

New Parks North

An annual progress report on natural and cultural heritage initiatives in Northern Canada

MARCH 1999

www.newparksnorth.org

NEWSLETTER 8



The face of Canada saw a major change on April 1, 1999, something that has not happened in 50 years. Nunavut, the third Canadian territory, came into being with its own Legislative Assembly and public government, separate from the Government of the remainder of the NWT. Celebrations began in all communities of Nunavut on April 1st.

Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks, related heritage areas and other conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and other protected areas.

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993)* provides a time frame for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks, and conservation areas in Nunavut. The Government of Canada and Inuit expect to have an agreement for three national parks concluded in 1999. Negotiations are currently underway on the proposed Ukkusiksalik national park in the Keewatin region. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

The Yukon First Nations *Umbrella Final Agreement (1993)* has brought into effect seven First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik,

Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin Tlingit Council, Little Salmon/Carmacks, Selkirk, and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, leaving seven First Nation Final Agreements to be negotiated. The development of a Yukon territorial park system must follow or complement the land claims process.

Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18 percent of the land is conserved by national parks and managed in a co-operative manner by Parks Canada and agencies created under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)* or otherwise by agreement with Inuvialuit. For more information, please contact the Inuvialuit Game Council at the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat, Box 2120, Inuvik, NWT X0E 0T0. Telephone (867) 777-2828. For more information on Parks Canada in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, please contact the Client and Heritage Service Manager, Western Arctic Field Unit, Box 1840, Inuvik, NWT X0E 0T0. Telephone (867) 777-3248.

The *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim*

Agreement (1993) and the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992)* address natural area, wildlife, and heritage conservation issues. Two national historic sites in and around the community of Déline have been designated over the same number of years. Activity within the

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Gwich'in settlement area has also increased. Together with the Yukon and NWT territorial governments, Gwich'in are working towards a protected areas strategy within their set-

tlement area. The 1998 designation of a portion of the Mackenzie River outside the community of Tsiigehtchic was due in large part to the efforts of the Gwich'in Social and Cul-

tural Institute and the people of the community.

Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for the Deh Cho region and Treaty 8 (South Slave) and Treaty 11 (North Slave) areas will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the map opposite.

New Parks North has its own Internet web site:

www.newparksnorth.org

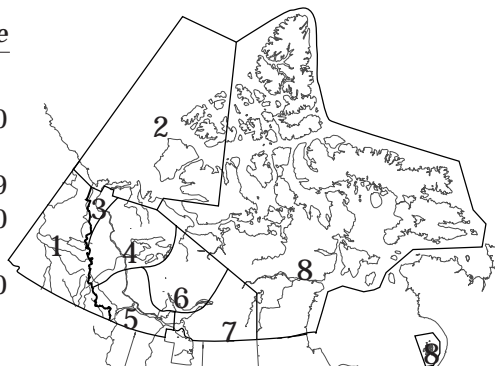
Gordon Hamre, Co-Editor

Judi Cozzetto, Co-Editor

Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

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* Some overlap exists in claim areas

Aboriginal Land Claims

A Brief Overview

Editors' Note: The following article was compiled from several Government sources. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them.

In Canada, the common law concept of Aboriginal rights and title has been recognized by the courts. The existing Aboriginal rights of Aboriginal peoples have also been recognized and affirmed under section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

The evolution and development of the federal government's land claims policy has been closely linked to court decisions. The first claims policy statement in 1973 was initiated by a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (the 1973 *Calder* decision) which acknowledged the existence

of Aboriginal title in Canadian law. In order to address uncertainties created by the decision, the federal government announced its intention to negotiate claim settlements. As the policy developed, claims were divided into two types:

1) **comprehensive claims** - based on the concept of continuing Aboriginal rights and title that have not been dealt with by treaty or other legal means; and

2) **specific claims** - arising from alleged non-fulfilment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the *Indian Act* or formal agreements.

Comprehensive Claims

The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with

Aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of Aboriginal rights. The process is intended to result in agreement on the special rights that Aboriginal peoples will have in the future with respect to land and resources. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties which provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources. Negotiated comprehensive claim settlements provide for the exchange of undefined Aboriginal rights for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits codified in constitutionally-protected settlement agreements.

Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of

certain lands, guaranteed wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial compensation, resource revenue-sharing and economic development measures.

If a national park is established in a settlement area through the claim process, the claimant group continues to exercise its traditional harvesting activities within this protected area. As well, a management board may be established, with representation from the Aboriginal community and Government, to advise the Minister on the management of the national park. Finally, the land claim agreement sets out what economic opportunities associated with the national park will be enjoyed by the claimant group. These may include employment provisions and contracting opportunities.

Significant amendments to the federal comprehensive claims policy were announced in December 1986, following an extensive period of consultation with Aboriginal groups. Key changes to the policy included the development of alternatives to blanket extinguishment of Aboriginal rights, as well as provision for the inclusion in settlement agreements of offshore wildlife harvesting rights, resource revenue-sharing and Aboriginal participation in environmental decision-making. The 1986 policy also provides for the establishment of interim measures to protect Aboriginal interests during negotiations, and the

negotiation of implementation plans to accompany final agreements.

Self-government negotiations may take place parallel to comprehensive claims negotiations or at the same table as the comprehensive claims negotiations. The federal government is prepared to consider constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties to the agreement concur. Self-government must be negotiated in keeping with the 1995 *Framework for the Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiations of Self-Government* policy.

Specific Claims And Treaty Land Entitlement

Specific claims relate to the fulfilment of treaties and to the federal government's administration of Indian reserve lands, band funds and other assets. The government's primary objective with respect to specific claims is to discharge its lawful obligations to First Nations.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a large category of claims that relate primarily to a group of treaties that were signed with First Nations, mainly in the prairie provinces. Not all these First Nations received the full amount of land promised. Claims from First Nations for outstanding entitlements are categorized as TLE claims and are handled separately from other specific claims.

