



WERAC

*Wilderness and Ecological
Reserves Advisory Council*

*Advising government on the creation and management
of wilderness and ecological reserves*

Annual Report 2008-09

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from Co-Chairs.....	3
1. Overview.....	4
2. Mandate.....	5
3. Lines of Business.....	5
4. Values.....	5
5. Primary Clients.....	6
6. Vision.....	6
7. Mission Statement.....	6
8. Shared Commitments.....	7
9. Highlights and Accomplishments.....	7
10. Activities.....	10
11. Challenges and Opportunities.....	13
Appendix A: Strategic Directions.....	15
Appendix B: Legislative Mandate.....	15
Appendix C: Fiscal Statements.....	17

Message From Co-Chairs

As Co-Chairs for the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC) and in accordance with Government's commitment to accountability, we hereby submit our 2008-09 **Annual Performance Report** detailing the activities of the Advisory Council from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. As Co-chairs of WERAC we sign this report on behalf of the entire council. The council is responsible and accountable for the results contained within this report.

Under the authority of the **Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act**, our Council advises Government on the establishment, management and termination of wilderness and ecological reserves within the province. Our duties generally involve consultations with interested government departments, industry stakeholders, non-governmental organizations, other civic bodies and the general public, and the reporting to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council through the responsible Minister. Using the best scientific information available and the most comprehensive understanding of social and economic impacts of conservation areas, we advise Government on matters related to wilderness and ecological reserves.

In accordance with the Minister's strategic direction on the establishment of a Natural Areas Systems Plan (NASP), WERAC is committed to identifying and examining areas of the province for reserve designation and to ensuring that all public and private interests are considered when reserves are being planned and established.

We are pleased to report on the establishment of the expanded Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve. This will strengthen support of the reserve as a potential World Heritage Site. WERAC has given recommendation on three other potential reserves including Lawn Islands Archipelago (Burin Peninsula), Sandy Cove (Great Northern Peninsula) and Little Grand Lake (western Newfoundland) and await decisions from government. We continue to work closely with government on the development of the Natural Areas System Plan.

WERAC has been without full membership for several years and we await government decision on this important matter.

In conclusion, we would like to acknowledge WERAC members for their interest in and generous commitment to the protection of our province's natural heritage. Furthermore, we thank the staff of the Parks and Natural Areas Division for their constant support and wise guidance.



John McCarthy, Co-Chair



Christine Doucet, Co-Chair

1. Overview

The Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC) advises Government through the Minister of Environment and Conservation on the establishment, management and termination of wilderness and ecological reserves within the province. The Council consists of 11 members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for a three-year term.

Council members serve as volunteers; however, travel, accommodations and related costs are covered by the current account budget of Parks and Natural Areas Division, Department of Environment and Conservation. During the fiscal year 2008-09, WERAC's budget was \$44,000. Expenses incurred by WERAC are included in the financial statement of the Department of Environment and Conservation.

Typically, the council meets four times a year, for two days each time at various locations around the province. The Secretariat is provided by the Parks and Natural Areas Division in the person of:

Ms. Erika Pittman, Natural Areas Planner
Natural Areas Program, Parks and Natural Areas Division
Department of Environment and Conservation
33 Reid's Lane, Deer Lake, NL, A8A 2A3
werac@gov.nl.ca

Together, WERAC and the Division work together to ensure that all public and private interests are considered when reserves are being planned, established and terminated. WERAC makes its recommendation on reserve creation/termination to Government with Government itself making the final decision.

Current Membership*

Name	Role	Residence
Dr. John McCarthy	Co-Chair	St. John's
Ms. Christine Doucet	Co-Chair	Frenchman's Cove
Dr. Bill Montevecchi	Member	St. John's
Dr. Len Zedel	Member	St. John's
Mr. Bill Kelly	Member	Goose Bay
Ms. Laura Jackson	Member	St. John's
Mr. Bruce Porter	Member	Lewisporte
Mr. Tony Ryan	Member	Port Saunders
Dr. Luise Hermanutz	Member	Portugal Cove
Mr. Peter Genge	Member	Labrador City
Ms. Phyllis Baird	Member	St. Andrew's

* The term of appointment for all eleven members has expired (three expired in October

2005, seven expired in July 2007, and one expired in December 2007).

