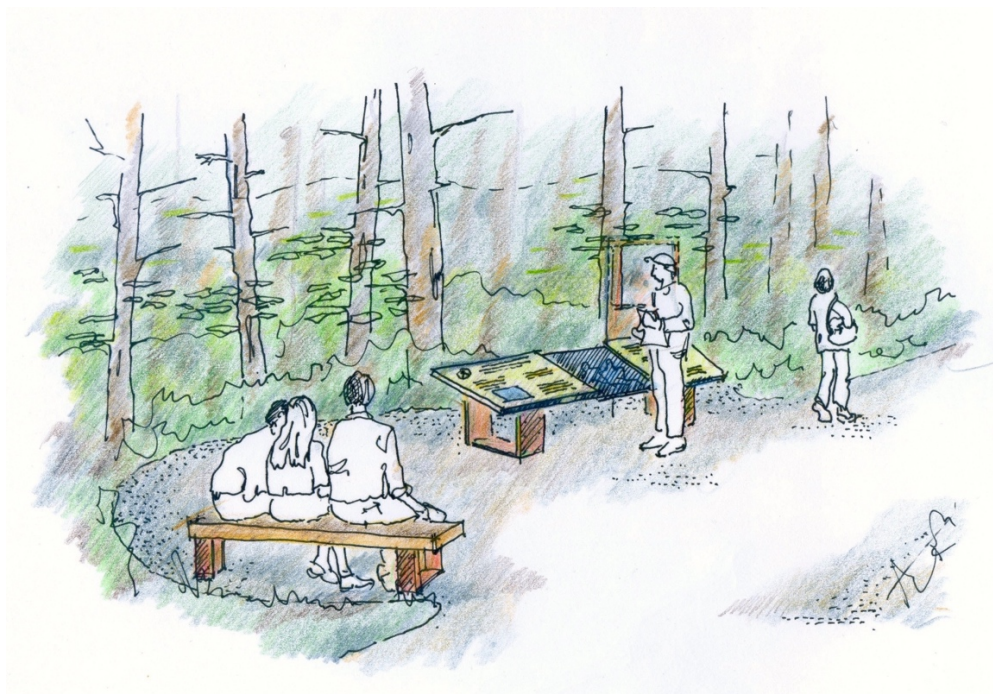
## Interpretive Nodes

The main interpretative devices will be in the form of interpretive nodes that will be placed in strategic locations through the site.

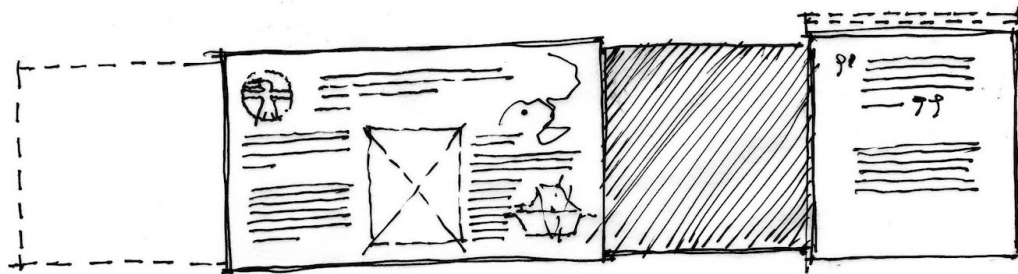
Interpretative nodes should be co-located with items of interest (site natural and man-made features, objects in situ, and views) and be positioned to ensure they are visible to trail users, whilst not detracting from the places they are interpreting. (Placed low in the landscape, leaving clear view corridors)



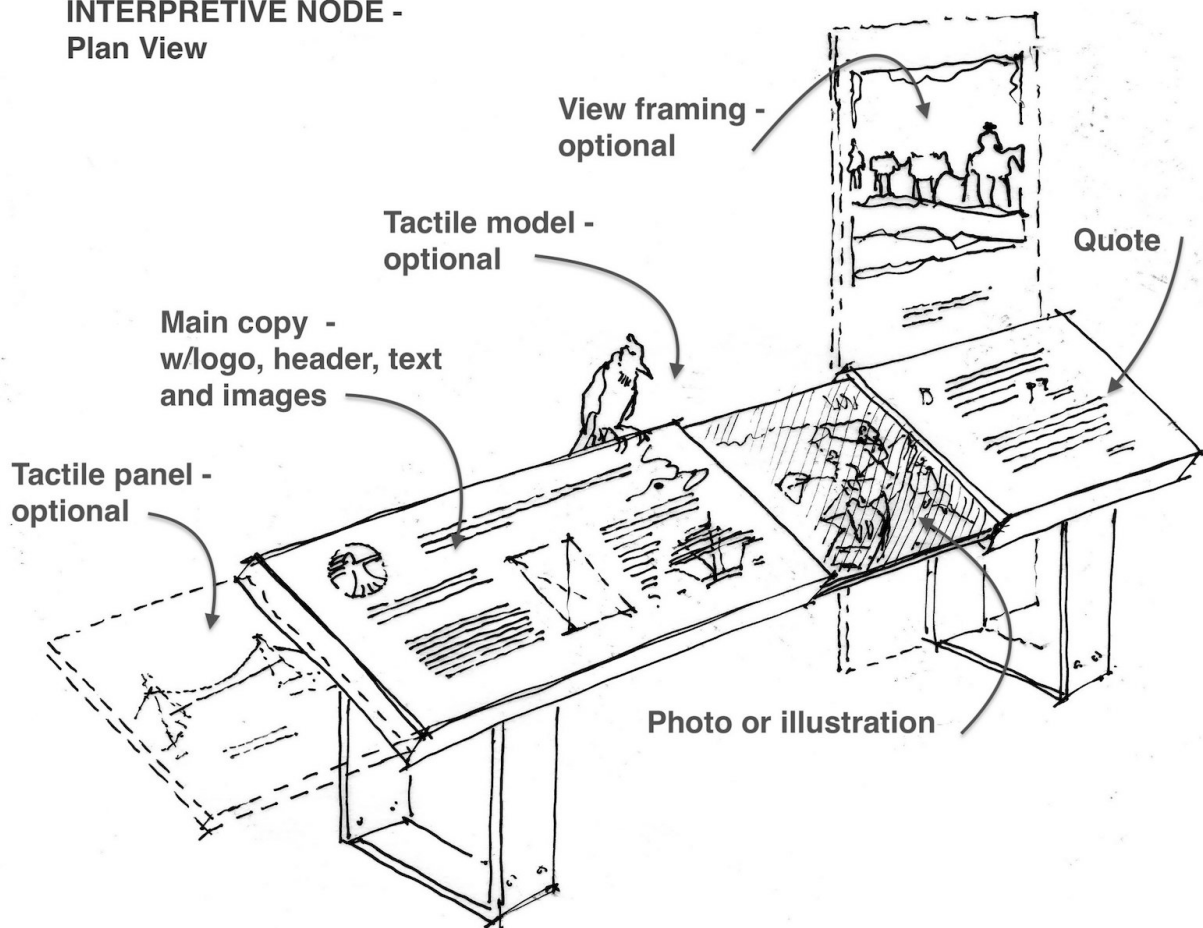
## Interpretive Nodes – Design Vocabulary (Media)







