

Wording from Form Letters Received During the Comment Period

1. To the Secretariat of the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council,
I support A Home for Nature: Protected Areas Plan for the Island of Newfoundland and don't want this plan to sit on a shelf collecting dust. Protected Areas can have many benefits for conservation, our economy, and nature lovers. A planned system of reserves, protected by legislation, is also the best way to conserve our important species and natural areas. Without community-led designation, legislated protection, and effective management plans we could end up losing some of our most special lands.

I support proceeding with the Protected Areas Plan and beginning site-by-site consultations without delay.

Thank you for releasing this long-awaited plan. We will still need to protect more nature on the Island to meet our commitments to conserve biodiversity, but the first step is moving forward with this plan. It's a step in the right direction towards conserving Newfoundland's natural habitats, systems, and resources.

After decades of waiting, we are ready.

2. Dear WERAC Secretariat,
Each year, we lose a little more of our natural environment to both human activities as well as the changing environment. It is vital that we make every effort to ensure that we try to safeguard some of the last natural areas and the species within to ensure their longevity.

The proposed Protected Areas Plan for the Island of Newfoundland is a blueprint for developing a system of protected areas for the Island. Support for the plan will ensure that these areas are set aside for all to enjoy and thrive. With less than 7% of our public lands and freshwater protected, the time is now to put aside space for nature. The candidate protected areas represent some of the best remaining natural areas in the province, including incredibly significant coastal seabird colonies, species-at-risk habitat, and important wetland habitat.

Protected areas ensure the longevity of not just the sites and the species within, but also protect traditional and cultural heritage without fear of losing these to large industrial projects in the future. We need to sustain the current way of life of these sites from further deterioration and to allow future dialogue between all stakeholders to devise a plan that works for now and future generations.

I support the first phase of the proposed plan with its sites and encourage you to support it as well. We are all stewards of the environment and the proposed plan will help us keep our natural wild spaces intact for all residents and visitors to continue to explore and enjoy.

3. Dear WERAC Secretariat,
Canada has an incredible landscape in every respect, but the east coast is truly unlike any other place the world over. While I'm not presently a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador, the welcoming spirit of the people always makes it feel like home. For many Canadians of English, Irish, French or Indigenous heritage, we have some connection to the province.

Each year, Canada loses a little more of its natural environment to both human activities as well as the changing environment. This makes it ever more vital that we make every effort to

ensure we try to safeguard some of the last natural areas and the species within to ensure their longevity.

The proposed Protected Areas Plan for the Island of Newfoundland is a sound blueprint for developing a system of protected areas for the Island. Support for the plan will ensure that these areas are set aside for all to enjoy - whether residents and their current traditional activities, tourists, those of us who plan to retire on the island, or wildlife - and ensure nature's ability to continue to thrive. With less than 7% of Newfoundland and Labrador's public lands and freshwater protected, the time is now to put aside space for nature. The candidate protected areas represent some of the best remaining natural areas in the province, including incredibly significant coastal seabird colonies, species-at-risk habitat, and important wetland habitat.

I fully support the first phase of the proposed plan with its sites and encourage you to support it as well. We are all stewards of the environment and the proposed plan will help us keep our natural wild spaces intact for all residents and tourists to continue to explore and enjoy now and for future generations.

4. Dear WERAC Secretariat,

As a proud Newfoundland and Labradorian living away, there is always a piece of my heart that will belong to the province. It is hard being away, but it is the memories of the crashing waves on our rugged coastline, the food and dances shared with family and friends, the crisp clean air and so much more our province offers, that forever keeps a piece of my heart at home in Newfoundland and Labrador.

It is important to recognize that as we lose a little more of our natural environment to both human activities and the changing environment, it is vital that we make every effort to ensure we try to safeguard some of the last natural areas and the species within to ensure their longevity.

The proposed Protected Areas Plan for the Island of Newfoundland is a sound blueprint for developing a system of protected areas for the Island. Support for the plan will ensure that these areas are set aside for all to enjoy - whether for its residents and their current traditional activities, tourists who are inspired by the bountiful beauty, those who plan to retire on the island, or the diversity of wildlife - to ensure nature's ability will continue to thrive. With less than 7% of Newfoundland and Labrador's public lands and freshwater protected, the time is now to put aside space for nature. While other provinces have started to find a balance between human interaction and nature, Newfoundland and Labrador can finally do so too!

The candidate protected areas represent some of the best remaining natural areas in the province, including incredibly significant coastal seabird colonies, species-at-risk habitat, and important wetland habitat. By supporting the current plan will allow residents now and the future to continue with our current way of life and ensure we will leave a legacy for future generations to come.

I fully support the first phase of the proposed plan with its sites and encourage you to support it as well. We are all stewards of the environment and the proposed plan will help us keep our natural wild spaces intact for all residents and tourists to continue to explore and enjoy now and for future generations.