The purpose of the Acadian Odyssey International Commemorative Project is to highlight, in a concrete and permanent fashion, the odyssey of the Acadian people through the North American continent and elsewhere in the world. The project is among the initiatives to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Grand Dérangement or Acadian exile, in 2005.

More specifically, the project is designed to meet three objectives: the international commemoration of the Grand Dérangement, the raising of awareness of Acadian history and culture, and the promotion of contemporary Acadie as situated in Atlantic Canada, in Louisiana and other significant regions of Acadian resettlement.

The project proposes the design and unveiling of a series of commemorative monuments from 2005, with upwards to 13 in Atlantic Canada, 10 in the United States, five in France/England, four in the Caribbean and five in Québec. This will be the most significant effort for the international commemoration of the Acadian Odyssey undertaken by Acadie since the creation of the Grand-Pré National Historic Site.

This strategy document proposes that the project be developed and financed in partnership with Canadian Heritage, Parks Canada, AC OA, the provinces of Atlantic Canada, the Province of Québec, the US National Park Service, the American states, France, and various private organizations and corporations.
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1. **The Grand Dérangement**

Without question, the exile or Grand Dérangement is the most significant event in the history of the Acadian people. From the famous story of Evangeline written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, to the novel Pélagie la Charrette (winner of the Prix Goncourt) written by Acadian author Antonine Maillet, to Grand-Pré National Historic Site with its commemorative church, Acadie draws its historical distinctiveness from this most tragic event.

Historians generally situate the Grand Dérangement within a span of about 50 years, starting with the expulsion of 1755 and continuing through the first decades of the 19th century. The actual Deportation or exodus of the Acadian population was largely carried out between 1755 and 1763. But the decades that followed were for the Acadian people a sad period of uprooting, movement and migration, whence the term Grand Dérangement. Their exile was not eased until the 19th century with the re-colonization of Acadie in Atlantic Canada, Louisiana, France and Québec.

In less than ten years, more than 10,000 Acadians, or three quarters of their population, were deported to the United States and Europe. For more than a half century, these unfortunate expatriates endured heartrending trials throughout their odyssey in the United States, Europe, Québec and the Caribbean. Meanwhile their land was occupied by some 8,000 new settlers, the Planters who were brought from New England. The 5,000 to 6,000 Acadians who escaped the Deportation sought refuge in various places in the Maritimes, Québec and France.
2. **A STORY TO TELL**

It is the story of this incredible international odyssey that we want to commemorate through this project, in memory of these deportees and refugees, and in tribute to the Acadians who survived.

The Acadian Odyssey International Commemorative Project will cover the period of the Grand Dérangement (1755 to the early 19th century), breaking its progress down into four stages: embarkation (in Acadie), disembarkation (in the United States and Europe), transit/migration (in Acadie, Europe, the United States and the Caribbean), and recolonization of Acadie (in Atlantic Canada, Louisiana, Québec and France).

2.1 **THE PROJECT CONCEPT**

The images, symbols and information selected by the Committee to tell the story of Acadie in this commemorative project are as follows: the Deportation Cross, the map of the Acadian Odyssey, a commemorative plaque with inscription on the Acadian Odyssey (awareness), a commemorative plaque with specific inscription describing the Grand Dérangement event at the site commemorated.
2.2 The Deportation Cross

The Deportation Cross (Grand-Pré Cross) is one of the most evocative symbols of the Grand Dérangement and the tragic history of the Acadians. Other comparable symbols are the Evangeline statue, the Grand-Pré memorial church, and various paintings of scenes from the Grand Dérangement. In symbolic terms, the Deportation Cross is to Acadie and the Grand Dérangement what the Irish Cross is to Ireland and the Great Famine.

