

## Mōstos-awāsis - Buffalo Child Stone, Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre

**Location:** Southern Saskatchewan

**Project:** Buffalo Child Stone Interpretation Project

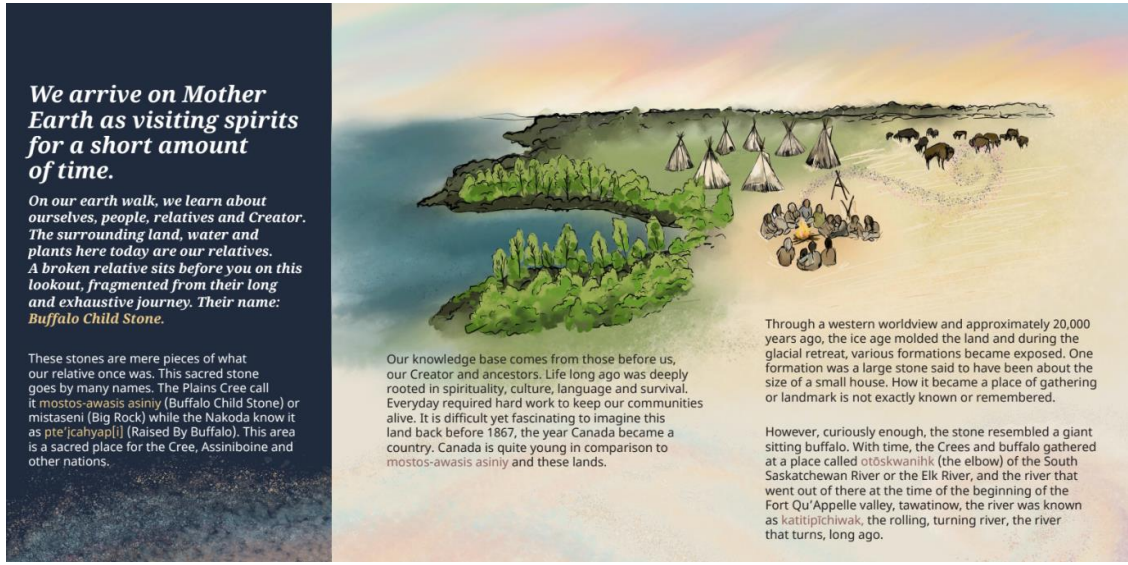
**Industries:** Family Attractions, Natural History, Historic sites

**Installation Date:** 2021

### PROJECT SUMMARY

The team at Fuse was honored to learn from and work alongside the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre and their council of eight Elders to interpret and preserve the Buffalo Child Stone and the sacred site where it now resides. Joining a dedicated team carrying out the wishes of their Elders Council, Fuse was charged with creating the interpretive signs to be placed at the site of the Buffalo Child Stone. In order to effectively gather input and approval from the Elder's Council we used a variety of techniques including on-site discussions, virtual workshops and one-on-one conversations. The project covered the creation of a signage plan, as well as the development of eight interpretive signage panels. Fuse was also responsible for overseeing the fabrication and installation of the finished panels.





**We arrive on Mother Earth as visiting spirits for a short amount of time.**

*On our earth walk, we learn about ourselves, people, relatives and Creator. The surrounding land, water and plants here today are our relatives. A broken relative sits before you on this lookout, fragmented from their long and exhaustive journey. Their name: Buffalo Child Stone.*

These stones are mere pieces of what our relative once was. This sacred stone goes by many names. The Plains Cree call it *mostos-awasis asiniy* (Buffalo Child Stone) or *mistaseni* (Big Rock) while the Nakoda know it as *pte [cahyap]i* (Raised By Buffalo). This area is a sacred place for the Cree, Assiniboine and other nations.

Our knowledge base comes from those before us, our Creator and ancestors. Life long ago was deeply rooted in spirituality, culture, language and survival. Everyday required hard work to keep our communities alive. It is difficult yet fascinating to imagine this land back before 1867, the year Canada became a country. Canada is quite young in comparison to *mostos-awasis asiniy* and these lands.

Through a western worldview and approximately 20,000 years ago, the ice age molded the land and during the glacial retreat, various formations became exposed. One formation was a large stone said to have been about the size of a small house. How it became a place of gathering or landmark is not exactly known or remembered.

However, curiously enough, the stone resembled a giant sitting buffalo. With time, the Crees and buffalo gathered at a place called *otiskwanihik* (the elbow) of the South Saskatchewan River or the Elk River, and the river that went out of there at the time of the beginning of the Fort Qu'Appelle valley, *tawatinow*, the river was known as *kattipichiwak*, the rolling, turning river, the river that turns, long ago.

**CLIENT TESTIMONIAL**

*“SICC worked with Fuse consulting in regards to the creation of outdoor educational wall panels in relation to First Nations sacred sites. Fuse Consulting staff are professional, timely, enthusiastic and best of all, open to learning various First Nations way of being, doing and our processes through ceremony. It was a complete pleasure to work with all their staff throughout the entire process.”*

– Melody Wood, Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre

**PROJECT PARTNERS**



**Laser Impressions**  
*Fabrication and Installation*  
 Based in Saskatoon, SK



**iZone Imaging**  
*Print and Fabrication*  
 Based in Temple, TX, USA