

## **A Home for Nature: Protected Areas Plan for the Island of Newfoundland Information on the Consultation Process**

On February 28, 2020, government asked the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council (WERAC) to release a plan for protecting natural areas on the Island of Newfoundland. The public can access the Plan and a Questions and Answers document at [www.engageNL.ca](http://www.engageNL.ca).

**What is the consultation process for the Plan?** Consultation will happen in two phases.

**Phase 1:** WERAC presents the proposed Plan and gathers initial feedback from the public about the Plan and about activities that are important to people within specific proposed areas. Boundaries are not final. It is important to read the Plan and the Questions and Answers document. **Phase 1 extends until October 1, 2020.** To submit comments prior to the October deadline, visit the website listed below for an online feedback form, or send a letter via email or post to the address listed below. People who provide an email address may also receive updates on the consultation process.

During Phase 1, WERAC members are engaging with the public via radio and social media to help answer people's questions. If your council or rural area would like to arrange a conference call with a WERAC member at this time, send a request to the email address listed below. After October 1, WERAC will summarize public feedback and make recommendations to government on implementation of the Plan. The government will then decide when and how to move forward.

**Phase 2:** If directed by government after October 1, WERAC will conduct more extensive consultation for each proposed reserve. Discussions will focus on boundaries and existing activities that people believe should be allowed to continue. The people and WERAC will work together to determine the appropriate management options for each reserve.

**To send comments by email:**

[werac@gov.nl.ca](mailto:werac@gov.nl.ca)

**To send comments via the website:**

[www.engageNL.ca](http://www.engageNL.ca)

**To send comments by post:**

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