The Deportation Cross has been adopted as the key element in the design and development of the commemorative projects. The original Cross, about 12 feet (four metres) tall, would be reproduced and installed so as to create a visual impact highly representative of the Grand Dérangement at every commemorative site.
2.3 **MAP OF THE ACADIAN ODYSSEY**

The Committee proposes to recreate the map of the Acadian Odyssey, in whole or in part, in the design and development of each commemoration site. As for the original map, the technique and material used to reproduce it should create the impression of a 3D image.

Published in over 40,000 copies since 1991, the map of the Acadian Odyssey is one of the most evocative symbols of the Acadians’ migrations across the North American continent and elsewhere in the world. Its images offer a good reflection of the story of the colonization, the Grand Dérangement and the renaissance of the Acadians, acting as an invitation to the visitor or reader to come and discover contemporary Acadie and its inhabitants.
2.4 **Commemorative Plaque of the Grand Dérangement**

A commemorative plaque with an inscription on the Grand Dérangement will provide the historical context for the event and present an overview of the Acadian Odyssey. Exactly the same inscription, in French and English, would be reproduced at every site.

2.5 **Commemorative Plaque with Specific Inscription**

A commemorative plaque with a specific inscription will describe the event of the Grand Dérangement specific to each project site. The presentation would be identical to that used to produce the commemorative plaque of the Grand Dérangement.

For example, the specific inscription produced to commemorate the site of Fort Beauséjour would place the Grand Dérangement event in its local geographic context (Beaubassin, Memramcook, Petitcodiac, Chipoudie), telling the story of the Acadians’ embarkation in X types of vessels, heading for destinations Y, along with some noteworthy aspects of the particular event (such as the Acadians’ escape from Fort Lawrence).

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**THE GRAND DÉRANGEMENT**

In 1604, Pierre Dugua de Mons, who had been granted a charter from French King Henry IV, established a new colony on the North American continent, and created Acadie. Less than 150 years later, this colony had become flourishing, first under the French regime, then from 1713 under the English domination. It counted 15,000 inhabitants then. In 1755, The British authorities perceived the Acadian development as a threat to their plan of colonization. As a result, they started to deport systematically all the Acadians. This was the beginning of the Grand Dérangement, during which the Acadian people were uprooted, scattered and condemned to wander for more than a half century. Thousands were deported by ship to Anglo-American colonies, England and France. Other escaped the Deportation seeking refuge in the forest or fleeing to remote regions. One third of the population sank or died of disease or famine. Some families settled in their country of exile, others wandered over the continents and finally settled elsewhere, mostly in Québec but also in Louisiana. Most of them never saw their beloved country again.

At the end of the 1760's, Acadie had less than 2,000 survivors. These hardliners rebuilt the scattered community and founded a new Acadie. Today, the Acadians constitute a proud, unique and dynamic people whose branches are spreading all over the world.
3. The Monument Concept
3. THE MONUMENT CONCEPT: A STAR, SYMBOL OF ACADIE

Archetypal symbol of Acadie, the star has various meanings. On one hand, it represents Our Lady of the Assumption, the patron saint of the Acadians. On the other hand, it represents a sea-star, the one who guides the sailors through the storms and the reefs.

The monument emerging from the centre of the star, represents the renaissance and the livelihood of the Acadian people. With five sides, the hull shaped pentagon is used as a base for the cross and the commemorative plaques. The star is the base for the whole monument.
3.1 THE DEPORTATION CROSS
The Deportation Cross will be a replica of the original cross of Grand-Pré. It will be made of bronze, with polished edges. Its form and important size will make it visible and easy to locate. The cross also evokes the idea of tragedy, and its paddle shaped bottom reminds of the Acadian Odyssey throughout the Atlantic Ocean. Moreover, a cross on the monument will enhance the attachment to Grand-Pré, the official commemoration site of the Grand Dérangement.

