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MEDIA RELEASE

Province pledges \$2.5 Million to Landscape of Grand Pré World Heritage Trust

Kentville, Nova Scotia, November 14, 2011- The province of Nova Scotia today announced the creation of a \$2.5 million contingent trust to help preserve and interpret the Landscape of Grand Pré upon successful inscription as a World Heritage Site. The announcement was made this morning by the Honourable Dave Wilson, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, at the Grand-Pré National Historic Site in Grand Pré, Nova Scotia.

Today's announcement comes as the nomination proposal is being evaluated by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in anticipation of a possible inscription in July 2012. Since submitting the proposal in February 2011, Nomination Grand Pré, the group responsible for preparing the nomination dossier, has been working on strengthening partnerships and resources for the long-term preservation of the site.

"The provincial contingent trust represents an invaluable anchor of support for the nomination bid and the communities that have engaged in the process," said Peter Herbin, co-chair of Nomination Grand Pré. "It is a strong, clear commitment that further underscores our belief in the Landscape of Grand Pré as an international treasure" added Dr. Gérald C. Boudreau, co-chair of Nomination Grand Pré.

Three levels of government, an advisory board representing 12 different organizations, the Acadian community, and the communities of Grand Pré, Hortonville, North Grand Pré and Lower Wolfville have worked together since 2007 to complete the nomination process. Nomination Grand Pré was formed as a partnership between local residents, the Acadian community, the Mi'kmaq, the farming community, the marsh body, and the business community to lead the proposal.

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention aims to encourage countries to protect their cultural and natural heritage and identify those properties that have outstanding universal value to inscribe them on the World Heritage List. Grand Pré and area is a dynamic agricultural landscape claimed from the sea, a powerful symbolic landscape for the Acadians, and an inspiration for all those who come here. The World Heritage List is the highest possible international recognition for natural and cultural heritage sites.

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Please visit www.nominationgrandpre.ca for more information.