2. Mandate

The *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*, 1980, under Section 7, provides for an Advisory Council to advise government on the establishment, management and termination of wilderness and ecological reserves within the province. The Council's duties include consultation proceedings with interested government departments, industry stakeholders, the general public, and other bodies on the establishment of a reserve, and preparation of a report to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on the advisability of the establishment of a reserve. Please refer to Appendix B for fuller details of the legislated mandate of the WERAC.

3. Lines of Business

The WERAC provides the following line of business:

1. Advises government on the establishment, management and termination of wilderness and ecological reserves in the province:

- Examines areas of the province in order to determine which areas are suitable for the establishment of a reserve (i.e. three criteria guide reserve creation; large wilderness areas, ecosystem representation and rare natural phenomena)
- Accepts recommendations from the public in relation to the establishment of or a change in a reserve (i.e. through presentations, letters of nomination, etc.)
- Holds consultations with stakeholders and public hearings to consider submissions, representations and objections respecting the establishment of a reserve
- Within 120 days of the public hearings, reports to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council through the Minister, on the advisability of the establishment of a reserve. WERAC Recommendation Reports include a review of the benefits and disadvantages of reserve establishment, and a review on public hearing proceedings, including its assessment of objections or reservations raised at the hearing.

4. Values

WERAC will consider all public submissions on the identification, establishment, management and decommissioning of wilderness and ecological reserves. The council is guided by the values of transparency, accountability and responsibility. WERAC's considerations incorporate the best scientific information available, the most comprehensive understanding of social and economic impacts on protected areas and an open, transparent and consultative process.

Values	Action Statements
---------------	--------------------------

Transparency	The Council will exercise due diligence when considering the opinions and points of view of different parties for the purpose of advising the Minister on matters related to ecological and wilderness reserves
--------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Accountability	The Council is dedicated to providing accurate and timely information to stakeholders and to working within legislated timeframes
Responsibility	The Council will work to ensure that the interests and concerns of the public are considered and accurately represented when advising the Minister on the establishment of reserves

5. Primary Clients

The WERAC's primary clients include the following:

- Select members of the public (including private citizens, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO's), and industry representatives)
- Federal and Provincial Government departments
- Local service districts, town council and local governments

6. Vision

The vision of WERAC is the conservation and preservation of wild landscapes in Newfoundland and Labrador for current and future generations through the timely establishment of a functional network of protected areas throughout the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

7. Mission Statement

Creating and maintaining a network of properly designed and legally designated protected areas is one of the key ways WERAC intends to do its part to ensure the preservation of Newfoundland and Labrador's natural heritage. By 2011, WERAC will focus on supporting the development of a Natural Areas Systems Plan (NASP). To facilitate this mission WERAC will hold Council meetings at least twice annually, in various parts of the province, review and identify priority areas and review public submissions and consult various stakeholders.

Mission: By 2011, WERAC will have supported the development of a protected areas plan in accordance with government direction.

Measure: Supported the development of a protected areas plan

Indicators:

- Points of view of the stakeholders are considered in the development of recommendations

- Recommendations are brought forward to the minister for the promotion of candidate areas for reserve status

8. Shared Commitments

Creating and maintaining a network of properly designed and legally designated protected areas is one of the key ways WERAC intends to do its part to ensure the preservation of Newfoundland and Labrador's natural heritage. In accordance with the Minister's strategic direction on the establishment of a Natural Areas System Plan (NASP), by 2011, WERAC will focus on supporting development of a NASP by holding Council meetings at least twice annually, in various parts of the province, reviewing and identifying priority areas, reviewing public submissions and consulting various stakeholders. However, the government NASP decision-making process, which informs and provides direction for activities of the council regarding the NASP, is taking longer than anticipated.

WERAC works closely with Parks and Natural Areas Division, within the Department of Environment and Conservation. Through the WERAC Executive Secretary, Parks and Natural Areas Division provides administrative, planning and mapping support to the council.

9. Highlights and Accomplishments

Meetings

The Advisory Council met four times during the 2008-09 fiscal year: May 21-22 in Sandy Cove, September 18-19 in L'Anse-au-Claire, December 1-2 in St. John's, and March 12-13 in Deer Lake. Meeting proceedings normally include, among other agenda items, a review of incoming/outgoing correspondence, an update and discussion on the status of candidate areas, and formal presentations by government departments, industry stakeholders, the general public, and other bodies. Business minutes are recorded and placed on file with WERAC's Secretariat.