3.2 BAS-RELIEF OF THE
Deportation Cross
Bronze approx. 110cm x 40cm
3.2 **Grand Derangement Bas-relief**

The Bas-relief is a circle, and represents the Deportation and its migrations in its international context. The main sites which are associated to the Grand Dérangement, the Acadian flag and the church of Grand-Pré are depicted on it. There will be also a picture of the famous sculpture made by Louis-Philippe Hébert, in order to show what a typical Acadian family looked like during the Deportation.
3.3 Commemorative plaques

The commemorative plaques are made to be easy to read, with a linguistic flexibility, and they also respect the national accessibility standards. They are decorated with a graphic element that depicts the tearing apart of the Acadian people. They will be made out of bronze and fixed on the stone.
3.4 **Commemorative Monument of the Grand Dérangement**

The monument is proposed to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the deportation. Its shape is meant to be plain, modern and to evoke the most significant event of Acadian history. It will pay tribute to the deportees, the refugees and the Acadian survivors.
COMMEMORATIVE SITES
4. **Commemorative Sites**

The Acadian Odyssey International Commemorative Project calls for the unveiling of a series of commemorative monuments on the North American continent and elsewhere in the world, including upwards to 13 in Atlantic Canada, 10 in the United States, five in France/England, four in the Caribbean and five in Québec. These monuments would commemorate four major stages in the Grand Dérangement: the embarkation, disembarkation, transit/migration and recolonization of the Acadians.

The information compiled to produce this section is largely drawn from the book ‘Scattered to the Wind’: Dispersal and Wanderings of the Acadians, 1755-1809 by Carl A. Brasseaux (1991) and from the Map of the Acadian Odyssey (1991) prepared by Parks Canada and the Centre d’études acadiennes of the Université de Moncton.

4.1 **Atlantic Canada**

In Atlantic Canada 13 locations are among the main sites identified to mark the stages of embarkation, disembarkation, transit/migration and recolonization of Acadie. Five of these sites are in New Brunswick, six in Nova Scotia, one in Prince Edward Island and one in Newfoundland, most of them on Parks Canada property. A brief description of these follows.

![Map of Atlantic Canada](image)

### 4.1 Atlantic provinces

1. **Fort Beauséjour/Beaubassin (New Brunswick - embarkation)**

Fort Beauséjour was the first embarkation site for the Grand Dérangement. On October 13, 1755, a fleet of 10 ships left Chignecto Isthmus for South Carolina, Pennsylvania and Georgia with approximately 1,100 Acadians on board.
2. Grand-Pré/Minas (Nova Scotia - embarkation)
Grand-Pré is the national historic site chosen to commemorate the Deportation of the Acadians. Between October and December 1755, some 2,200 Acadians were deported to the American colonies from the Minas Basin.

3. Pigiguit/Fort Edward/Windsor (Nova Scotia - embarkation)
Fort Edward was the embarkation site of about 1,100 Acadians on November 1, 1755. These unfortunates were piled into boats and deported to Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

4. Port-Royal/Annapolis Royal (Nova Scotia - embarkation)
Annapolis Royal was the departure point of over 1,650 Acadians in December 1755. These Acadians were deported to Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and North and South Carolina.

5. Pobomcoup/Pubnico (Nova Scotia - embarkation/recolonization)
Pobomcoup was the embarkation site of about 70 Acadians deported to Massachusetts in 1756. Other deportations followed in the 1760s.

6. Louisbourg (Nova Scotia - embarkation)
Louisbourg (Île Royale/ Cape Breton Island), along with Île Saint-Jean (Prince Edward Island), was the departure point of more than 3,500 Acadians in 1758. This marked a second round of massive deportations that took place after the fall of Louisbourg.

7. Port Lajoye (Prince Edward Island - embarkation)
The deportations of 1758 from Île Royale and Île Saint-Jean sent the Acadians to England and France. En route, two of the nine convoy vessels sank with 700 people on board.

8. Halifax/Georges Island (Nova Scotia - embarkation)
In Halifax, about 2,000 Acadians were held prisoner on Georges Island between 1758 and 1763. In 1760, 300 Acadians were deported to France, and in a second deportation in 1762 1,300 were sent to Boston. However, Massachusetts refused to accept them and they were returned to Halifax where they were held as prisoners of war.