**INTERPRETIVE NODE -  
Plan View**



**INTERPRETIVE NODE -  
components**

## Interpretive Nodes – Interpretive Content (Themes and Topics) and Media

### 12,000-years Living History (First Nations History on the site)

- Archaeology
- Oral history

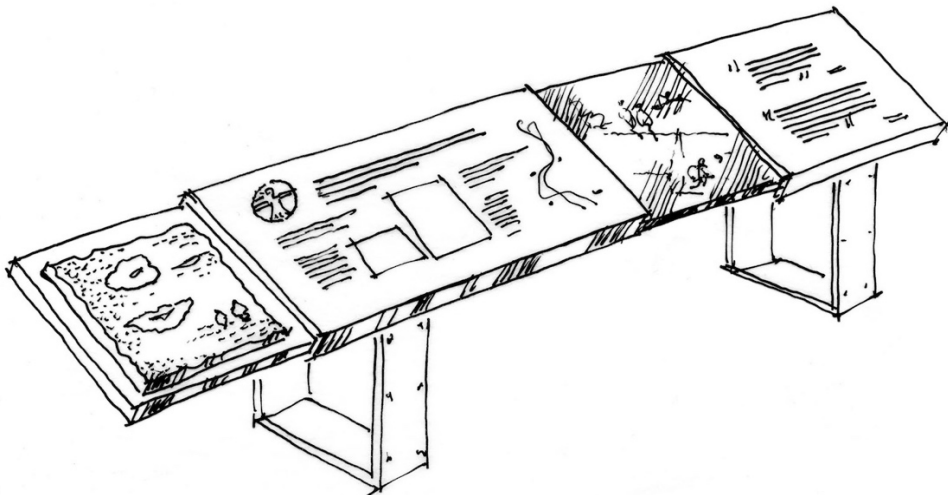
*‘The Nlaka’pamux and Sto:lo First Nations have lived for thousands of years along the Fraser Canyon. There is evidence that an early bridge was built by local First Nations as a way to access important fishing areas along the Fraser.’*

*‘The 12,000-year living history of the Nlaka’pamux is a constant theme, carrying visitors from the end of the last ice age to the present day. It will allow travellers to experience the Aboriginal presence at the site from the distant past to the present: a vibrant First Nations culture that still thrives in this very special piece of the Fraser Canyon.’*

*‘From Simon Fraser’s journey to the building of the CPR to the establishment of relief camps during the Great Depression, the First Nations village of Spuzzum has found itself in the path of virtually every commercial and province-building initiative undertaken in the southwestern interior of BC since 1800.’*

#### Media:

- Graphics (Incl. photo from archaeology dig)
- Tactile stone tools (or other artifacts) replica





## The Iron Road Story

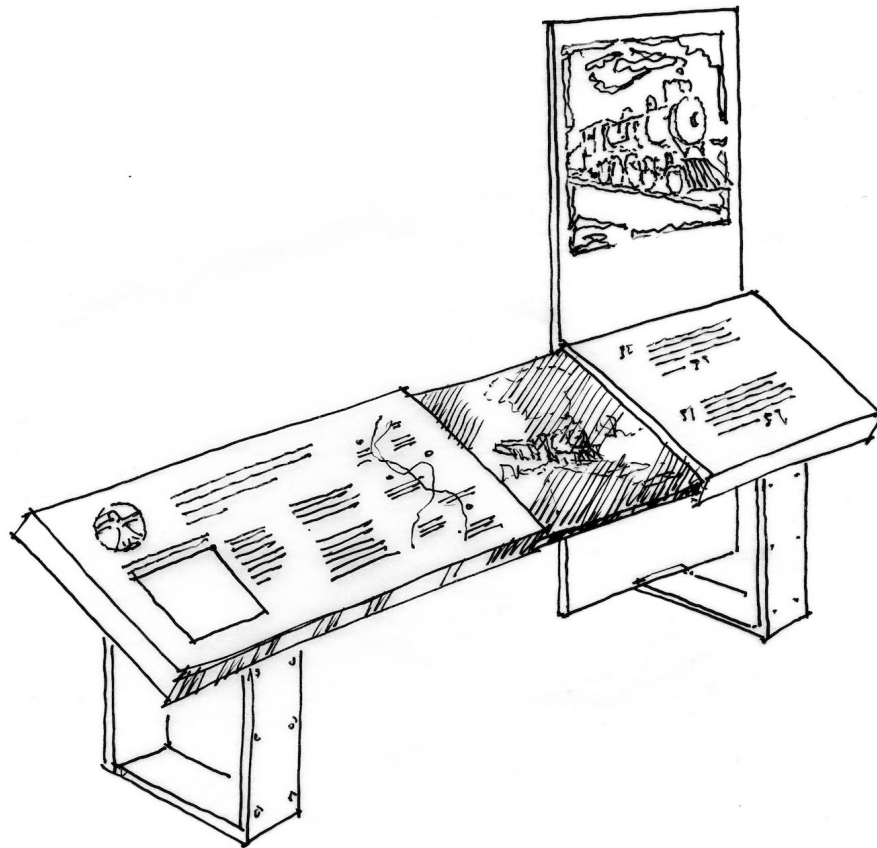
- Canadian Pacific Railway and Canadian National Railway on the site
- First Nations involvement