At the Advisory Council's May meeting, members participated in a field trip to Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve. WERAC was accompanied by Dulcie House, Manager of the Limestone Barrens Habitat Stewardship Program. WERAC was introduced to rare plant species and reserve management issues and initiated planning for the public consultation required under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*. At this meeting, WERAC also reviewed two submissions for protection. One submission recommended the preservation of the Tickles Estuary, near the community of Roddickton-Bide Arm on the Northern Peninsula. A dinner meeting was held with the Committee for Preservation of the Tickles Estuary to further discuss the proposal. WERAC also reviewed a submission by Stephen Wheeler for the protection of the Lewis Hills/Blow Me Down Hills in Western Newfoundland.

To facilitate protection of candidate reserves, WERAC carries out preliminary assessments of

sites. At the Advisory Council's September meeting, members participated in a field trip to the Red Bay Barrens study area (southern Labrador), surveying the proposed southern boundary, vegetation and present land-use. The council also reviewed the WERAC 'What We Heard Document' (developed after the Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve public consultations), and the proposed management objectives for the reserve.

The December meeting included a number of formal presentations to the Advisory Council. Staff from Parks and Natural Areas Division presented updates on the Natural Areas System Plan and the Human Footprint Assessment. Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador (HNL) gave a presentation on HNL and potential partnerships with WERAC. As a result of these discussions WERAC participated in the HNL Annual General Meeting and produced an article on WERAC and protected areas for *Tourism Times*, the HNL Newsletter. Lastly, the Protected Areas Association presented their Conservation Education Project. WERAC also attended a lunch meeting with Ross Firth, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment and Conservation and reviewed the new format for Parks and Natural Areas Management Plans.

The final meeting of the fiscal year was held in Deer Lake. At this meeting, WERAC received a briefing from the Protected Areas Association on their efforts to protect the Cloud River/Tickles area. The Advisory Council also considered the issue of lapsed membership of the entire Advisory Council. At this meeting, WERAC also reviewed a recommendation for the preservation of Indian Arm, an area between Notre Dame Junction and Glenwood that includes a protected water supply and the watershed for Campbelton River.

Candidate Areas

Throughout this reporting period, WERAC has continued to review and examine areas of interest. Additional files, active and outstanding, include Lawn Islands Archipelago, Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve, Mistaken Point Extension and Little Grand Lake Provisional Ecological Reserve. Each of these files is at a different stage of the reserve establishment process. The following outlines WERAC's progress on these four files:

(i) Lawn Islands Archipelago

On November 30, 2007, the Advisory Council, as per Section 12c of the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*, recommended the establishment of the Lawn Islands Archipelago Provisional Ecological Reserve. The proposed reserve is located near Lord's Cove on the Burin Peninsula and is the only known North American colony of Manx Shearwaters. To date Government has not made a decision on reserve establishment.

(ii) Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve

Sandy Cove study area, located on the Great Northern Peninsula, protects the endangered endemic plant, Long's braya. On April 5, 2007, government approved Sandy Cove as a provisional ecological reserve. Provisional reserves receive protection while they are being reviewed for full designation as permanent ecological reserves. This allows the public to give

input into reserve creation and management. On June 11, 2008, in accordance with Section 16 of the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*, the Advisory Council hosted a public hearing in Sandy Cove to discuss the proposed reserve. A public document entitled *Sandy Cove: What We Heard* was developed as a result of the hearing. The Advisory Council then submitted its recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council on October 9, 2008. To date Government has not made a decision on reserve establishment.

(iii) Mistaken Point Extension

Mistaken Point Extension Emergency Ecological Reserve was established on March 13, 2007, to provide protection to a newly discovered fossil site adjacent to Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve. A public hearing was conducted on April 12, 2008 in the community of Portugal Cove South and the public document entitled *Mistaken Point: What We Heard* was produced. On August 8, 2008, the Advisory Council submitted its recommendation on permanent establishment of an expanded Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve to Government. On March 17, 2009, the Government permanently established an expanded Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve, expanding the Reserve from 2.95 km² to 5.65km². This is the first permanent establishment of an ecological reserve since 2000. The successful expansion of the Reserve is a key step in the process for a successful World Heritage Site nomination. The expanded Reserve permanently protects the Mistaken Point Important Bird Area and fossils of the oldest and largest complex multi-celled animals on Earth.