9. Camp de l’Espérance/Boishébert Island (New Brunswick - transit)
Between 1755 and 1760, Camp de l’Espérance on the Miramichi River became a place of transit and refuge for more than 3,000 Acadians fleeing deportation. Several hundreds of them died there of cold, disease and lack of provisions.

10. Saint John Valley (New Brunswick - transit/recolonization)
During the Grand Dérangement, over 1,000 Acadians fled to the St John Valley (Ste Anne/ Fredericton) seeking refuge. These refugees were hunted for a long time, and many were taken prisoner and deported to Halifax. Many of the survivors went to Québec, while others settled in Madawaska. The last waves of the exile from Saint John Valley to Madawaska ended in the late 18th century, and the region then underwent an extensive period of Acadian colonization.

11. Memramcook Valley/Petitcodiac (New Brunswick - transit/recolonization)
The ‘cradle of contemporary Acadie’, and the “star of Acadie”, Memramcook and Dieppe are 2 of the rare villages dating back to Old Acadie which continues to be inhabited by Acadians. During the Grand Dérangement, the Valley of the Memramcook, Peticodiac and Chipoudie rivers experienced the Deportation and the recolonization, and was a transit point for many Acadian communities in Atlantic Canada.
12. Ste-Anne du Bocage/Caraquet (New Brunswick - recolonization)
There are many places in Atlantic Canada where the Acadians settled after the Grand Dérangement. Ste-Anne du Bocage in Caraquet is one. It was named a national historic site in 1955 to commemorate the arrival of the Acadians and the recolonization of Acadie. A monument erected there commemorates the site and event, and bears the following inscription:

"The Return of the Acadians
Because of the vicissitudes of war, the Acadians, pioneers of this country, were dispersed in 1755. The arrival of Alexis Landry at Sainte-Anne-du-Bocage, soon after 1755, symbolizes the return of the Acadians to their beloved country and the taking up of a new life."

Without disregarding the importance or scope of the other recolonization sites in Acadie, that of Ste-Anne du Bocage has the advantage of being located on Parks Canada property and in a part of New Brunswick that is very representative of the recolonization of Acadie.

13. Port-au-Port Peninsula (Newfoundland - recolonization)
In the 19th century, a group of Acadians from the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, the Magdalen Islands and Cape Breton founded a new colony on Port-au-Port Peninsula in Newfoundland. With the commemoration of this event, it would be possible to present the Acadian Odyssey project in all of the principal Acadian regions of Atlantic Canada.

4.2 United States
In the United States, about ten places are among the principal sites known to mark the stages of disembarkation, transit/migration and recolonization of Acadie. Nine of these are located in various east coast states, but of course the main recolonization site in the United States is Louisiana.

Unlike the commemoration in Atlantic Canada, where almost all the projects will be developed on Parks Canada property that is quite well prepared for this type of development, those in the United States will have to be developed in newly laid-out locations, preferably in public parks of the municipalities or states concerned.

We would also like to collaborate closely with the US National Park Service. The sites we are proposing are the following:

1. Boston (Massachusetts - disembarkation)
During the intensive period of the Deportation, Massachusetts became the port of transit of several thousand Acadians. Between 1755 and 1760, about a thousand landed there and were dispersed across the state. Over time, some managed to escape and make their way to the Saint John Valley and Québec. After 1763, one group reached the French territory of Saint-Domingue, i.e. the island of Hispaniola (Haiti), while others made for Saint-Pierre and Miquelon by boat. A final group returned to Acadie by land.

2. New London (Connecticut - disembarkation)
In 1755 and 1756, some 730 Acadians landed in Connecticut, where they scattered to about 50 villages all over the state. A good many of them went to Hispaniola after 1763, where they were put into forced labour. Another group of about 240 returned to the Saint John Valley, while a smaller number remained in Connecticut.

