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IPinCH Project Wins Prestigious Award

Archaeology of a Japanese Camp: Capilano Field School 2013

Book Reviews and more....

In this Issue

- 1 From the Editor
- 1 Archaeology in the News
- 2 ASBC Page: Past President's Address
- 10 Focus on BC Museums: *SFU Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology*
- 11 From *The Midden Archives*
- 14 New Books

Back Cover Events and Conferences

Features

- 3 IPinCH Project Wins \$50,000 Partnership Award
Compiled from an IPinCH Press Release
- 6 Archaeology of a Japanese Camp in the Forests of North Vancouver: The 2013 Capilano University Archaeology Field School
By Bob Muckle

Book Reviews

- 12 *Alaska Natives and American Law*, By David S. Case and David A. Voluck
By Bruce Granville Miller
- 15 *The Archaeology of North Pacific Fisheries*, Edited by Madonna L. Moss and Aubrey Cannon
By Travis Freeland

SUBMISSIONS

We welcome contributions on subjects germane to B.C. archaeology. Guidelines are available upon request and from the website. Submissions should be directed to the editor by email at midden@asbc.bc.ca.

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IPinCH Project wins \$50,000 Partnership Award

Simon Fraser University archaeologist George Nicholas was delighted to hear that the Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage (IPinCH) Project which he leads won the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's (SSHRC's) first Partnership Award. A grant of \$50,000 accompanies the award, which IPinCH received over two other finalists. The new money will allow the project to expand its work on intellectual property issues in cultural heritage.

The IPinCH project is an international, interdisciplinary collaboration between archaeologists, Indigenous organizations, lawyers, anthropologists, and others who are engaged in investigating intellectual property (IP) issues in cultural heritage that represent emergent local and

global interpretations of culture, rights, and knowledge. Its large-scale use of a methodology that puts Indigenous community partners in the drivers' seat of the research process is unprecedented.

Through 15 global community-based initiatives, case studies and special projects, IPinCH's 52 scholars and 26 partnering universities and organizations are addressing a variety of IP-related concerns about cultural heritage. An initial \$2.5 million SSHRC grant launched the global project in 2008.

Its efforts are reflected in over 47 journal articles, 17 book chapters, nine books, dozens of videos and podcasts, and a long legacy of tangible and practical outcomes that address community needs when it comes to



Figure 1. Mori descendent, Nicole Whaitiri, with a rakau momori (living tree carving) on Rekohu (Chatham Islands). IPinCH has funded a cultural database project with the Mori peoples of New Zealand. Photo Credit: R. Giblin, courtesy Hokotehi Mori Trust.



Figure 2. Elder Albert Elias tries on ancestral snow goggles during a visit to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., part of an IPinCH-supported initiative that saw Inuvialuit Elders, traditional experts, and educators from Canada's Northwest Territories reconnect with a collection of Inuvialuit material culture. Photo Credit: Kate Hennessy

IP and cultural heritage matters. IPinCH has also provided fellowships and employment to 64 graduate students, recognizing that this new generation of scholars will further advance this work.

IPinCH has supported projects developed by indigenous communities from the Canadian Arctic to the Australian outback and the steppes of Kyrgyzstan that reunite them with their cultural artifacts, stave off linguistic extinction, develop cultural tourism and accomplish much more.

Highlights of IPinCH Projects and Achievements

Hokotehi Moriori Trust: Heritage Landscape Data Base (Rehoku, New Zealand) has produced a unique database of traditional knowledge of cultural landscape that brings together elders and youth in the process of recording and preserving their heritage (Figure 1).

A Case of Access: Inuvialuit Engagement with the Smithsonian's MacFarlane Collection (Northwest Territories, Canada) brought together community members and filmmakers to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. to reunite them with artifacts and clothing collected 150 years ago. In addition to providing access to knowledge about tools and other artifacts, the project fostered the reintroduction of traditional clothing styles in the collection back into the community (Figure 2).

Cultural Tourism in Nunavik (Quebec, Canada) involved a research team from the Avataq Cultural Institute meeting with community members to identify heritage values and to seek ways to protect the Inuit language and heritage in the context of cultural tourism that is part of the provincial government's Plan Nord.