In northern Canada, Parks Canada is currently involved in discussions that concern Wood Buffalo National Park. The Salt River First Nation, a member of the NWT Treaty 8 Tribal Council, has indicated that it wishes

to select land within Wood Buffalo National Park as part of its TLE negotiations. The Minister of Canadian Heritage has agreed to consider this request. A side-table dealing exclusively with Wood Buffalo issues and the Salt River First Nation has been established as part of the TLE negotiations.

Other Claims

The federal government is reaching or negotiating settlement of a number of other Aboriginal grievances, which have sometimes been referred to as claims of a third kind. These grievances fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

One such proposal now under negotiation involves the Métis of the western NWT. When the Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was rejected by the Aboriginal communities in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into regional claims with Aboriginal groups in the western NWT. However, in the South Slave District, Dene have opted to seek fulfilment of their Treaty 8 entitlement. This left eligible Métis in this area without a vehicle to press for their concerns. Negotiations are now underway with the South Slave Métis that may impact on Wood Buffalo National Park.

Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Government of the NWT - Education, Culture and Employment - Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

NWT Archives On-Line Database

Over the last year, the NWT Archives has developed three on-line databases which can be accessed through the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre's (PWNHC) web site (<http://pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca>). The databases are part of an effort by the PWNHC to make its resources more accessible to the public. The main database is the fond database that describes and provides a clear overview of the Archives, although some restrictions apply. The other two databases deal with records at a more detailed level. The most popular of all the databases is the photographic database, which provides access to, and descriptions of, approximately 15,000 photographs. The third database catalogues approximately 5,000 hours of oral history recordings in its holdings. Although the descriptions are not up to nationally recognized standards, it is expected that the descriptions will be substantially enhanced over the next several years.

The database section of the PWNHC web site is still in development. Different approaches to the development include tying all three databases together, a browse function on the photographic database, and direct access to the sound recordings. Updated and new information continues to be added, and new enhancements to make the information more

accessible, useful and relevant continue to remain a priority.

"On-the-Web" : NWT Geographic Names Database

Ever wonder where the name **Great Slave Lake** came from? Who is **Ellesmere Island** named for? What is the latitude and longitude of **Pontoon Lake**? What does **Tsiigehtchic** mean (sorry we can't help you with the pronunciation)? What was the former name for the hamlet of **Kugluktuk** and when did the name change?

All of these questions, and more, can now be answered with just a click of your mouse. Information on more than 11,000 official place-names from the NWT Geographic Names Database is now available on the internet. This database, 101 years in the making, was once part of an index card system containing information on all the place-names of Canada. This system, which began with the creation of the old Geographic Board of Canada in 1898 and was continued by the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names, was first entered into a computer system in the mid-1970s. With the creation of the NWT Geographic Names Program in 1985 that portion of the database that dealt with NWT names has moved north. Work conducted by the Geographic Names Program has added considerably to the information originally stored on these index cards. In particular, thousands of traditional Aboriginal place-names have been added, bringing the database to more than 22,000 records.

The current web version of the database gives access to the information on approximately 11,000 NWT official place-names. In addition to the official names, plans are underway to load all historic and traditional Aboriginal names.

(<http://www.pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/programs/geodb.htm>)

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development - Parks and Tourism

Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route

The Government of the Northwest Territories officially proclaimed the Mackenzie River to be part of the Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route system in 1998. Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and NWT Arctic Tourism are now working with the non-profit Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route Association to include the Mackenzie River and its communities in the promotional efforts of the association. The objective will be to ensure that both recreational canoeists and other visitors to Mackenzie Valley communities have opportunities to understand and appreciate the rich heritage of traditional aboriginal use of the Deh Cho and the tributary streams of the Mackenzie watershed.



Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy

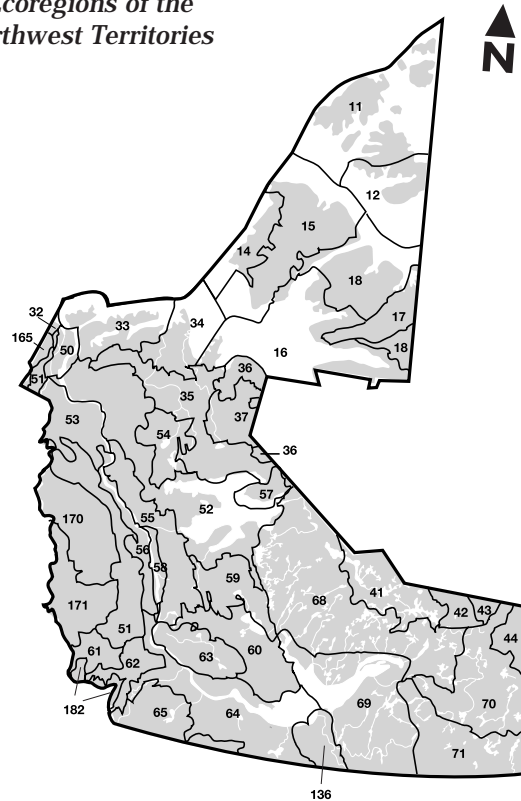
NWT Protected Areas Strategy
Good progress was made in 1998 on a Protected Areas Strategy for the western NWT. A Final Draft Strategy was completed in December 1998 and forwarded to regional and organizational leaders for review.

Initially it was hoped that the Strategy would be applicable to Nunavut as well. This did not prove to be feasible as protected areas are addressed at some length in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. The new Nunavut Territory will determine whether or not the subject of protected areas needs to be considered further.

Much credit for the progress made in the western NWT is due to the Advisory Committee. Established to work with the federal and territorial governments on this initiative, the Committee is comprised of representatives of each of the six regions within the western NWT, with additional members to represent the interests of industry, environmental organizations, and the territorial and federal governments.