(iv) Little Grand Lake Provisional Ecological Reserve

Little Grand Lake Provisional Ecological Reserve (731 km²) protects extensive bogs and barren, as well as mature boreal forest that is prime habitat for the endangered Newfoundland marten. On February 11, 2004, a public discussion was held on the proposed management plan and on January 25, 2005, a report detailing WERAC's recommendations on establishing the area as an ecological reserve was submitted to Government for review. To date Government has not made a decision on reserve establishment.

(v) Natural Areas Systems Plan (NASP) study areas

Creating and maintaining a network of properly designed and legally designated protected areas is one of the key ways WERAC works to ensure the preservation of Newfoundland and Labrador's natural heritage. Over the coming years WERAC will continue to support the development of a Natural Areas Systems Plan (NASP), a key strategic direction of Government. To accomplish this, WERAC will review priority issues for candidate areas on a regular basis and help promote the benefits of protected areas by consulting with interested stakeholders, responding to correspondence and conducting presentations for stakeholders. During the transition from the 2007-08 to the 2008-09 fiscal year, the Deputy Minister-appointed Working Committee, of which WERAC was a part, concluded its deliberations on outstanding conflict areas. Review of study areas was elevated to the Ministerial level for conflict resolution. To date Government has not made a decision on the majority of study areas in the proposed Natural Areas System Plan.

Business cards

Generic business cards were developed for members of the Advisory Council. The business cards will help to raise public awareness of the Advisory Council as an official and independent entity.

10. Activities

The intention of the Council is to carry out and report on the same Objectives in each year of its 2008-2011 Activity Plan, thereby providing a reference for the final year. The following table outlines objectives, measures, and indicators identified in WERAC's 2008-11 Activity Plan and highlights accomplishments achieved for the fiscal year 2008-09. The goals reflect WERAC's vision and mission statement and are based on the advancement of proposed protected areas through the government system, and increased public awareness and participation in the activities associated with the establishment and management of protected areas in Newfoundland and Labrador. These activities help government achieve its strategic direction related to development of a NASP. Likewise, the extent to which WERAC is able to achieve these objectives, measures and indicators is connected to the larger process of development of a NASP. The objectives, measures and indicators are multiple year commitments and these will be brought forward for the 2009-2010 reporting year.

Objective 1: WERAC will complete assessments and make recommendations to the LGC on selected candidate areas.

Measure: Completed assessments

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports provided to the LGC via the responsible Minister of the results of the assessment and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicator achieved: On August 8, 2008, WERAC submitted its report recommending permanent establishment of an expanded Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve to the Minister of Environment and Conservation• On October 9, 2008, WERAC recommended establishment of Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve to the Minister of Environment and Conservation

Objective 2: WERAC will review priority issues associated with the Natural Areas Systems Plan.

Measure: Recommendations to the Minister

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports provided to the Minister outlining WERAC's review of issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator achieved: On September 14, 2008, WERAC recommended the addition of the Tickles estuary area and a surrounding buffer area to the Cloud River Study Area. • NASP Deputy Minister-appointed Working Committee concluded its deliberations on outstanding conflict areas. Review of study areas was elevated to the Ministerial level for conflict resolution. WERAC's involvement in this working committee has concluded.

Objective 3: WERAC will have promoted the benefits of protected areas.

Measure: Promoted the benefits of protected areas.