Nicholas sees the Partnership Award as SSHRC's validation of IPinCH's unparalleled work in supporting indigenous communities across the globe in protecting their cultural heritage and intellectual property. He also sees the award as a reflection of SSHRC's and academics' growing recognition of the validity and value of community-based participatory research as a primary methodology in working with indigenous communities.

"To obtain SSHRC's original grant, it took us several attempts to convince the adjudication committee that giving considerable control of the research process to the partnering communities—in essence allowing them to lead the research—is the way to go," explains Nicholas.

IPinCH's support of indigenous communities in reclaiming and more fully controlling their cultural heritage is winning those communities' praise. During a

Grassroots Heritage Resource Preservation and Management in Kyrgyzstan (Krygystan) has focused on developing sustainable, culturally-appropriate, and community-embedded projects, including a focus on cultural tourism, that address the preservation and educational use of intellectual property and cultural heritage. The project has developed school materials, museum exhibits, and radio programs. One of the team members has recently become the first Minister of Cultural Heritage and preservation in Kyrgyzstan.

Treaty Relations as a Method of Resolving IP Issues (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, Canada) studied the political relationship established between First Nations and Canada through 19th century treaties. The results may provide a framework for helping to resolve outstanding intellectual property and heritage issues today.

Yukon First Nations Heritage Values and Heritage Resource Management (Yukon, Canada) involves researchers from the Champagne & Aishihik First Nations Heritage, Carcross-Tagish First Nation Heritage, and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. They worked together to identify local conceptions of heritage values and best practices to manage their heritage resources on self-governed settlement lands.

recent meeting of IPinCH team members, Anishinabe Elder Sydney Martin, from the United States, remarked: "IPinCH is a living thing; it has a spirit."

Archaeologist Susan Thorpe, who works on an IPinCH-supported project in which New Zealand's Moriori have created a database to preserve traditional knowledge of their cultural landscape, has witnessed the project's positive outcomes firsthand.

"We have found that engaging in research with IPinCH members as collaborative partners has enhanced our control over our intellectual property," says Thorpe. "We've created a multi-layer database that ties together research on Moriori identity, heritage protection, land use and resource management in culturally sensitive ways."

Nicholas, a 25-year veteran of teaching about and working with indigenous communities, says IPinCH has a shopping list of projects to be financed by the SSHRC Partnership Award. At the top of the list are:

- A community-based research workshop and public symposium that will bring together team members involved in case studies to share their findings with one another and to work towards making their studies more accessible to broader audiences.
- An IPinCH national research ethics policy forum that will engage researchers, government, policy makers, funding agencies and representatives from indigenous organizations and communities in improving existing and developing new effective ethics policies. This event will include speakers and participants from across Canada and abroad, and draw on IPinCH's development of innovative approaches as case examples.
- A public speaker series on intangible cultural heritage as a way to share study findings and highlight the project's innovative approach to research.

Learn more about the work of the IPinCH Project by visiting their website at www.sfu.ca/ipinch/.

Article Submissions for *The Midden*

Are you involved in research or a field project that relates to B.C. archaeology and would be interesting to *Midden* readers? If so, please consider contributing an article. *The Midden* publishes four times a year, so articles will normally appear within three to six months of submission.

Submissions of any length are welcome - articles normally range between 750-3000 words, but longer submissions will be considered. Accompanying illustrations are welcomed, but it is the author's responsibility to obtain necessary permissions. Submission guidelines are available on our website (www.asbc.bc.ca) or from the editor (midden@asbc.bc.ca).

In our next issue:

Just over the mountain: The archaeology of gold rush history in the Fraser Canyon

Brian Pegg, Colin Cromarty, Jillian Elcock, and Nadine Martin report on the 2013 Kwantlen Polytechnic University's field school in the Fraser Canyon.



Scapula Points: A B.C. Coastal Enigma

Laura Termes analyses a collection of bone artifacts housed at SFU's Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, and proposes a new classification for these interesting objects.