3. New York (New York - disembarkation)
In 1755 and 1756, approximately 350 Acadians landed in New York and settled on Staten and Long islands. They were forced to remain there until 1763, when most of them left for Hispaniola where they lived under very difficult conditions.
4. Philadelphia (Pennsylvania - disembarkation)
In November 1755, about 450 Acadians landed in Pennsylvania and were immediately placed under quarantine. This group faced severe trials in the years to follow, when an effort was made to scatter them across the state and assimilate them. Some of them reached Louisiana in the late 1760s, while many others went to Hispaniola and were put into forced labour. Most subsequently died of tropical diseases.

5. Annapolis (Maryland - disembarkation)
In the fall of 1755, about 900 Acadians landed in Maryland where their presence generated much mistrust and anxiety. This group was compelled to remain in this colony during the Seven Years’ War, living in extreme poverty and oppression. In the late 1760s, now reduced by one third, the group managed to organize itself and reach Louisiana.

6. Raleigh (North Carolina - disembarkation)
About 50 Acadians landed in North Carolina in December 1755. More were intended for this destination, but some 230 of them succeeded in escaping en route, taking control of the vessel and making an about-turn for Acadie.

7. Charleston (South Carolina - disembarkation)
In December 1755 and January 1756, about 950 Acadians landed in South Carolina where most were interned in detention camps. Some escaped and were pursued. To get rid of the Acadians, the government financed a trip north for most of the survivors. After running aground several times (Hampton, VA), their vessels finally reached the Saint John Valley in spring 1756, where many enlisted in the resistance.

8. Savannah (Georgia - disembarkation)
In December 1755, some 400 Acadians landed in Georgia, where apparently they were paid little attention. Some went back to sea and headed for Nova Scotia aboard ten or so vessels hired by the local government. They were intercepted en route and incarcerated in Massachusetts. Many others remained in the colony until 1763, whereupon they went to Hispaniola and later Louisiana.

9. Portsmouth (Virginia - transit)
In January 1756, Virginia refused to accept over 1,500 Acadians deported from Nova Scotia. They were turned away to England, where they languished in detention camps for nearly seven years before being repatriated to France.

10. Saint-Martinville (Louisiana - recolonization)
The village of Saint-Martinville is commemorated as an important Acadian colonization site in Louisiana. It features a monument in honour of the Acadian pioneers of Louisiana, a statue of Evangeline and Evangeline’s famous oak tree. It is possible that the project to commemorate the recolonization of Acadie in Louisiana will be developed here.

4.3 France, England and the Caribbean
In France, England and the Caribbean, at least nine places are among the principal sites known to mark the stages of Acadian disembarkation, transit, migration and recolonization.

1. Martinique (Caribbean - transit)
Some 300 Acadians disembarked in the Caribbean in January 1756 (Antigua and St. Kitts), their New York-bound vessel having been driven there by winter storms. A number of them were
transferred to the French colony on the island of Martinique. There is little in the archives concerning their fate.

2. British seaports (England - transit)
The 1,500 Acadians turned away by Virginia in 1755 (whose numbers had been reduced by disease to nearly 1,200 upon their arrival) were transported to the cities of Liverpool, Southampton, Bristol and Penryn, where they were set up in warehouses. This group was ravaged by a smallpox epidemic in 1756; as a result, only 866 persons were finally released in 1763. Of these, 753 went to France, from where they set out on new migrations.

3. Hispaniola/Haiti (Caribbean - transit)
Between 1763 and 1765, after the signing of the Treaty of Paris, several hundred Acadian exiles set out from the American east coast for the island of Hispaniola (or Saint-Domingue/Santo Domingo as it was then called), drawn by promises of land and a desire to finally find a French place of refuge. Most were put into forced labour to fortify the island, in the course of which many died of tropical diseases. After a few years of acclimatization, the survivors progressively settled on the island. Apparently most of them remained there until the Haitian revolution of the 1790s, whereupon they took refuge in Cuba before proceeding to New Orleans in 1809.