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits of protected areas are communicated to government committees during consultation processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator Achieved: On March 8, 2009, WERAC initiated communications with government agencies regarding the Environmental Assessment process for the Labrador-Island Transmission Link (Reg. 1407). • NASP Deputy Minister-appointed Working Committee, of which WERAC was a part, concluded its deliberations on outstanding conflict areas. Review of study areas was elevated to the Ministerial level for conflict resolution.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information regarding benefits of protected areas is provided through correspondence with stakeholders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator achieved: On April 12, 2008, WERAC met with local stakeholders to discuss the benefits and local concerns about establishing an expanded Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve. • Public document entitled <i>Mistaken Point: What We Heard</i> was produced and distributed. • On June 11, 2008, WERAC met with

	<p>local stakeholders to discuss the benefits and local concerns about establishing Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public document entitled <i>Sandy Cove: What We Heard</i> was produced and distributed. • Involvement in HNL's Annual General Meeting tradeshow. • May 2008 meeting with Committee for Preservation of the Tickles Estuary on opportunities for protection. • Published article on WERAC and protected areas in HNL's newsletter <i>Tourism Times</i>. • Multiple letters issued under WERAC letterhead promoting benefits of protected areas.
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Objective 4: WERAC will make recommendations to the Minister with respect to development of a strategy to ensure connectivity among protected areas to ensure their long term viability.

Measure: Recommendation to the Minister

Indicators	Accomplishments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports provided to the Minister outlining a strategy to address connectivity among protected areas in Newfoundland and Labrador. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recommendation outlining a strategy to address connectivity among protected areas has not yet been provided to the Minister. A strategy for connectivity of protected areas would be based on agreement on establishment of individual protected areas, which are then 'connected' via protected corridors or close proximity. However, the process for establishment of individual protected areas within a Natural Areas System Plan (NASP) is currently undergoing internal conflict resolution among the various Provincial Government Departments. The NASP Deputy Minister-appointed Working Committee, of which WERAC was a part, concluded its deliberations on

	outstanding conflict areas. Review of study areas was elevated to the Ministerial level for further conflict resolution.
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

11. Challenges and Opportunities

In WERAC’s Annual Report 2007-08 a number of challenges to the promotion of protected areas in the province were identified. Over the past year, none of these concerns were addressed. These long-standing concerns remain as follows:

1. Of primary concern is the lack of progress in the implementation of the NASP. Despite a strong commitment to protected areas and sustainable development in government’s Blue Book, little progress in the actual designation of protected areas has been made. Release of the NASP for public review and discussion was recommended in 1996 by a NASP Committee established in 1995. To date, this has not happened. The absence of public consultations on a draft NASP and the release of a final NASP are the most significant obstacles faced by WERAC in the execution of its mandate.

2. The government’s recent NASP conflict resolution process has failed – as it did in 2000. The last meeting of the NASP Working Committee was on January 31, 2007. While some study areas were agreed to by the committee members, 16 out of 31 were not resolved and have been referred to the executive level. WERAC has been kept informed of meetings and progress. However, the council is concerned that there has not yet been successful resolution of the remaining outstanding conflicts.

3. Over the past five years, WERAC has submitted recommendations for the establishment of four ecological reserves (Mistaken Point Extension Emergency Ecological Reserve, Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve, Little Grand Lake Ecological Reserve and Lawn Islands Archipelago Provisional Ecological Reserve). Three of these recommendations have yet to be addressed by government. Other WERAC recommendations were considered by government only after a considerable length of time. For example, the June 16, 2005 Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve recommendation was submitted but was not officially addressed until almost two years later on April 5, 2007.

4. Negotiations on the boundary of the Mealy Mountains/Akamiaupishk National Park were conducted in the absence of any consultation with WERAC. The changes recommended by government significantly impact the Systems Plan Strategy for Labrador. The original study area boundary and proposed extensions provided protection for 6 of the 10 ecoregions of Labrador. The smaller boundary and change in the protection regime for the Eagle River mean that WERAC will need to reevaluate additional areas to meet conservation goals for Labrador. Since at least the year 2002, repeated correspondence from WERAC to government on this issue was never addressed.

5. WERAC does not currently have any official members. The 3-year terms for all members have expired. A second 3-year term for three WERAC members expired in October 2008. This, despite the fact that the three members were never officially appointed for a second term.

Despite these challenges, WERAC continues to recognize many opportunities associated with its mandate.

