

# Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Initiative

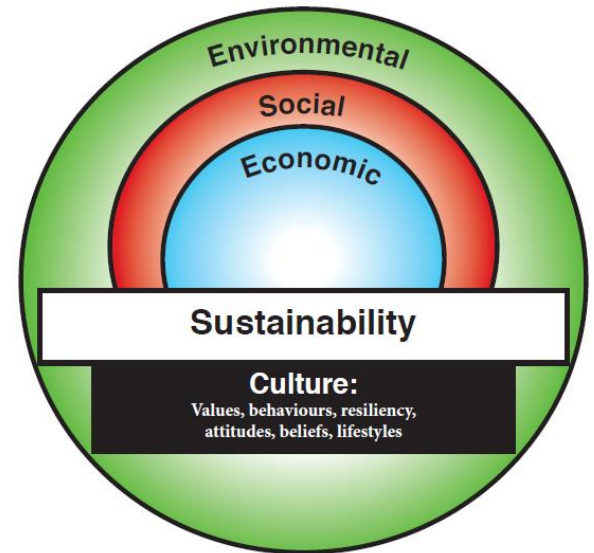
9th Global RCE Conference  
November 6-7, 2014  
Okayama, Japan



# Sustainability

Meeting our needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

(Our Common Future 1987)



Douglas Worts, 2010

“Culture in the Winds of Change”

- Adapting through our cultures (how we live).
- Appreciating limits (e.g., oil, fresh water) & the behaviour of complex systems.
- Responding to feedback about our ideas, choices, and actions.

# Role of Heritage

Without a commitment to heritage, our attempts to live sustainably “will remain rootless and bear short-lived results. Ecomuseums are one of the best ways to bring people to consciousness...”

De Varine, H. (2006) Ecomuseology and sustainable development. *Museums & Social Issues* 1:225-231.

# An Ecomuseum

Gives community residents “a dynamic way in which to preserve, interpret, and manage their heritage for sustainable development.”

Murtas, D. and P. Davis. (2009). *Museums and Society* 7:150-186.

# An Ecomuseum

A locally-driven, place-based organization that encourages sustainable community development, based on heritage conservation and interpretation.

Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Initiative – Nov. 2013

# ECOMUSEUM (c. 1970)



"...an agreement by which a local community takes care of a place."

# Potential Outcomes

- Increased social cohesion, conflict resolution, and awareness
- Conservation and interpretation of “living heritage” - natural and cultural
- Environmental monitoring
- Low-impact tourism

# Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Initiative

## Government of Saskatchewan

- Growth & Opportunities
- Improving QOL
- Responsive & Responsible Government

## Parks, Culture & Sport

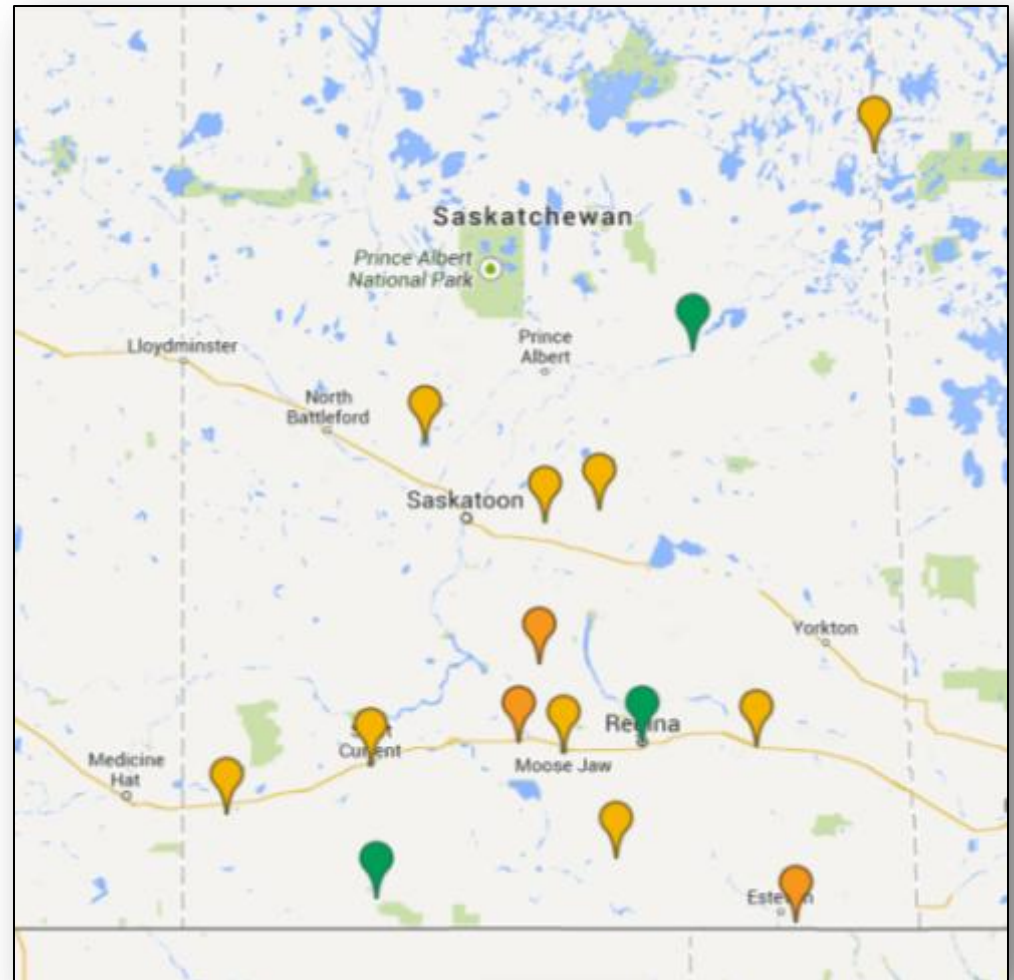
- Heritage resources
- Creative arts and culture
- Tourism