The Final Draft Strategy provides a framework within which potential protected areas can be identified, evaluated, and established. Among the primary concerns of the Advisory Committee were that the Strategy give precedence to claim settlement agreements, treaties, and Aboriginal inherent rights, and that it be flexible enough to deal with widely varying circumstances in claim and non-claim areas.

Terrestrial Ecoregions of the Western Northwest Territories



Ecoregions

11 Sverdrup Islands Lowland	42 Garry Lake Lowland	61 Nahanni Plateau
12 Parry Islands Plateau	43 Back River Plain	62 Sibbeston Lake Plain
14 Banks Island Coastal Plain	44 Dubawnt Lake Plain/Upland	63 Horn Plateau
15 Banks Island Lowland	50 Mackenzie Delta	64 Hay River Lowland
16 Amundsen Gulf Lowlands	51 Peel River Plateau	65 Northern Alberta Uplands
17 Shaler Mountains	52 Great Bear Lake Plain	68 Coppermine River Upland
18 Victoria Islands Lowlands	53 Fort McPherson Plain	69 Tazin Lake Upland
32 Yukon Coastal Plain	54 Colville Hills	70 Kazan River Upland
33 Tuktoyaktuk Coastal Plain	55 Norman Range	71 Selwyn Lake Upland
34 Anderson River Plain	56 Mackenzie River Plain	136 Slave River Lowland
35 Dease Arm Plain	57 Grandin Plains	165 British-Richardson Mountains
36 Coronation Hills	58 Franklin Mountains	170 Mackenzie Mountains
37 Bluenose Lake Plain	59 Keller Lake Plain	171 Selwyn Mountains
41 Takijuk Lake Upland	60 Great Slave Lake Plain	182 Hyland Highland

When the Final Draft Strategy receives support from regional and organizational leaders, it will then go to the territorial and federal governments for approval. It is anticipated that formal approval will be secured by mid-1999, after which the various contributing interests to this partnership initiative intend to proceed with implementation of the Strategy.

Government of Canada - Parks Canada - National Parks

Tuktut Nogait National Park

In late December 1998, Tuktut Nogait was proclaimed a National Park under the administration and control of the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the federal department under which Parks Canada falls. The Park had been a subject of controversy over a proposal to change the boundary on the northwest side to allow for mineral exploration and development by a Toronto-based

mining company, Darnley Bay Resources Ltd. Now that Parliament has created the Park, any mining activity will be confined to lands outside the boundary.

Parks Canada continues to be interested in expanding the national park to include lands within the Sahtu Settlement Area and Nunavut; however, the affected communities recently have been addressing matters of more immediate concern. Lands in both areas have been set aside until 2003 to protect them from disposition in the event that the parties wish to begin negotiations.

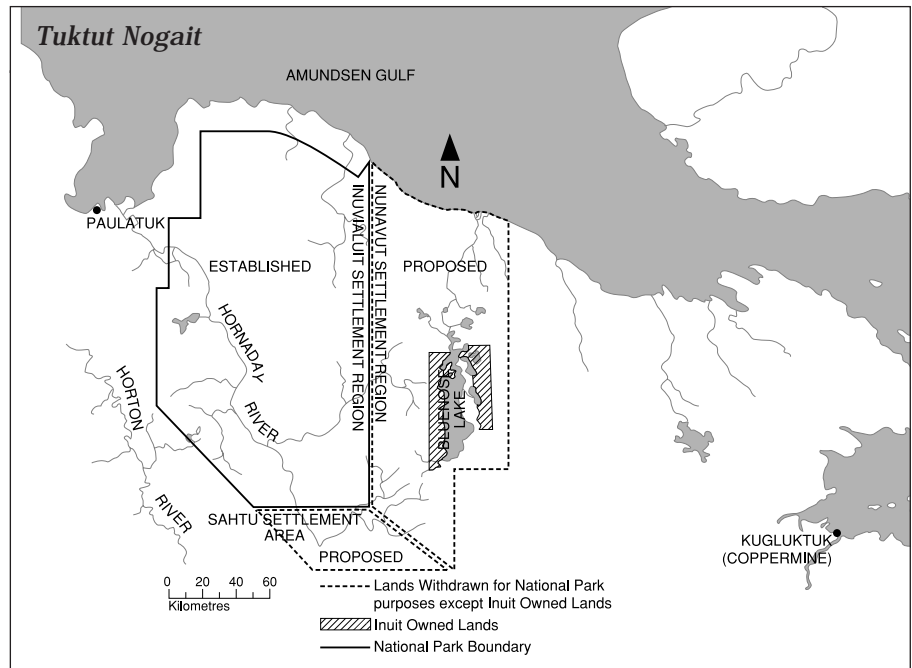
Parks Canada and the Tuktut Nogait Management Board are nearing completion of a draft of the Interim Management Guidelines for the Park. These guidelines outline how the park will be managed until a Management Plan is prepared. Once the Guidelines draft is complete, they will be distributed to external agencies and the public for review and comment.

One of Parks Canada's goals is to maintain the ecological health of national parks. In Tuktut Nogait, a monitoring program is being established to ensure that park managers are able to meet this goal. In 1998, a weather station that monitors air and ground temperature was erected, a water quality and quantity program was initiated on the Hornaday River, and the vegetation of the park is being mapped using satellite imagery.

National Historic Sites

Métis of the Mackenzie Basin Commemorative Project

A joint Métis Heritage Association (MHA)/Parks Canada



initiative saw the realization of a number of objectives and activities in 1998/99. In August 1998 a special session on the Métis of the Mackenzie Basin at the Rupert's Land Fur Trade Colloquium was held in Winnipeg. Most of the contributors to the Métis history project participated in the session, that attracted a supportive audience from both Canada and the United States and promoted awareness of a Métis homeland north of 60.