1. We look forward to the public release of the Natural Areas Systems Plan. The plan will provide an excellent opportunity to engage the public, industry and governments on the establishment and management of a protected areas network for Newfoundland and Labrador. Such a network is crucial for sustainable development and provides a measure of certainty for industry with respect to planning.
2. The release of the Natural Areas System Plan will herald an intensified role for WERAC. The committee looks forward to discussing the establishment of a system of protected areas, both the benefits and the associated constraints, with the public at large.
3. The appointment of a full eleven member council will provide WERAC with a renewed sense of commitment to our mandate and provide opportunity for new members to contribute to protected areas planning and establishment in the province.
4. WERAC recognizes many opportunities that arise as a result of individuals submitting candidate areas for consideration by WERAC. Over the last several years, many individuals have asked WERAC to consider a local area for designation as an ecological reserve. These areas are special to the local population who wish to see the areas set aside for their children and grandchildren. To date, WERAC has been able to address a very limited number of the proposals but the public interest, dedication and persistence of individuals is an inspiration to WERAC members.
5. Significant opportunities exist for collaboration with various public bodies, in particular municipalities and economic development boards, who wish to consider the establishment of protected areas in their region.

Appendix A: Strategic Directions

In accordance with the Minister's strategic direction on the establishment of a Natural Areas Systems Plan (NASP), WERAC is committed to identifying and examining areas of the province for reserve designation and ensuring that all public and private interests are fairly heard and considered when reserves are being planned and established.

1. **Title:** Natural Area Systems Plan
Strategic Direction: A Natural Areas System Plan (NASP) which identifies areas of the Province that, following appropriate consultations, may be designated as protected natural areas and reserves.
Outcome: Protection of representative areas of the Province's ecoregions.
Areas of Focus: Public Consultations; Finalized Natural Areas System Plan; Implementation strategy.

Appendix B: Legislated Mandate

Mandate (Source: *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*)

Advisory council

6. The Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council is continued for the purpose of advising the Lieutenant-Governor in Council through the minister on matters in relation to the establishment, management and termination of reserves and for the better administration of this Act.

Powers of council

11. (1) The advisory council may examine an area of the province in order to determine which areas are suitable for the establishment of a reserve.
(2) The advisory council may accept recommendations from the public in relation to the establishment of or a change in a reserve.

Duties of council

12. (1) The advisory council shall give information on the areas determined as suitable for the establishment of a reserve under section 11 to interested departments of the governments of the province and Canada and to interested Councils, commissions or other bodies, whether incorporated or unincorporated, members of which or the members of the Council of management or Council of directors of which, are appointed by an Act or by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

(2) Where, in the opinion of the advisory council, the comments received under subsection (1) from the interested departments and bodies do not change the opinion as to the suitability of the area for the establishment of a provisional reserve, the advisory council shall give a report to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Information on reserves

15. Within one year from the date of the establishment of a provisional reserve, the minister shall prepare and publish, in a newspaper in circulation in the area of the provisional reserve, a notice that contains

- (a) a boundary description of the area of the proposed reserve;
- (b) an outline of the management plan of the proposed reserve; and
- (c) a statement indicating that the minister requires written notice within the next 30 days where a member of the public intends to participate in a public hearing on the establishment of the reserve.

Public hearing

16. (1) The minister shall set a time and place for the holding of a public hearing by the advisory council to consider submissions, representations and objections respecting the establishment of a reserve including the boundary description and management plan of the proposed area.

(2) The time of the holding of a public hearing shall be within 90 days of the date of publication of the notice referred to in Section 15 but after 30 days notice has been given to the public of the time and place of the hearing.

Report to Lieutenant-Governor in Council

17. (1) The advisory council shall report in writing to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, through the minister, on the advisability of the establishment of a reserve including a review of the benefits and disadvantages of the establishment, and with a review on public hearing proceedings held under section 16, including its assessment of objections or reservations raised at the hearing.

(2) A report under subsection (1) shall be made within 120 days of the public hearing.

(3) Where the advisory council in its report made under subsection (1) recommends the establishment of a reserve, it shall include in that report

- (a) the boundary description, management plan and proposed regulations in relation to that proposed reserve as revised in consideration of the public hearing; and

(b) comments on the rights and interests affected by the establishment of a reserve and an estimate of the compensation for those rights and interests.

Appendix C: Fiscal Statement

The Council is not required to provide an audited financial statement.

Statement of Expenditures 2008-2009	
Four meetings for Council members (travel, accommodations and per diems)	33,320.09
WERAC Business Cards	160.00
Meeting Room Rental/Catering	1408.36
Field trip to Red Bay Barrens Study Area	700.00
Total	35,588.45

The above stated Expenditures are certified as correct.