



6.5 Managing the Framework and Matrix

The Content Framework and the Content Distribution Matrix are documents to be used as starting points by NSM sites as they develop interpretation. As such, the topics listed in both are representative, rather than exhaustive. A team of museum curators, other subject experts and interpreters working together are required to shepherd these documents forward and ensure that they continue to function as comprehensive representations of the natural and cultural history of Nova Scotia.

Whenever possible, stories should be brought forward to take advantage of modern research and contemporary insights and values. This process must occur in the short term to determine directions for more immediate interpretive renewal. It must also occur over the long term, as time passes and new themes and topics present themselves, or as new interpretive facilities are developed inside and outside of the Heritage Division to fill gaps in interpretation. Regular review of both documents is required.

It is important that these tools are updated together; when new topics are added to the Content Framework, there must be a subsequent updating of the Content Distribution Matrix.

As the scope of the Content Framework and its subject matter is expanded to become more comprehensive, the ability to identify gaps in the coverage and to develop strategies to meet the challenge of filling these gaps with resources (existing or new site investment), interpretation planning and research will become evident.

The NSM will need to ensure continued, ongoing dialogue and feedback with various linguistic and cultural groups in Nova Scotia (e.g., Mi'kmaq, Acadians, Gaels, Blacks, etc.). The consultation process for this Master Plan has included input from many of these linguistic groups, but not all of them and not in an exhaustive way. More information must be gathered and refined over time through project outcomes, ongoing research, or online initiatives. This is particularly important as stories continue to develop and as the Content Distribution Matrix grows over time. It is also crucial to the development and credibility of a definitive cultural history resource that is inclusive of the province's many cultural groups.

As the Content Framework and Content Distribution Matrix evolve, they will be useful for the Nova Scotia Museum as it plans for long-term initiatives and resource allocation. For NSM sites, these tools should guide their day-to-day operations and help them develop programs and exhibits, train staff, and make decisions with regards to interpretation. Both the Framework and Matrix function as a body of information they can draw from, as well as gain inspiration when it is combined with other parts of the Master Plan.