*'The Iron Road Story Strand: Tells the story of the building of the great National railways; the Canadian Pacific Railway (west bank) and the Canadian National Railway (east bank).'*

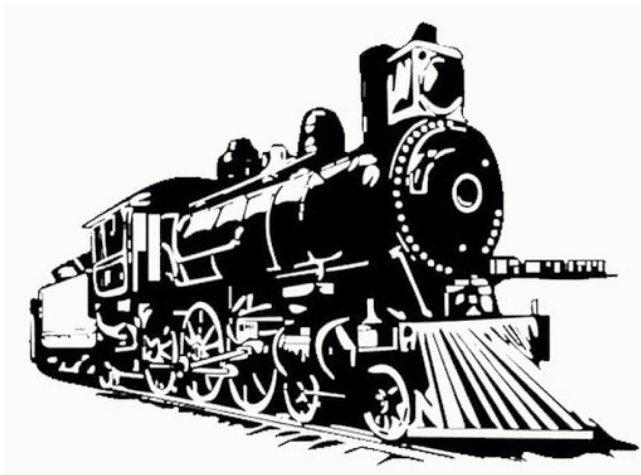
*'Last spike of the CPR signalled an end to a major source of employment for Aboriginal People along the Fraser and Thompson rivers. Although recent histories of the railway's construction have focused on the contributions of Chinese labours, Aboriginal People made up a significant part of the navvies who laid the tracks.'*

Media:

- Graphics (Incl. historic photo)
- View finder with historic train silhouette







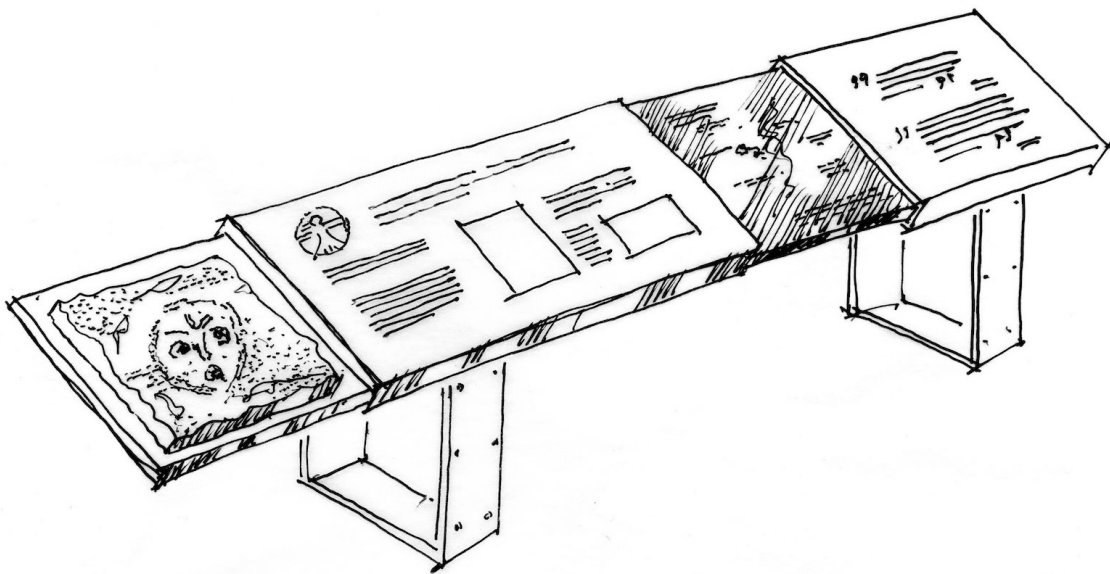
## Cultural Heritage - Site Significance to First Nations

- Traditional connections to the site (habitats, resources)
- Spiritual connections - Transformer Rocks, other stories?