An important objective of the Métis project since its inception has been production of a scholarly narrative history to identify themes, individuals and places of particular importance to the NWT Métis for potential commemoration by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC). *"Picking up the Threads"*, the resulting narrative history completed in November 1998, is the assembly of thematic papers that draw upon both traditional and academic expertise with a particular emphasis on oral history, or

"Métis voices", and is the collaborative work of both Métis and non-Métis that reflects these varied backgrounds and perspectives. The study traces the origins and diversity in the NWT, its connections with other homelands, and relationships with fur traders, missionaries, and government agencies. In particular, it addresses the contributions of women, the crucial role of the Métis in transportation on the *Grande Rivière* or *Toulou* river (as they called the Mackenzie) and important economic and social achievements up to the 1940s. Despite some gaps, in particular the important political achievements of the post 1950 period and the emergence of the Métis Nation of the NWT, the study provides clear evidence of the rich and unique history of the Métis of the Mackenzie Basin. A summary of *"Picking up the Threads"* is scheduled to be tabled with the HSMBC in the fall of 1999.

A specific Agenda Paper on François Beaulieu, also known

as *le patriarche* and "Old Man" of Salt River (north-west of Fort Smith) is also being prepared. The founder of a large Métis dynasty, Beaulieu's activities illustrate the unique role of the Métis in shaping Aboriginal-Euro-Canadian relations in the Mackenzie River drainage. The paper will include recommendations for commemoration based on consultation with Métis stakeholders.

In addition to these activities, the MHA would like to co-ordinate the writing of the post 1950 period of Métis history in the Mackenzie and eventually publish "*Picking up the Threads*". There are plans to develop school curriculum materials, multi-media presentations and integrate the information in new exhibits on the Métis at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and a Métis Interpretive Centre in the NWT.

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Mackenzie Valley Resource Management

The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act was proclaimed on December 22, 1998, with the exception of Part IV (Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board). The *Act* brings into effect a co-ordinated new system of resource management, and gives Northerners, particularly Aboriginal people, a more active role in the regulation of land and water use.

In the *Act*, the Mackenzie Valley includes all of the western NWT, with the exception of

the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Wood Buffalo National Park. New national parks will be excepted once they are established in law and any right, title or interest of Aboriginal people is settled.

Gwich'in and Sahtu Settlement Areas

In the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the Sahtu Settlement Area, public boards have assumed responsibility for land use planning, and the regulation of land and water use.

The Gwich'in and Sahtu Land and Water Boards are now responsible for issuing, amending, renewing, and suspending land use permits and water licences for activities in their respective settlement areas, taking over regulatory functions previously performed by the NWT Water Board and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND).

Unsettled Claim Areas

DIAND will continue to issue land use permits, and the NWT Water Board will continue to issue water licences for activities in the North Slave, South Slave and Deh Cho regions, until Part IV of the *Act* is proclaimed, and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board is established.

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

The proclamation of Part IV, which would establish the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, has been delayed to give DIAND officials and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Working Group time to respond to concerns raised by First Nation leaders in the unsettled land claim areas.

Environmental Assessment

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, a valley-wide board, is now assuming its responsibilities for the environmental assessment and review of proposed developments in the Gwich'in and Sahtu Settlement Areas, as well as the North Slave, South Slave and Deh Cho Regions.

For more information contact: Regional Communications, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Box 1500, Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2R1 (867) 669-2576

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Marine Protected Areas and the Canadian Arctic

Canada's *Ocean Act* was passed in January 1997. Defined under the *Act*, a Marine Protected Area (MPA) is an area of sea that has been designated for special protection for one or more purposes. MPAs can be established to conserve and protect the following:

- commercial and non-commercial fishery resources, including marine mammals, and their habitats;
- endangered or threatened species and their habitats;
- unique habitats;
- marine areas of high biodiversity or biological productivity; and
- any other marine resource or habitat as is necessary.

The Government of Canada, provincial and territorial governments, affected aboriginal organizations, land claims agreement bodies, and coastal communities across Canada are

in the process of working together to develop an Oceans Management Strategy (OMS) for the management of Canada's three oceans. The national strategy will be based on the principles of integrated management, sustainable development and the precautionary approach (which means to err on the side of caution). Under the *Act*, there are three complementary programs to be developed in support of Canada's OMS including integrated management, MPAs, and marine ecological health. Five pilot projects have begun in Canada, four in the Pacific and one in the Atlantic.

Although MPAs are generally defined under the *Canada Oceans Act*, the *Act* was designed to encourage stakeholder participation in defining the specific boundaries and management plans for each MPA according to its purpose, location and nature. A strong emphasis is placed on involving stakeholders in the beginning stages so that the priorities and goals of the communities and stakeholders affected are considered. It also provides the opportunity for creating a MPA process that will be flexible at all stages of development. As an example, a MPA may be seasonal, year-round or permanent, and may not necessarily be in place forever, depending on the reason for designation.

In the western Arctic more than a decade of Task Forces, Commissions, and Land-Use Plans have pointed to the value of stakeholder input to

the planning process and the need for protection of the marine environment.

A MPA in the Arctic will require working closely with coastal communities and stakeholders within existing co-management frameworks that have been established under northern land claim agreements. A pilot MPA would provide an opportunity for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and northern communities to work together towards oceans conservation while stimulating local involvement and responsibility, enhancing opportunities for monitoring and guardianship of community areas, and improving decision making.

MPA "pilot sites" are based on adaptive management, which presents the opportunity of "learn by doing". Pilot sites are experimental, providing the integrated planning experience and stakeholder involvement needed to develop a MPA designation process that works and is sensitive to all parties involved. DFO is working with a number of stakeholders to make marine protection a reality in the Arctic Ocean.

A pilot MPA would provide an opportunity for co-operation, and focus on integrated ocean planning and management between DFO, aboriginal organizations, stakeholders, northern communities, other government agencies, industry and a variety of management boards. This process can ensure that the sites chosen represent local, regional and national needs and values.

