



WERAC

*Wilderness and Ecological
Reserves Advisory Council*

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

Annual Report 2009-10

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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 2009 - 2010 **Annual Performance Report** detailing the activities of the Advisory Council from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. 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 protected areas, 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.


WERAC met four times during the 2009-2010 fiscal year: Roddickton-Bide Arm, Lewisporte, St. John's and Happy Valley-Goose Bay. WERAC made no reserve recommendations to government during the fiscal year. Past recommendations on two potential reserves including Sandy Cove (Great Northern Peninsula) and Little Grand Lake (western Newfoundland) await decisions from government. We continue to work closely with government on the development of the Natural Areas System Plan and await updates on its progress from the Minister.

WERAC has been without full membership since 2007 and we continue to await government decision on this important matter. Repeated requests by WERAC for the completion of the appointment process have not been addressed. Furthermore, the Minister has indicated that she will only meet with WERAC only after the appointment process has been completed. This situation has effectively minimized WERAC's ability to assume its legislated mandate.

In conclusion, we 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. Presently, all council member appointments have long expired.

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 2009-10, 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 one to 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	Vancouver
Ms. Christine Doucet	Co-Chair	Frenchman's Cove
Dr. Bill Montevecchi	Member	Portugal Cove
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, municipal councils, 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
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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:

- Lieutenant Governor in Council
- Minister of Environment and Conservation
- 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 and the creation of a sustainable future. 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 2009-10 fiscal year: June 17-19 in Roddickton-Bide Arm, September 24-25 in Lewisporte, December 16 in St. John's, and March 2-3, 2010 in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. 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 WERAC's June meeting in Roddickton-Bide Arm, members visited the Tickle Estuaries, an area previously submitted by WERAC for protection as an addition and surrounding buffer to the Cloud River Study Area. WERAC was accompanied by members of the Committee for Preservation of the Tickle Estuaries. During this fieldtrip WERAC was introduced to the rich diversity of plants and numerous migratory and resident species of birds within the area and learned of the importance of this area for Woodland caribou. The hosts effectively shared their sense of place for the Tickle area. The council discussed current land use and potential reserve management issues as well as options for moving forward with protection under the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*. WERAC also met with the Northern Peninsula East Heritage

Corridor (NPEHC), in response to their request from local communities to discuss protection of the Mare Cove Study Area and the Cloud River Study Area, particularly in relation to the proposed development of the International Appalachian Trail in the region.

At WERAC's September meeting, members met with the Notre Dame Rod and Gun Club to discuss their recommendation for protection of Indian Arm, an area between Notre Dame Junction and Glenwood that includes a protected water supply and the watershed for Campbelton River. The meeting included a presentation on the establishment process and ecology of the area being proposed. The council also carried out a preliminary assessment of the site by helicopter and on foot, guided by two representatives of the Rod and Gun Club. The field trip included surveying the proposed boundary, vegetation, and land-use. At this meeting the council also explored ongoing issues such as the Natural Areas System Plan, expired WERAC membership, the proposed NALCOR transmission line, steps for moving forward on other proposed protected areas and management issues in existing protected areas.

The December meeting included a presentation from staff from the Parks and Natural Areas Division on the progress of the Natural Areas System Plan. The Council discussed further involvement with Hospitality Newfoundland and Labrador (HNL) and the potential for collaboration with the Department of Tourism Culture and Recreation. The council focused on planning for a number of candidate areas, particularly Lawn Islands Archipelago Provisional Ecological Reserve and Indian Arm. The meeting also included a review of ongoing research activities in parks and reserves.

The final meeting of the fiscal year was held in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. At this meeting, WERAC met with Lindsay Notzl of the Nature Conservancy of Canada who considered the ongoing conservation planning work being done in Labrador. The project uses GIS data and groundwork to establish a 'blue print' that identifies potential areas for protection. The Advisory Council also discussed the timeline for WERAC public consultations on Lawn Islands Archipelago Provisional Ecological Reserve and received an update on the information session held by Parks and Natural Areas Division. WERAC discussed a number of options for protection of the area and conservation planning for Manx Shearwater and other seabird species frequenting the area. At this meeting WERAC also reviewed a recommendation for the preservation of 'The Cove' and determined that the area does not meet the criteria for reserve status.

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 Provisional Ecological Reserve, Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve, Little Grand Lake Provisional Ecological Reserve, Mare Cove Study Area as well as the Tickles of the Cloud River Study Area, and the Indian Arm area.. Each of these files is at a different stage of the reserve establishment process. The following outlines WERAC's status of the progress of the provisional ecological reserves:

(i) Lawn Islands Archipelago Provisional Ecological Reserve

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. On July 15, 2009, government approved Lawn Islands Archipelago 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. In accordance with Section 16 of the *Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Act*, the Advisory Council is preparing to host a public hearing to discuss the proposed reserve within the established timeline.