*'The site was of great importance to the Nlaka'pamux, serving as its bread basket and transportation hub. A prime fishing location, this portion of the Canyon was also the probable location of the ancestral village of Tikwalus. It was also strategically located at the hub of a network of trails that led to the coast and the Interior...'*

Media:

- Graphics (Incl. historic photo)
- Tactile petroglyph replica







## The Crossing – Story of the Bridges

- Traditional crossing site
- 1863 Bridge
- 1926 Bridge
- First Nations involvement

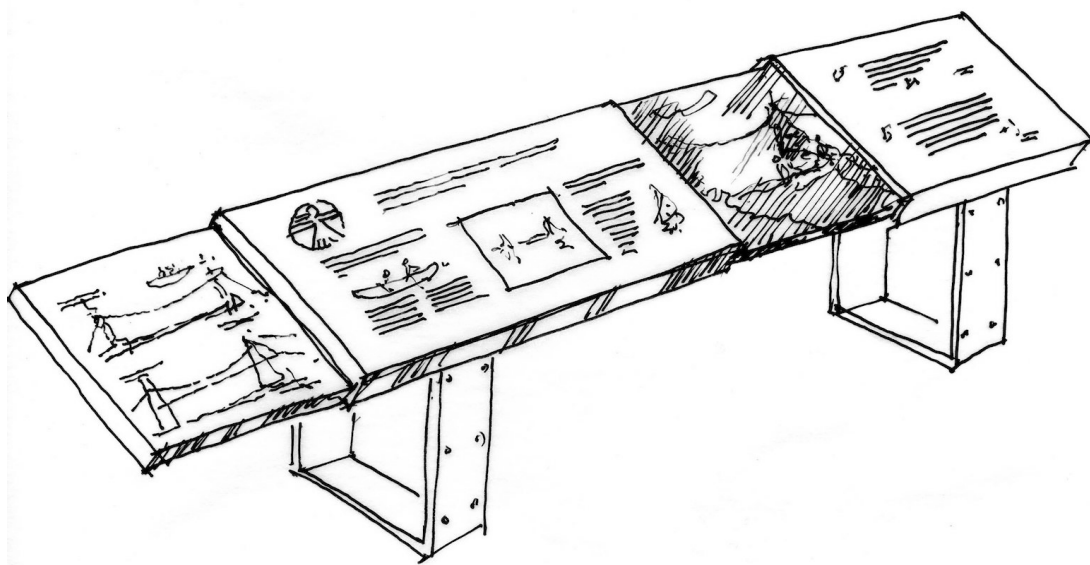
*'This natural crossing point of the Fraser River was used by First Nations for thousands of years and it is the central hub of a network of ancient trails linking the B.C. Interior and the Coast'.*

*'As the miners pushed north, the demand for roads and bridges grew until in 1861, the Royal Engineers chose this site as the best for a bridge across the Fraser. The first bridge, named after the Princess Alexandra of Wales, was completed in 1863, adding yet another layer to the site's already-rich transportation heritage.'*

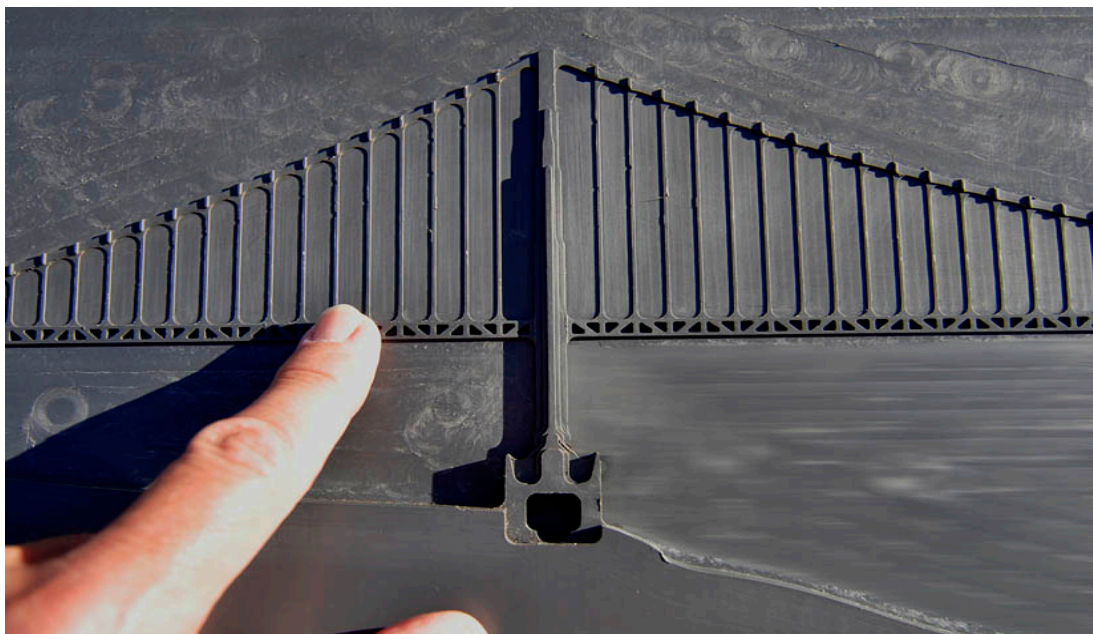
*'The Alexandra Bridge you see today was built in 1926, when the Cariboo Wagon Road was upgraded for automobiles. When you visit this historic suspension bridge today, look for the original 1863 stone footings which can clearly be seen supporting the 1926 structure. The 1926 highway and bridge were superseded by the modern highway we travel today (completed in the early 1960's)'*

### Media:

- Graphics (Incl. historic construction photo)
- Tactile – two bridges bar relief







## Cariboo Wagon Road

- Gold Rush
- Pack Trains
- Canyon War
- First Nations Involvement

*'The world the Nlaka'pamux People had known since time immemorial was turned on its head in 1858 when as many as 40,000 gold seekers flooded into the narrow confines of the Canyon'*