A pilot MPA can also complement already existing legislation and/or management plans that have been developed by other stakeholders. There are currently (or soon will be) three legislative tools for protecting marine areas in the NWT. They include Marine Wildlife Areas under the *Canada Wildlife Act* and the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, National Marine Conservation Areas as proposed in Bill C-48 that is currently before Parliament, and Marine Protected Areas under the *Oceans Act*. The Department of the Environment, Parks Canada and the DFO do not work in isolation. These agencies plan for areas of marine protection together.

Over the past year, DFO has been working on a variety of projects. Information is available for educational purposes and feedback. This information is useful in helping people to understand the *Oceans Act* and what its programs and initiatives are. If you would like more information, please contact the address listed on page 31.

Gwich'in Settlement Area

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Commemorative Plaques and Lobstick Project - Nagwichoonyik National Historic Site

In January 1998, the Minister of Canadian Heritage declared Nagwichoonyik, the stretch of the Mackenzie River between Thunder River and Point Separation in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, a National Historic Site. In order to further the intent of the designation - the desire by Gwichya Gwich'in to share their history and culture for education and tourism purposes - two commemorative activities will be carried out in 1999. The text for commemorative plaques will be written for the eastern and western boundaries of the designation, Thunder River and Point Separation. These plaques will explain the cultural and historical significance of these sites to Gwichya Gwich'in.

The second commemorative activity will take place on the land. An Elder accompanied by an assistant from Tsiigehtchic will begin to mark the trail heads of eleven historically important trails connecting the Mackenzie River corridor with other Gwichya Gwich'in traditional lands. Each trail head will be marked using a *njoh* (lobstick). These unique markers have long been used by Gwich'in to mark important fishing locations, trails and other culturally important sites.

Gwich'in traditionally selected tall trees standing off by themselves for this purpose. The branches would be cut off, leaving only two branches in the middle on each side, giving the tree the appearance of having wings. Besides serving as markers, these were also used in at least one situation for a very different purpose. According to Gwich'in oral history, a *njoh* was used by Inuvialuit as a lookout to see how many Gwich'in were camped at one of the prime fishing locations (Pierre's Creek) on the Mackenzie River, just before they attacked. The last battle between Gwich'in and Inuvialuit took place at this site in the mid-1800s. Elders in Tsiigehtchic recalled seeing this *njoh* many years ago (1937).

Following this year's commemorative activities, Gwichya Gwich'in living in Tsiigehtchic also wish to carry out a number of other activities including: the finalization of a community history called *Gwichya Gwich'in Googwandak: The History of the Gwichya Gwich'in and of Tsiigehtchic*, along with a multimedia presentation of this information; archaeological surveys of the National Historic Site stretch of the Mackenzie River and excavations at the old Arctic Red site involving local people and tourists; the

re-establishment of the old trails that connect the Mackenzie River with areas traditionally used inland; and a walking tour of Tsiigehtchic. Gwichya Gwich'in see these activities as benefitting both their own people as well as tourists who are interested in learning about Gwich'in culture and history.

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Sahtu Settlement Area

**Government of the NWT -
Education, Culture and
Employment - Prince of Wales
Northern Heritage Centre**

**Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites
Joint Working Group**

In July 1998, the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group (SHPSJWG) completed a draft of their report, which recommends commemoration of, and various levels of protection for 42 sites important to the cultural heritage of Sahtu Dene and Metis. The SHPSJWG has four appointed members representing the Sahtu

Secretariat Inc., and the federal and territorial governments. A fifth member, elected by the four members, serves as chair. The SHPSJWG was created through the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, and is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations to appropriate federal and territorial ministers regarding the commemoration and protection of Sahtu heritage sites. The sites were chosen following extensive fieldwork in the communities of Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake and Délne,

and represent a wide variety of historic and cultural sites, ranging in size from less than a hectare to linear trails many kilometers in length. Further research is currently underway in the community of Tulita, and it is expected that a number of sites will be added to the report as a result. The SHPSJWG will meet again in May 1999, to review the final report. It is anticipated that the final report will be released to the public this summer.

Dene and Métis Claims Areas (South Mackenzie)

**Government of Canada -
Environment Canada -
Canadian Wildlife Service**

Mills Lake

The wetlands around Mills Lake, a widening of the Mackenzie River 40 km downstream from where it exits Great Slave Lake, are important staging habitat for migratory waterfowl moving up and down the Mackenzie Valley.

From 1994 to 1997, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) conducted aerial surveys at Mills Lake to obtain data on the numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds staging at Mills Lake during the spring and fall migration periods. These are the first such data from Mills Lake since the early 1970s. Fort Providence is interested in protected status for Mills Lake

for both subsistence and cultural reasons, but private land holdings in the area are a complicating factor. CWS is working with the Fort Providence Band and other interested parties to explore conservation options for Mills Lake.

Council for Yukon First Nations Claims Area

**Government of Yukon -
Tourism - Heritage**

Introduction

The Heritage Branch of the Government of Yukon continues to implement the *Historic Resources Act (HRA)*, as well as participate in the implementation of the Council of Yukon

First Nations *Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA)* and various Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.

The Branch is responsible for the research, protection, preservation and presentation of Yukon heritage resources. The *HRA* has been crafted to complement and help enable the

UFA heritage provisions. As the 14 individual Yukon First Nation agreements are completed and implemented, the First Nations are assuming stewardship of their own heritage. The roles and responsibilities for management of Yukon heritage resources are outlined primarily in Chapter 13 of each Final

Agreement as well as the *UFA*. In some cases site management and ownership responsibilities are shared between Heritage Branch and a First Nation because of cross cultural heritage significance. Several of these sites are also to be designated under the *HRA*.