(ii) Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve

Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve, 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. 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) 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 threatened 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. Government has yet to make a decision on reserve establishment.

Natural Areas System 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.

In the case of Mare Cove, Indian Arm and the Tickle area, WERAC has been assisting where it can, as per the mission of the council to assist in the development of the NASP. In response to requests from community groups, WERAC has provided information regarding the establishment process and has supported and facilitated the establishment process with preliminary site assessments and discussions on the benefits and concerns of legislated protection.

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 2009-10. The objectives 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. It is expected that the 2011-2014 Activity Plan and thus future Annual Reports will reflect goals that more accurately reflect the progress of the NASP.

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"> • The Indian Arm area being considered for protection has been postponed for two reasons. The proposal was amended after discussions between WERAC and the Notre Dame Rod and Gun Club to better refine the boundaries of the area the group wished to protect. This area was also first considered by WERAC in collaboration

	with the Department of Environment and Conservation for inclusion as part of the Natural Areas System Plan conflict resolution process. However, this proposal was rejected by the Minister of Environment and Conservation and thus the Indian Arm proposal would need to be made through a recommendation to the Minister for protection outside of the NASP process.
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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: Through on-going discussions, WERAC reported to the Minister regarding the inclusion of the Indian Arm area of interest as part of the NASP. • 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: Through a number of letters of correspondence WERAC communicated the importance of maintaining the integrity of protected areas to provincial and federal

	<p>government agencies, specifically regarding the Environmental Assessment process for the Labrador-Island Transmission Link (Reg. 1407).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 June 19, 2009 WERAC met with the Northern Peninsula East Heritage Corridor, involving representatives from the Town of Conche, Town of Englee, Department of Natural Resources, Nordic Economic Development Corporation, Rural Secretariat, Industry, Trade and Rural Development, French Shore Historical Society, Englee Heritage Committee, GNP Forest Network and the Ashton House Historical Society. The meeting was organized to discuss the benefits and local concerns regarding protection of the Mare Cove area. • An Information Kit was developed for meetings with community groups, including information on protected areas, the establishment process and the council's role. • On June 17 and 18, 2009 WERAC met with the Committee for Preservation of the Tickle Estuaries to discuss the benefits and local concerns regarding protection. • On September 24 and 25, 2009 WERAC met with the Notre Dame Rod and Gun Club to discuss benefits, concerns and various options for protection of the Indian Arm area. • 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. WERAC does not feel it can proceed with this objective until government provides further direction on the implementation of the NASP.

11. Challenges and Opportunities

In WERAC’s 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 Annual Reports, 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. From 2005-2009, WERAC submitted six recommendations for the establishment or expansion of four ecological reserves (Mistaken Point Extension Emergency Ecological Reserve and subsequent Expanded Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve, Sandy Cove Provisional Ecological Reserve and subsequent Sandy Cove Ecological Reserve, Little Grand Lake Ecological Reserve and Lawn Islands Archipelago Provisional Ecological Reserve). Two of these recommendations have yet to be addressed by government. 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. The Little Grand Lake Ecological Reserve recommendation was submitted January 25, 2005 and has yet to be officially addressed.
4. Negotiations on the boundary of the Mealy Mountains/Akamuiapishk 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 has no 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.
6. WERAC is unable to meet with the Minister of Environment and Conservation. Several requests to meet have been refused. The Minister has informed WERAC that no meetings will be held until the appointment process for WERAC has been finalized. WERAC appointments have not been considered for at least five years, despite repeated requests from WERAC.
7. Support for WERAC is provided through Parks and Natural Areas Division. The lack of sufficient staff within the Division means that WERAC must carefully assess the number of issues/candidate areas that can be dealt with at any one time. This results in additional delays in the consultation and establishment processes.

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 and is the foundation for sustainable development.
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.
6. WERAC looks forward to the development of a comprehensive land-use planning process that will incorporate the NASP discussions within a much broader ecological and social context.

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.

- 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

- 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

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

Duties of council

- 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.
 - 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 2009-2010	
Four meetings for Council members (travel, accommodations and per diems)	21,770.29
Meeting Room Rental/Catering	1,423.31
Field trip to Indian Arm (Tickles field trip covered by the guides)	4,625.15
Total	27,818.75

The above stated Expenditures are certified as correct.