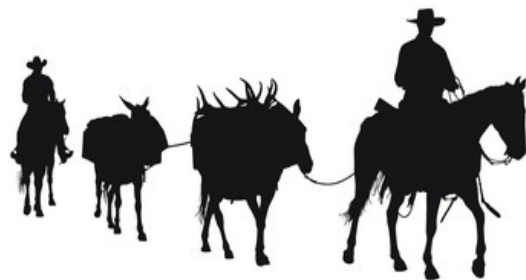
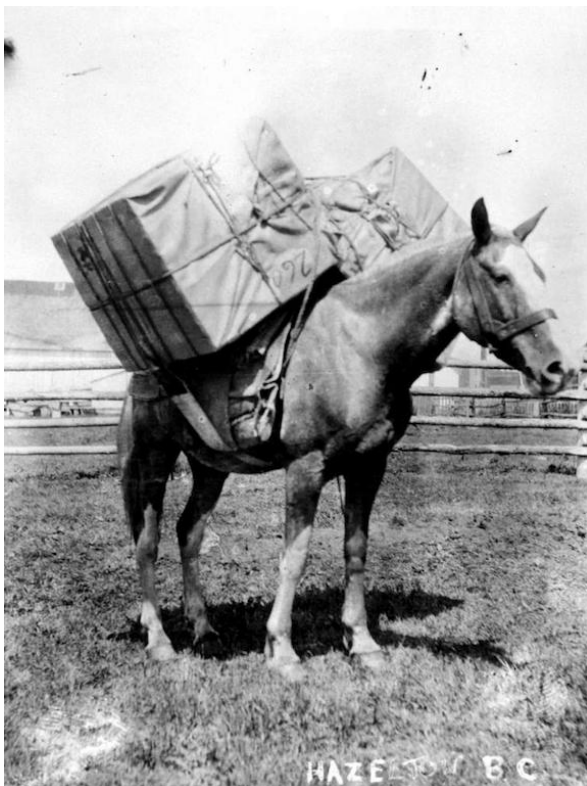
*'In 1862 both Nlaka'pamux and Tait people worked on the construction of the Cariboo Wagon Road. Its completion meant the decline of packing as an enterprise for individual Aboriginal people, as oxen-drawn wagons and long mule trains could transport more freight at one time'.*

### Media:

- Graphics (Incl. historic photo)
- View finder with mule trains silhouette







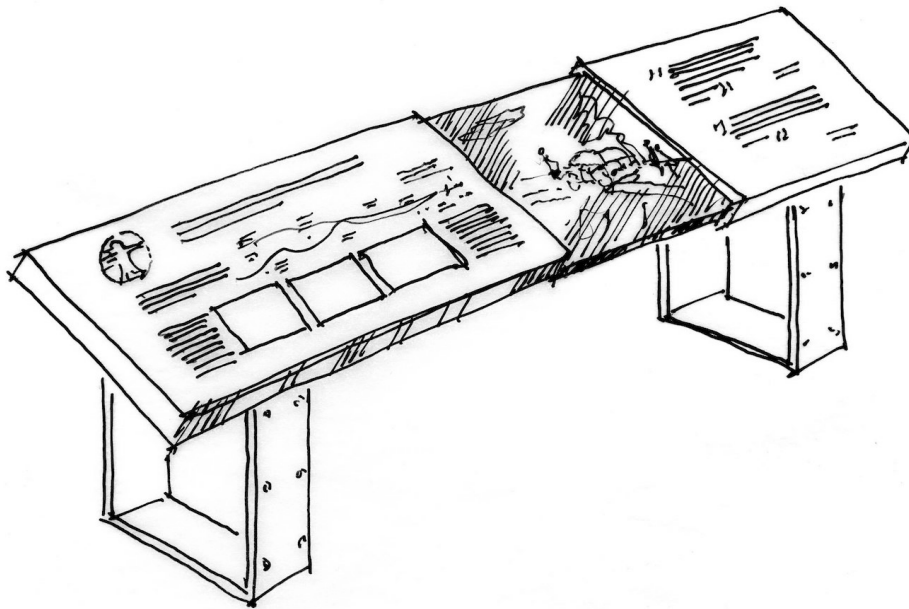
## 1926 Trans-Canada Highway

- Building the highway
- First Nations Involvement
- Cars in the Canyon (Transportation story)
- Changes the highway brought to the First Nations

*'This story traces the rise of the automobile and the astonishing engineering feat of building of the original highway through the Canyon, culminating in the construction of the new Alexandra Bridge in 1926 (built on the same site using the original 1863 abutments). This strand tells the story of how this narrow, graceful span was one of the last links in one of the longest highways in the world, and a marvel of its time. It also shows the changes it brought to the First Nations of the Canyon.'*

Media:

- Graphics (Incl. historic photo)







## The River of Plenty - Fraser River Fishing

- Spring, coho, chum, pink, sockeye - salmon and the river
- Traditional fishing methods
- First Fish Ceremony