Canyon City

Again in 1998, the Heritage Branch contracted the Yukon Conservation Society to guide visitors to historic Canyon City and relate the role this site played in the earliest years of Whitehorse history. Located on the bank of the Yukon River just as it enters Whitehorse through Miles Canyon, Canyon City holds archaeological evidence of a brief, but critical stopping point along the "Trail of '98" to the Klondike. Heritage Branch has just published another in its series of booklets on archaeological investigations in the Yukon, entitled "The Archaeology of Canyon City: from Trail to Tramway".

Fort Selkirk Historic Site

Work is underway to produce a new management plan for possibly the most important historic site in the Yukon - Fort Selkirk - located on the bank of the Yukon River across from the mouth of the Pelly River. Following the settlement of the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement* in 1997, the First Nation and the Yukon Government now co-own the site, which has been co-operatively managing under a 1990 management plan. A Fort Selkirk Management Group, consisting of three representatives each from the First Nation and the Yukon Government, has been in charge of implementing the

original plan and will be overseeing its revision. Some 40 standing structures at the site represent over 100 years of history and a broad range of themes such as military, church, mercantile, education and community society. Archaeological investigations have uncovered evidence of site use dating back 8,000 years.

All the buildings have been stabilized and emphasis has moved to interpretation. The buildings are spread over a kilometre of river terrace. One building near each end of the site will be furnished as interpretive centres in 1999. The 1999 Fort Selkirk Management Plan will reflect the terms of the *Agreement*, tasks successfully implemented from the 1990 management plan, changes in the area of heritage tourism, and community desires.

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site

This historic site, as the name suggests, is comprised of three units surrounding the mouth of the Fortymile River where it meets the Yukon River near the Alaska border, some 80 km northwest of Dawson City. Provisions for this site are also dealt with in Chapter 13 of the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Final Agreement*.

Forty Mile is on the south bank of the Fortymile River and was the largest mining community in the Yukon when gold was discovered in the Klondike. In fact, the Klondike discovery claim was registered at the Mining Recorder's office in Forty Mile. At that time the community had about 600 citizens and close to 100 buildings including a library, concert hall, saloons, church and stores. Only half a

dozen structures stand today. In the summer of 1998 a brief, preliminary archaeological survey was carried out to determine the nature and extent of the remaining resources. Forty Mile was virtually abandoned overnight for the Klondike goldfields and much of the physical evidence that was left has been buried by periodic flooding. It is expected that somewhere below the silt there will be evidence of use by Han people prior to non-native occupation, likely for fishing. Commercial salmon fishermen still use nearby road access to the Yukon River.

Across the mouth of the Fortymile are the sites of Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine. Fort Cudahy was a North American Trading and Transportation Company post consisting of a sawmill and a number of stores. The site of Fort Constantine, located just up river from Fort Cudahy was a classic palisaded fort. Established in 1895, it was the first base of the North-West Mounted Police in the Yukon, and named after Officer-in-Charge, Superintendent Charles Constantine. Both Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine were abandoned when Dawson City became the centre of attention. Little is known about the physical remains of either of these sites although they are mainly archaeological in nature.

In 1999 the Heritage Branch will begin working with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in on planning for the research, conservation, management and interpretation of these sites as required under the land claim agreement. The First Nation and the Yukon Government will be co-owners and co-managers of these sites.

Rampart House and Lapierre House Historic Sites

In 1998 the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation of Old Crow and Heritage Branch began preparing management plans for these two important historic sites located along the Porcupine River drainage. The *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement* calls for Rampart House and Lapierre House Historic Sites to be co-owned and co-managed by the First Nation and the Yukon Government, and for the development of management plans for the two sites.

Under terms of the *Agreement*, the First Nation and the Yukon Government appointed three members each to a Joint Heritage Committee to oversee the preparation of the management plans. The planning project was contracted to Ecogistics Consulting and required public consultation in Old Crow and Whitehorse as well as input from Gwich'in in the NWT and Alaska. Lapierre House was located on a trade and travel route between the North Yukon interior and Fort McPherson, NWT. Rampart House has descendants living in both Old Crow and Fort Yukon, Alaska who still visit the site.

The heritage of both sites represents the earliest known meetings of natives and non-natives in the Yukon. Outside traders, the Church and government made their first incursions into the farthest reaches of Canada's northwest at these sites. Although now abandoned, they witnessed the many changes that occurred to the culture and lifestyles of the native population over recent generations. This history is still

remembered and told by Gwitchin Elders.

Beginning in the summer of 1999, the management plans will be used to guide the research, conservation, development and presentation of these historic sites over the next 10 years.

Roadside Interpretation

Heritage Branch is improving its interpretive signs at highway pull outs throughout the Yukon. The Interpretive Plan for the Alaska Highway East is the latest highway corridor plan completed. It joins similar plans for six other corridors to interpret the cultural and natural heritage in the Yukon landscape for highway travellers. Roadside pull outs offer the opportunity to stop, rest and learn about the region.

In 1998, the centennial anniversary of the Klondike Gold Rush, 15 new interpretive panels were erected along the Bonanza Creek/Hunker Creek Road loop through the Klondike goldfields.

Tr'o-ju-wech'in

During the summer of 1998, Heritage Branch worked with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in of Dawson City to investigate the archaeological resources of Tr'o-ju-wech'in and Klondike City (Lousetown) at the mouth of the Klondike River. Tr'o-ju-wech'in is the name given to a Han fishing camp once located where the Klondike River meets the Yukon River. When the masses of Klondike Gold Rush stampeders arrived in 1897/98, they took over the site and soon an industrial/red light suburb of Dawson City emerged. Klondike City was connected to Dawson City by a bridge over the

Klondike River and was the base for the Klondike Mines Railway, the Klondike Brewery, the Klondike Sawmill and a residential community famous for its prostitution.