4. French Guiana (Caribbean - transit)
Between 1763 and 1765, a few hundred Acadians went to French Guiana from France and Saint-Pierre/Miquelon. This colonization attempt failed largely because of difficult climatic conditions; most of the Acadian survivors returned to France.

5. Falkland Islands/Îles Malouines (South America - transit)
Between 1763 and 1766, some 225 Acadians travelled to the Falkland Islands to found a permanent French colony. Spain contested this new colonization attempt, and in 1767 took control of the islands. A number of Acadians remained on the islands for an unspecified period, while others were repatriated to France.

6. Islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon (France - transit and recolonization)
During the Deportation years, the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon received a large number of Acadian refugees. After 1763 many came there from the United States, Atlantic Canada and France. However, the Acadian population of this little French archipelago underwent many upheavals: between 1767 and 1816, it was relocated six times, back and forth between France and the islands.

7. Belle-Île-en-Mer (France - colonization and transit)
During the years of the Grand Déplacement, thousands of Acadians disembarked in the ports of France. They were to be found scattered among St-Malo, Boulogne, Rochefort, Morlaix, Lorient, Belle-Île-en-Mer, Le Havre, Cherbourg, La Rochelle and Bordeaux. Around 1765, there was a major colonization effort in Belle-Île-en-Mer. Descendants of Acadians can still be found in this region today. Most of those who left the island eventually settled in Louisiana.

8. Ligne acadienne (France - colonization and transit)
Around 1772 in France, another major colonization attempt was made at Archigny in the Poitou region, on the ‘Ligne acadienne’. Few Acadians took up permanent residence there; most eventually left for Louisiana.

9. Nantes (France - transit)
The port of Nantes was the main embarkation site for Acadians going to Louisiana. In 1785 some 1,600 Acadians in France left from Nantes to travel to Louisiana aboard vessels financed by Spain.
4.4 Québec

Of the six million Québécois of French stock living in Québec today, about one million are thought to be of Acadian origin. During the Grand Dérrangement, a few thousand Acadians sought refuge in Québec, where many settled permanently. The Acadian Odyssey International Commemorative Project in Québec will strive to present this very distinctive historical fact of Québec's heritage.

At least five locations are among the main sites known to mark Acadian colonization in Québec: the Gaspé Peninsula (Bonaventure), the Vallée du Richelieu (l'Acadie), the Trois-Rivières/Bécancourt region, Saint-Jacques de l'Achigan (l'Assomption) and the Magdalen Islands.
5. **Action Plan**
This final section proposes a timetable, estimated budgets and an implementation strategy for the Acadian Odyssey International Commemorative Project.

5.1 **Proposed Timetable**
It is proposed that the international commemorative project of the Grand Dérangement be implemented starting in 2005, the year of the 250th anniversary of the Deportation of the Acadians.

5.2 **Project Estimates**
It is proposed that the project’s activities be financed in a fully autonomous fashion by the five regions identified (Atlantic Canada, Québec, United States, Europe and the Caribbean) in this strategy document. Depending on the extent of the project, budget estimates could vary between C$ 30,000 and C$ 35,000 for each monument. Total project costs in Atlantic Canada, for instance, could vary between C$ 390,000 and C$ 455,000.

5.3 **Unveiling**
The unveiling of the commemorative monument projects will be organized by the local chapters, in collaboration with the Acadian Odyssey Commission, the Société Nationale de l’Acadie, and the other partners of the project (Government of Canada, Government of Québec…)

Generally speaking, the commemorative projects will be unveiled in chronological order and, to the extent possible, in accordance with a regional logic (e.g., Acadie in year one, United States in year two, Europe and the Caribbean in year three, Québec in year four, etc.). Promotional funding should be allocated to cover the costs of unveiling ceremonies for each site.
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