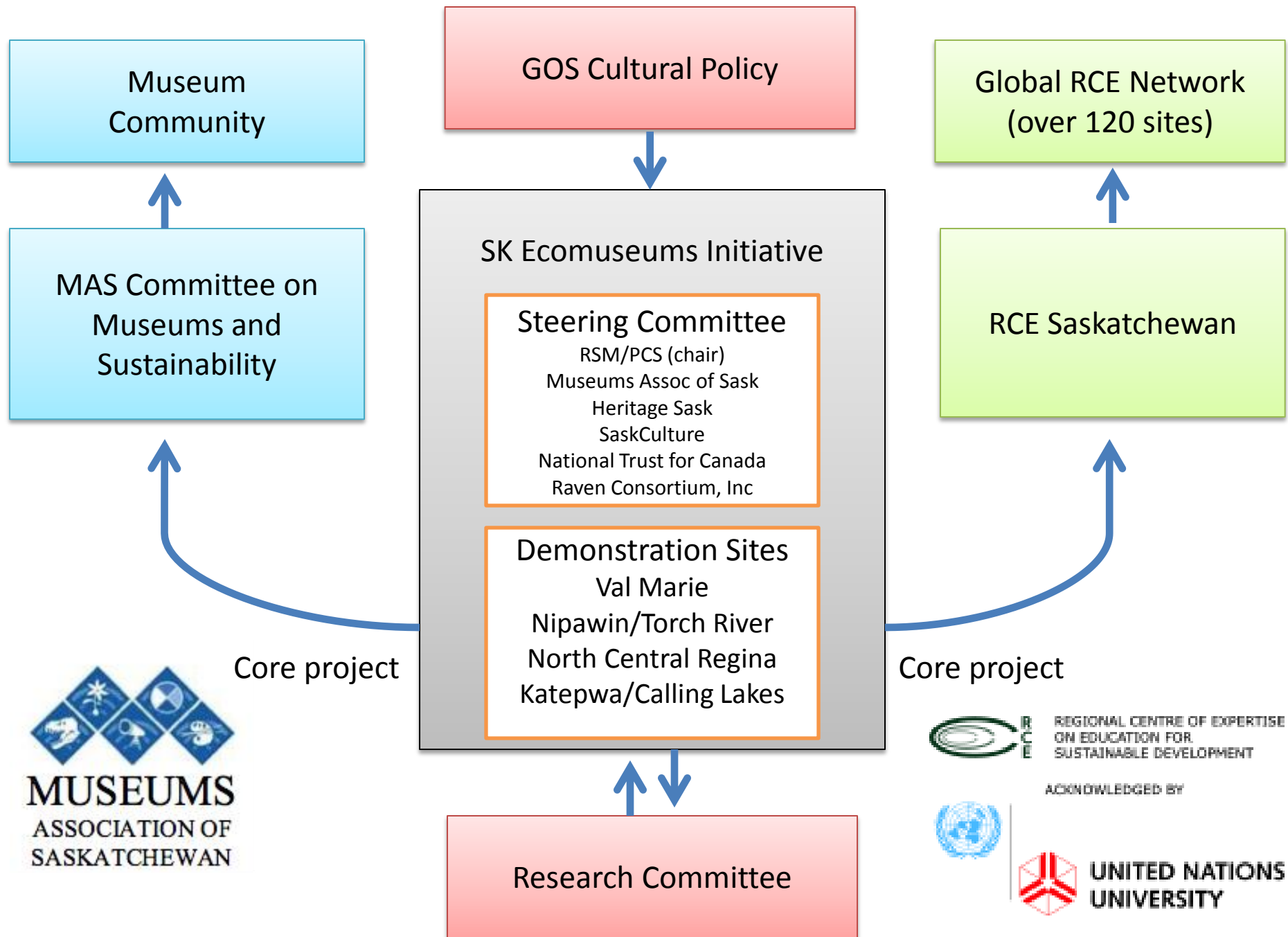
## Royal Sask Museum

- Sustainability Education
- Biodiversity



# The SEI = A Provincial Partnership, and a Network of Potential & Active Sites







Initial steps included an invitational workshop, which took place in Feb 2013 and gave rise to a Planning Framework ➔ Vision, Principles and Demonstration Sites

# Project Development

- Steering Committee
- Feasibility Study
- Targeted Articles
- Focus of 2015 Heritage Week
- Peer-reviewed Research



## We Need to Talk!

Living Heritage, Ecomuseums and Community Development

When it comes to sustainable community development, models from the past are re-emerging to show the way forward. The concept of the Ecomuseums has long recognized *Living Heritage* as a vital component of daily life and of communities. 'Living' may not be the adjective generally used to describe 'Heritage,' however it is a concept that is intuitively understood. Our values, beliefs, ways of living and surroundings are shaped by family, friends, and teachers, as well as our own lived experience. This *Living Heritage* in turn, shapes our landscapes, our sense of identity, belonging and place in the world. Who we think we are and where we come from, as well as, where we are and what we do, in large measure determines our ability to participate in and contribute to our communities.

Just over a decade ago, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) set the standard

*is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity. For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international human rights instruments, as well as with the requirements of mutual respect among communities, groups and individuals, and of sustainable development.*

Ecomuseums were first developed in France in the 1970's focussing on a holistic approach to heritage preservation and interpretation that combined an acknowledgment of both tangible and intangible heritage. The Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Initiative steering committee Chaired by Glenn Sutter of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum includes


in Heritage  
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society of  
SaskCulture. These  
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shaping the present  
es for the future. In

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### Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Feasibility Study

Prepared for:  
Royal Saskatchewan Museum

November 22, 2013



UR  
business  
centre for  
management development



University  
of Regina





# Demonstration Sites

- Val Marie
- Nipawin/Torch River
- North Central Regina
- Katepwa/Calling Lakes
- Moose Jaw?
- Wolseley?





# Recent Steps

- Article in North Central Regina newsletter
- News stories about Val Marie and Katepwa
- Applying for a grant for research and a national symposium in 2015

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Tuesday, 21 October 2014 12:48

## Eco-museum gives new dimension to PWSS activities

Written by Matthew Liebenberg

**The Fort Qu'Appelle Times**  
September 27

Nearly 20 students from Luther College at the University of Regina visited Katepwa for a daylong field school. The students are learning how to build eco-museum about the Calling Lakes region with biology professor Mary Vetter. Friends of K... [See More](#)



# Sask Ecomuseums Initiative

## For details:

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