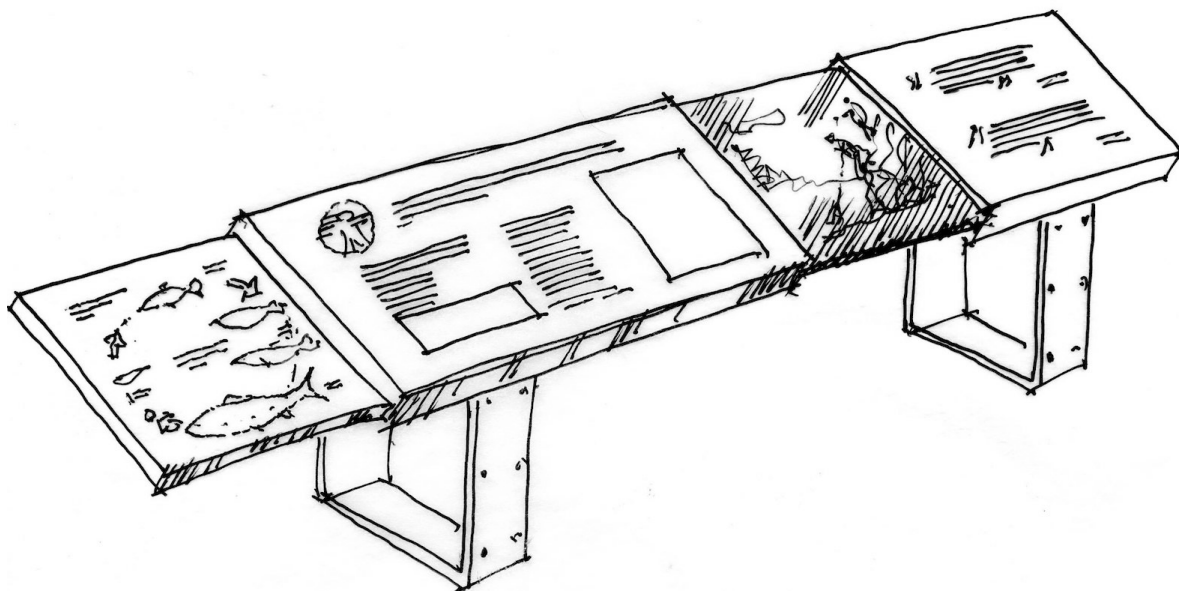
*'The Fraser River is the largest fish producing water course in the province. Because of this, millions of spring, coho, chum, pink and sockeye salmon pass through the park on their way to spawning grounds every year.'*

*'Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park and other areas along the Fraser River were traditional fishing grounds for the Halkomelem (Stalo) and Lower Thompson First Nations. The local native bands still use this area for traditional fishing.'*

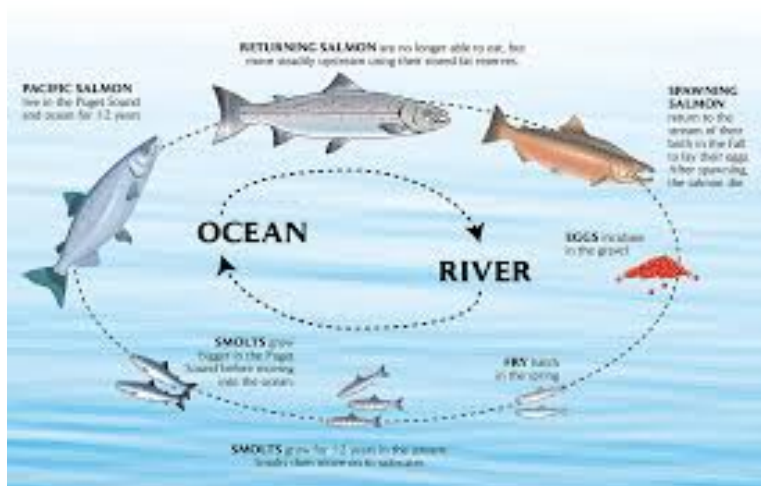
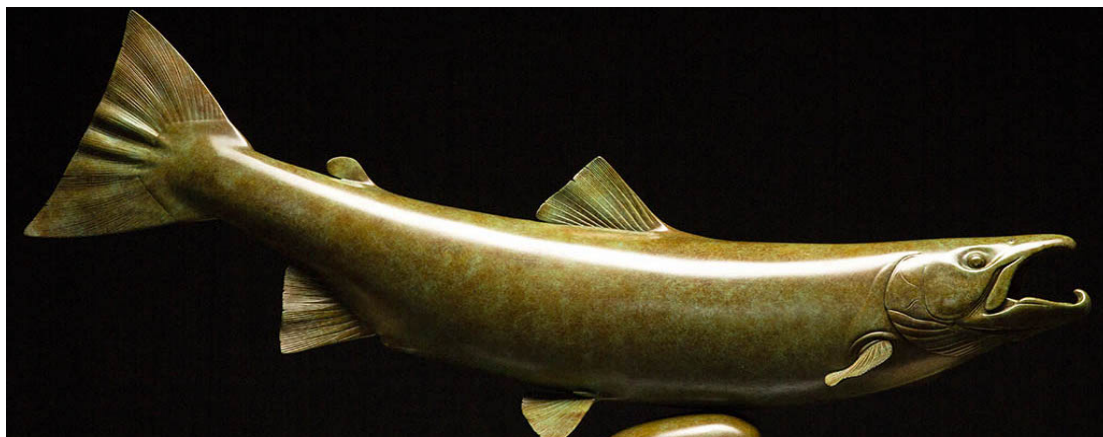
*'From the bridge, you can see fishing sites that have been used for thousands of years. Salmon has traditionally been caught with spears and dip nets from the rocky walls of the canyon, then filleted and hung to dry in hot summer winds. Nlaka'pamux culture is very much alive, and these traditions continue to the present day.'*

### Media:

- Graphics (Incl. historic traditional fishing photo)
- Tactile salmon, or salmon life cycle diagram







## Fraser Canyon and River Ecology

- Site ecological significance
- Landscape characteristics
- Climate change impacts
- Ecological protection and First Nations involvement
- Recreational opportunities