All that remain today are remnants of machinery and foundation outlines. Even more obscure is the evidence of the earlier Han fish camp buried by silt from regular flooding, as well as remains of the historic goldrush community. Archaeological investigations were carried out by six Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in students and one researcher. Digging sometimes several metres down into the silt the crew found preserved artifacts and other evidence of the traditional Han site. Meanwhile archaeological researchers from Simon Fraser University focused on the historic remains of Klondike City. A second year of excavations in the summer of 1999 will look more closely at the traditional camp area.

Tr'o-ju-wech'in research and planning are requirements of the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Final Agreement*. (Also see Parks Canada article - page 20)

Whitehorse - Dawson City Overland Trail

In 1902 the Yukon Government contracted the clearing of an overland route between Whitehorse and Dawson City that could be used during the winter season when the river boats were out of service. This winter road was 330 miles long with roadhouses at 25 mile intervals. They kept fresh horses for the stages and sleighs, and offered warmth, beds, nourishment and refreshment to

passengers. Although abandoned in the 1950s when modern roads were built, some smaller sections are still in use.

In 1998 the Heritage Branch published an illustrated booklet about the Overland Trail based on archival research, oral history and field investigations. The historic trail is being put forward as a major link in the Trans Canada Trail in the Yukon.

Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre

The Yukon Beringia Interpretive Centre in Whitehorse has just completed its second year of operation and continues to be a major tourist attraction for the Yukon. In 1998 Camp Beringia was introduced as a program for youth to learn about the Yukon

ice age and the sciences, including archaeology, geology and botany which are applied to the discovery of this ancient history. Skeletons and mounts of woolly mammoths, scimitar cats, giant short faced bears and American lions fill the Centre. A combination of western science and native knowledge is used to interpret this time when the Beringia Yukon Refugium was part of an unglaciated sub continent. Stretching from Central Siberia to the Yukon, mammals roamed and were followed here by North America's first people. <http://www.beringia.com/>

Yukon First Nation Burial Sites

Heritage Branch has been working with Yukon First Nations to develop procedures

for protecting First Nation burial sites discovered on non-settlement land. These procedures are an implementation requirement of Yukon First Nation Final Agreements and the Tetlit Gwich'in *Yukon Transboundary Agreement*. The Branch brought together representatives and Elders of the Yukon First Nations with agreements, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the RCMP, DIAND and other Yukon Government departments to discuss appropriate ways of "giving proper respect" to disturbed sites and found human remains. The procedures will promote consistent and sure treatment of often forgotten and unmarked burial sites.

Canadian Archaeological Association (CAA) Conference

The Heritage Branch will be hosting the 32nd annual conference of the CAA in Whitehorse, April 28 to May 2, 1999. Archaeologists from Canada and the United States of America will be gathering to exchange ideas and information. One major theme will be Anthropology of the Cordillera. Find out more at <http://www.yukonheritage.com>

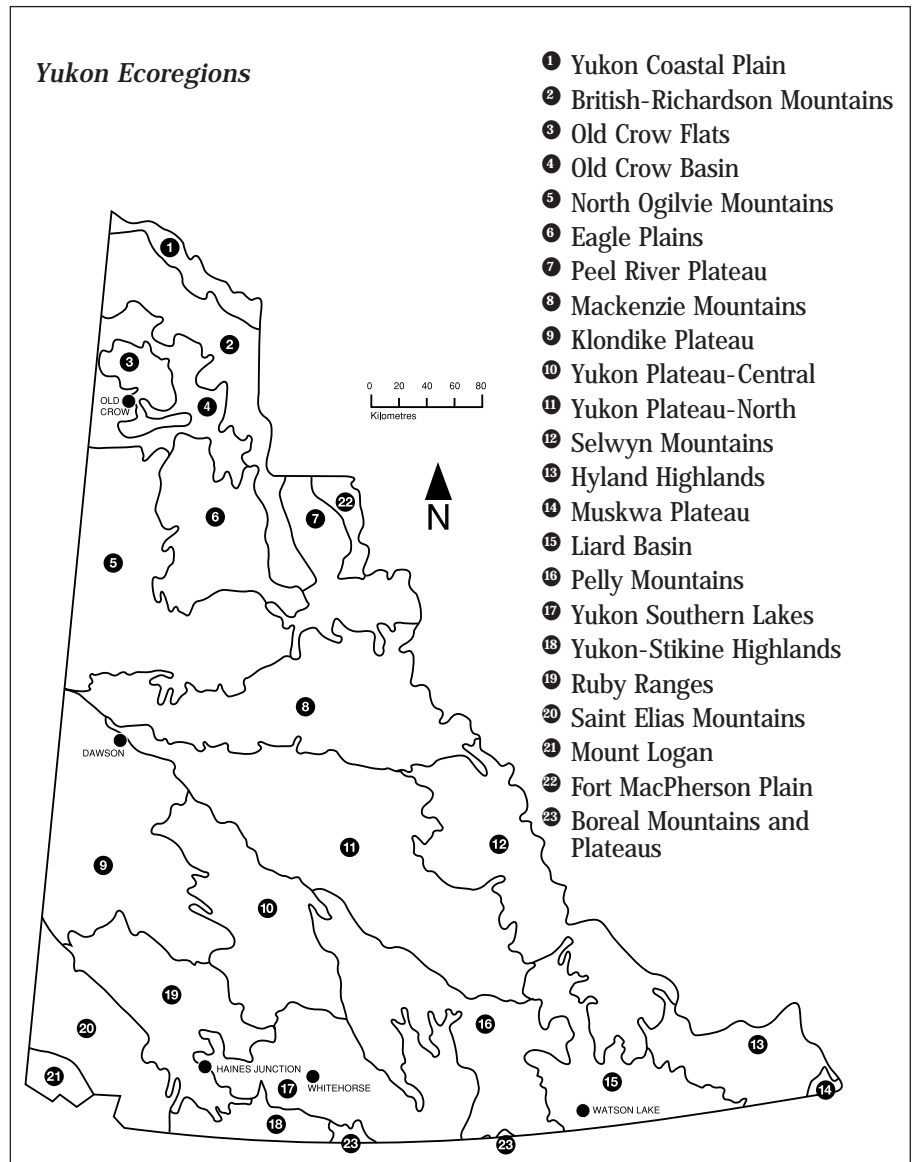
Tourism and Parks

Protected Areas Strategy

The Yukon Government is committed to developing a network of protected areas to safeguard critical wildlife habitats, significant wetlands, known heritage sites and representative portions of the Yukon's 23 ecoregions. The Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) was completed in December 1998 and implementation is underway.

