



Wanuskewin

**THE JOURNEY TO BECOME
SASKATCHEWAN'S FIRST UNESCO WORLD
HERITAGE SITE**

AGENDA

- Introduction
- Heritage
- Mission
- Wanuskewin
- Recognition
- Bison Story
- UNESCO
- Takeaways



INTRODUCTION





HISTORY & HERITAGE

- Visited by all First nations over 6400 years
- Archaeological
- Heritage
- Culture
- Home to one of the most unique Bison herds in the world

MISSION & VISION

Mission: To advance the understanding and appreciation of the evolving cultures of the Northern Plains Indigenous peoples.

Vision: Wanuskewin will be a living reminder of the peoples' sacred relationship with the land.





WANUSKEWIN

- Saskatchewan Destination
- Interpretive Programming
- Exhibits and Galleries
- Conference Spaces
- Culinary
- Conservation
- Culture & Bison
- Land

RECOGNITION

- Tourism Association of Canada – Top Indigenous Tourism Destination in Canada – WINNER 2016 & 2019
- Tourism Saskatchewan – Business of the Year – 2020
- National Trust of Canada – Transformative Project – 2021
- Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Heritage – Physical Heritage Conservation Award – 2021
- First Inductee into Hospitality Saskatchewan Hall of Fame – 2022
- *Canadian Grocer Impact Awards* - DIVERSITY EQUITY and INCLUSION 2023





2021 Brian Eckel Awards of Excellence “Wanuskewin Heritage Park Bison Facilities Project”

- State of the art bison handling building (2400sq ft)
- Berlinic squeeze chute
- 180 acres of paddocks
- Fenced sorting facility and
- Restored to native prairie grasses for bison sustainability



BISON STORY



MEET THE HERD

- Conservation herd
- Herd of 33
 - 12 Male
 - 21 Female
- Bison Paddocks 428.15 acres
- Original herd 11 in 2019, grown by 22 since arrival
- 2020, 2021 and 2022 bison sorted by gender to give shots, immunizations and pregnancy checks
- Restoration of previously cultivated field restored back to native species and completed in 2022
- Moving and sorting to prevent overgrazing
- Found petroglyphs near watering bowl
- Born on special dates
- Special herd





PROJECT PILLARS

- Pillar 1: Bison
- Pillar 2: Expansion/Renovation
- Pillar 3: Land Management
- Pillar 4: UNESCO





**United
Nations
Educational
Scientific &
Cultural
Organization**

UNESCO NOMINATION PACKAGE



What

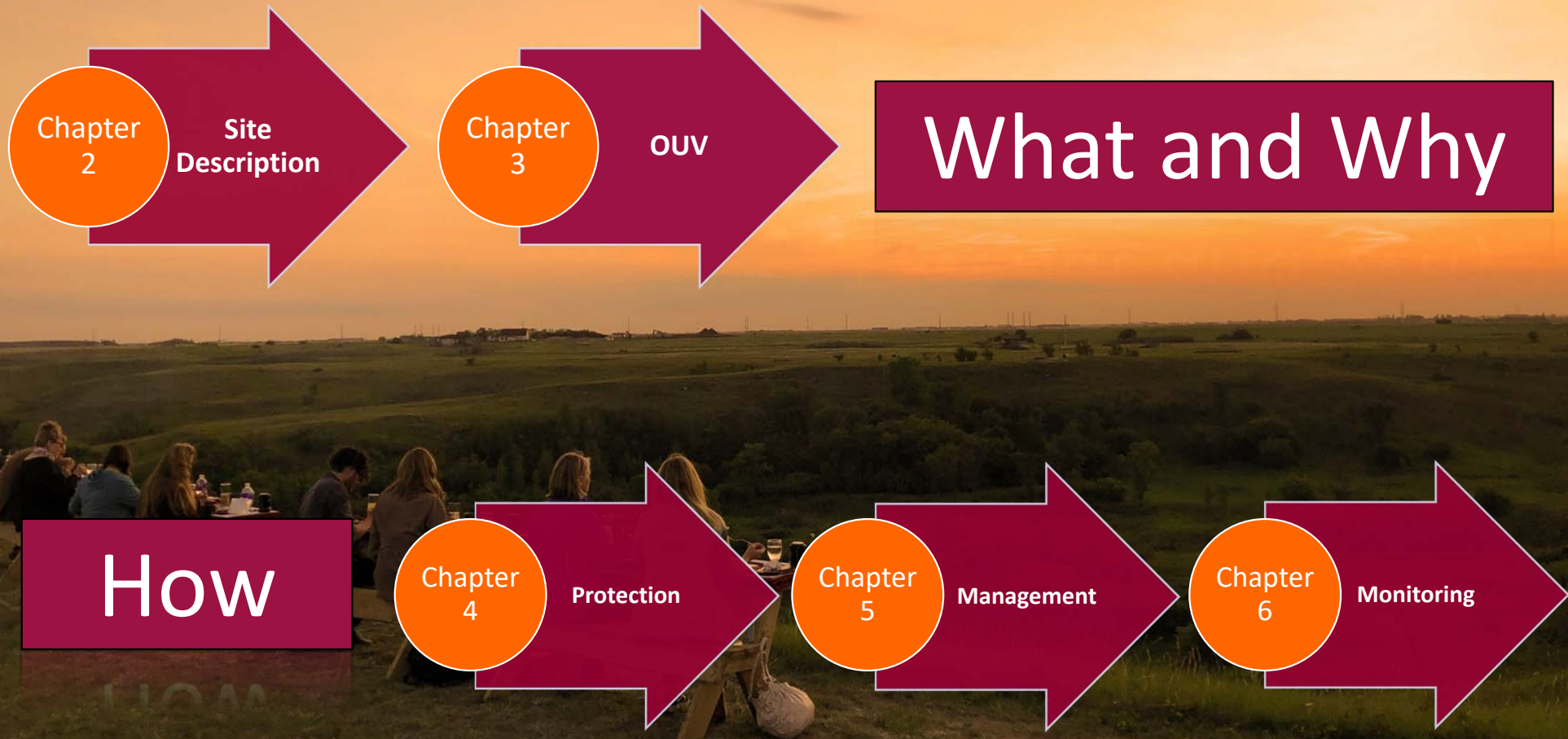
Why

OUV

“Outstanding Universal Value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity.

Source: <https://whc.unesco.org>

NOMINATION PACKAGE



On the Road to UNESCO

The Road So far.....

With a large team,
dedicated committees,
experts, and supporters, we
are well positioned in our
bid for UNESCO Designation





BENEFITS of UNESCO

- **Increased interest in preservation and conservation**
- **Community engagement and provincial pride**
- **International awareness**
- **Reconciliation and education opportunities**
- **UNESCO networks and education opportunities**
- **Increased tourism and economic**

UNESCO CHALLENGES

- Maintaining designation
 - Conserving
 - Preserving
 - Management
- Dollars and Sense
 - Capacity
 - Sustainability



DOING IT DIFFERENTLY



A unique partnership between
Co-Op Gold & Wanuskewin Heritage Park





COOP Food Line

- Working with COOP to market new food line
- 4 Products:
 - Burgers, Sausage, Jerky and Sticks
- Sources local Bison producers
- 4 objectives: UNESCO awareness, brand, revenue and reconciliation
- Fosters creativity, innovation and reconciliation
- Contributes towards sustainability





TAKEAWAYS

- Saskatchewan's first UNESCO site
- Your role and advocacy
- Benefits
 - Saskatchewan
 - Land
 - Bison
- Thank you



unesco
READY

together with you,
ready for the world.