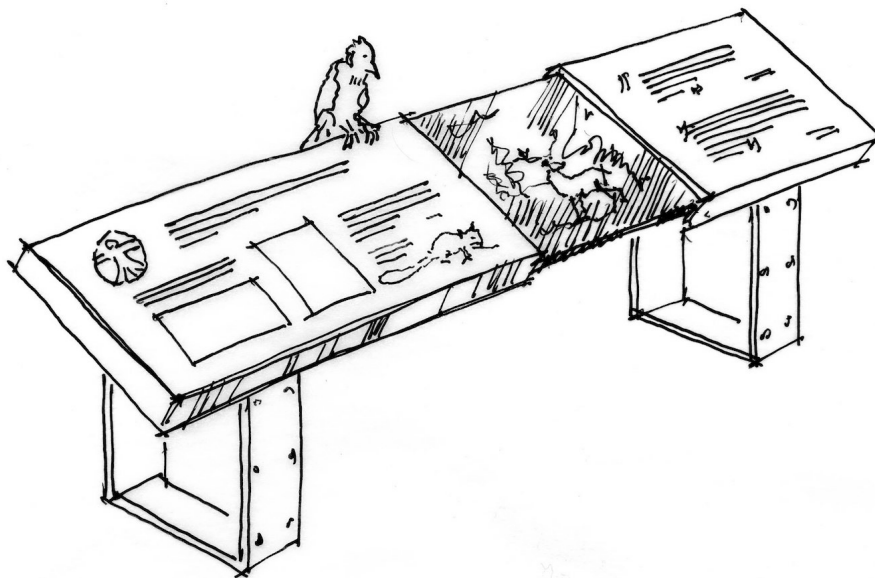
*'The Fraser River has high ecological significance. It is one of the largest salmon spawning rivers in the world. In fact, this river system produces the most salmon out of any other river system. All six salmon species native to the Pacific drainage can be found here with millions of salmon returning each year. Many other fish species can also be found in this river and its estuary. White sturgeon, the largest freshwater fish in North America, is no exception'.*

*'The landscape is characterized by major low elevation valleys and the densely forested mountain slopes of a wet climate. Alexandra Bridge Provincial Park sits at the eastern border of the Western Hemlock forest subzone. As such, it contains many western hemlock, western red cedar and Douglas-fir'.*

*'The Fraser River and its surrounding areas are also important for insects, amphibians and mammals. And people too! This River and its basin offer opportunities for many recreational activities including canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hiking, skiing and camping'.*

### Media:

- Graphics (Incl. photo)
- Sculpted tactile specimen







## Historic Relationships - Chinese Immigrants and First Nations

- The story of Chinese immigration to the region
- Chinese workers, railroad builders, miners – relationship with First Nations
- Cedar – Bamboo relationship

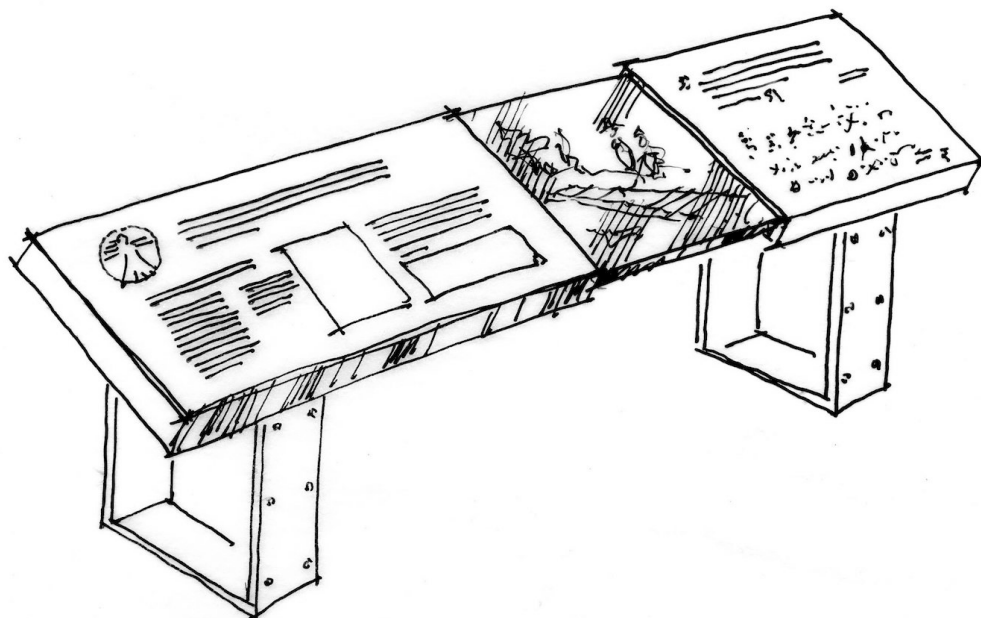
*'Before the railway, before British Columbia joined Confederation, many Chinese were already here. They were farming, mining and logging. They arrived by the hundreds starting in 1858 at the start of the gold rush.'*

*'The story of the Chinese workers who came to British Columbia to mine, herd cattle, open businesses and to work on these monumental railway projects. It will further show the close relationship between the First Nations and the Chinese newcomers -- many of whom married Aboriginal women'.*

*'The most concrete remnants of that history are found on the banks of the Fraser River. There, the Chinese built elaborate gold-mining operations among the First Nations communities'*  
*immigrants to come in contact and interacted with the Aboriginal people'.*

Media:

- Graphics (Incl. historic photo)







## Historic Settlements along the River – First Nation Communities in Lower Fraser Canyon

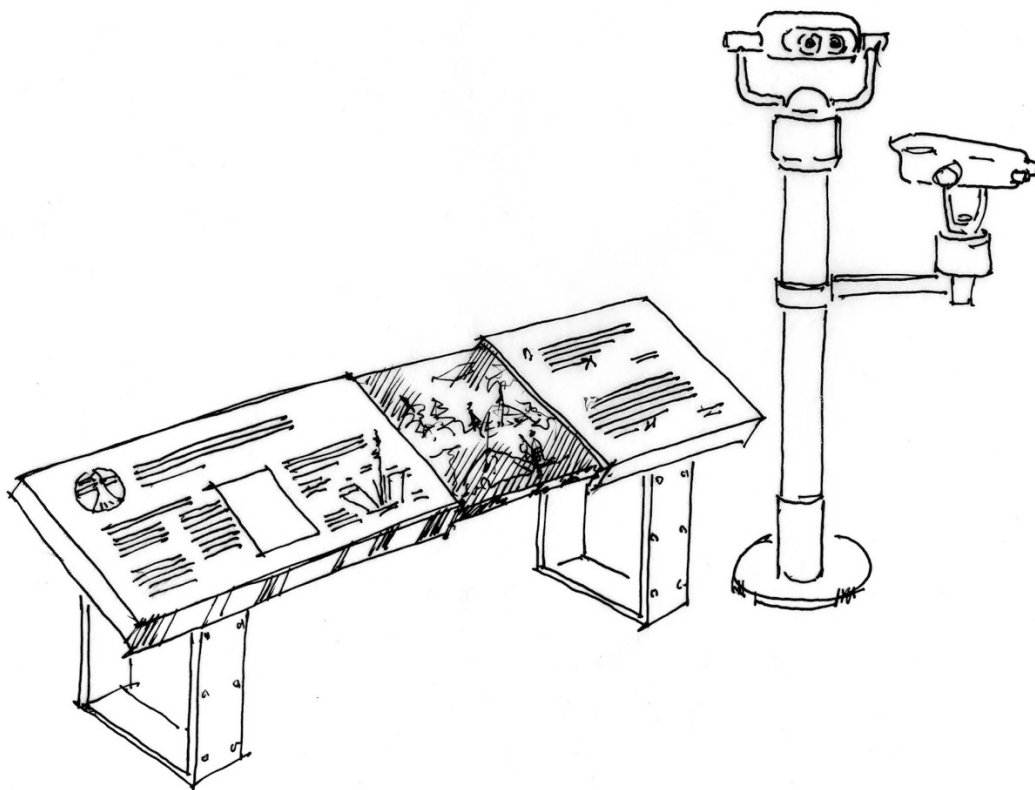
- The story of First Nation communities
- Traditional Fishing areas
- Villages and Camps
- Pit Houses

*‘The country around Spuzzum offered abundant resources for making a living, but in order to use them it was absolutely necessary to have a good knowledge of the land. There were places relatively remote from human habitations, but they had qualities that were important to people’.*

*‘There was no wilderness. Winter villages, fishing stations, summer camping areas, mountains, berry-gathering areas, resting places along the trails – all were named’.*

Media:

- Graphics (Incl. historic villages photo)
- Viewscopes







All quotes for potential storylines and topics from:

*'The ABPPB Project – Reopening BC's Original Gateway' – 2011*

*'New Pathways to Gold' – 2019*

*'Spuzzum – Fraser Canyon Histories' – Andrea Laforet & Annie York*



## Interpretive Nodes – References:









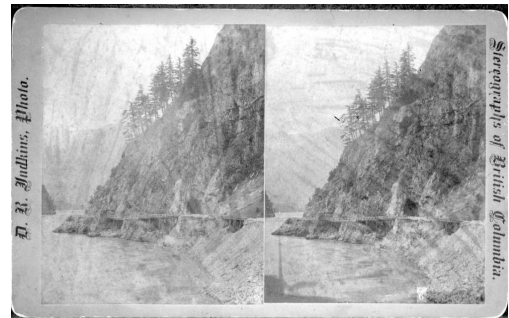
## 4.0 Other (optional) Interpretive Tools and Media

Tactile maps and models (potential location – primary hub)

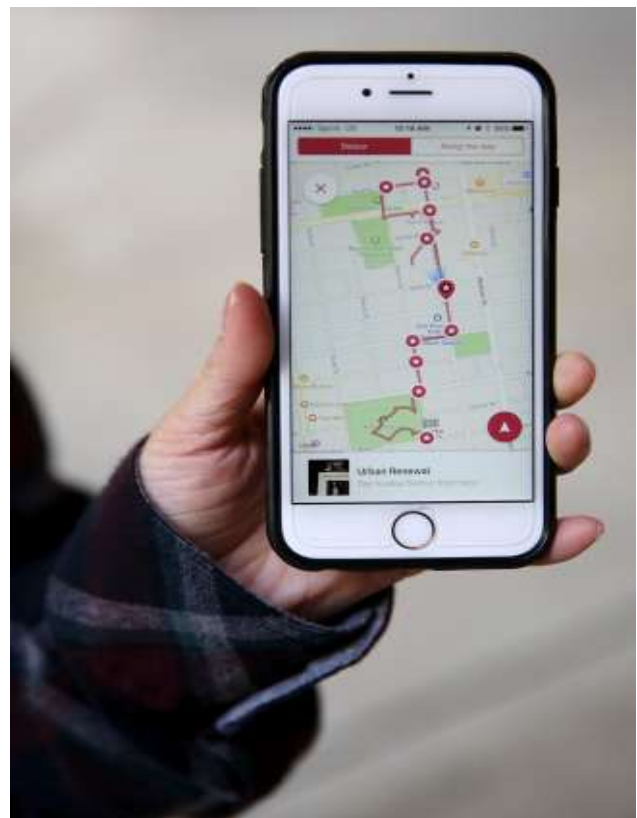




## Stereoscope for historic images (potential location – primary hub)



## Audio stations and audio apps



## Art Installations on site





## Advanced Interpretive Techniques and Applications

- Interpretive Virtual Tours (audio/video)
- Augmented Reality Apps
- Audio Tours
- Virtual Archives





END OF INTERPRETIVE SECTION