As part of the Strategy, a two-year work plan has been developed which focuses on meeting the four primary goals of the YPAS. The work plan will be publicly reviewed and revised on an annual basis. Highlights of the work plan include:

- Protecting representative core areas within each ecoregion. Local planning teams will be established for the northwest and northeast Yukon, as well as the Teslin area.
- Protecting wetlands. Spring 1999 will see the completion of a strategic framework for wetland protection. The designation of Horseshoe Slough and Nordenskiöld as Habitat Protection Areas, and the identification and designation of other priority wetlands will take place in the fall of 1999. The spring of 2000 will bring about the designation of L'hutsaw and Needlerock as Habitat Protection Areas.
- Implementing Special Management Areas through First Nation Final Agreements. Designation of the Fishing Branch River area as an ecological reserve will take place in the spring of 1999.



The fall of this same year will see the designation of Tombstone Mountain as a natural environment park, and the Tatschenshini River proclaimed a Canadian Heritage River.

- Implementing commitments to new Special Management Areas that will be established as part of a new Yukon First Nation Final Agreement.
- Amending the *Yukon Parks Act* to create the legislative tools needed for YPAS implementation.

Special Management Areas

Ddhaw Gro

Ddhaw Gro is the Northern Tutchone name for the area formerly known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary. Ddhaw Gro is dominated by Grey Hunter Peak and the surrounding hillsides which support a population of Fannin sheep, a unique colour variation of the Dall's sheep. Important mineral licks and hot springs are included in the protected area.

Ddhaw Gro has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Agreements of the Nacho Nyak Dun and Selkirk First Nations*. A Steering Committee made up of members nominated by these two First Nations and the Yukon Government will prepare a management plan for Ddhaw Gro within two years of the effective date of the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*. When the management plan is completed Ddhaw Gro will be designated a Protected Habitat Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Fishing Branch River

The Fishing Branch River is the most important salmon spawning stream in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River system. It supports unusually large runs of chinook, chum and coho salmon. The area is protected for its high wildlife values, particularly salmon and grizzly bears.

Lands on the north side of the Fishing Branch River near Bear Cave Mountain were identified as a Special Management Area under the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*. This area will be established as an Ecological Reserve through the *Yukon Parks Act*. A draft management plan for Fishing Branch River is now being reviewed by the Yukon, federal and Vuntut Gwitchin governments. When the review is completed, the draft plan will be released for public comment. The management plan should be completed in 1999.

Horseshoe Slough

Horseshoe Slough is an important waterfowl breeding and staging area in the traditional territory of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun in the central Yukon. The area is comprised of Horseshoe Slough, an old oxbow of the Stewart River, and the lower portion of Nogold Creek including the numerous shallow ponds within its valley.

Horseshoe Slough has been identified as a Habitat Protection Area within the *First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Final Agreement*. A draft management plan for Horseshoe Slough is now being reviewed by the Mayo District Renewable Resources Council and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. The draft plan will be released for public comment and completed by the end of the year.

L'hutsaw Wetlands

L'hutsaw Wetlands (formerly Von Wilczek Lakes) is an important wetland complex for duck staging, nesting and moulting along the North Klondike Highway south of Pelly Crossing. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement (SFNFA)*.

A steering committee made up of members nominated by the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government will prepare a management plan for L'hutsaw Wetlands within two years of the effective date of the *SFNFA*. When the management plan is completed, L'hutsaw Wetlands will be designated a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Nordenskiold River

The Nordenskiold River valley south of Carmacks is a major wetland complex and an important waterfowl staging and nesting area. It has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Final Agreement*.

A Steering Committee made up of members nominated by the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation and the Yukon government has been set up to develop a management plan for Nordenskiold River. The Committee has prepared a work plan to guide its efforts and a contractor has been hired to carry out a resource inventory as a first step towards management planning.

Old Crow Flats

Old Crow Flats is the Yukon's largest wetland complex. Located on the Old Crow River system north of the Arctic Circle, the Flats contain more than 2,000 ponds and marshes ranging in size from one-half to 4,700 hectares. The area is an important breeding and moulting ground for 500,000 water birds. Waterfowl, muskrats and other wildlife of the Flats are of great importance to Vuntut Gwitchin.

Under the terms of the *Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Final Agreement*, the southern part of the Old Crow Flats was designated a Special Management Area and the northern part was included in Vuntut National Park. Old Crow Flats will be managed to maintain the integrity of the area as one ecological unit with the conservation of fish, wildlife and their habitats, and the

Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

■ **Operating Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites**

1. Blackstone
2. Bloody Falls
3. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon
4. Canyon City
5. Coal River Springs
6. Fort Selkirk
7. Fort Smith Mission
8. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine
9. Gwich'in
10. Herschel Island
11. Hidden Lake
12. Ijiraliq
13. Katannilik
14. Kekerten
15. Lansing Post
16. LaPierre House
17. Mallikjuaq
18. Montague Road House
19. Original Telegraph Office, Yukon Sawmill Co. Office (Dawson City)
20. Qaummaarviit
21. Rampart House
22. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
23. Robinson Road House
24. Shāwshe
25. Sylvia Grinnell
26. Twin Falls Gorge

◆ **National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)**

27. Arvia'juaq NHS
28. Aulavik NP
29. Auyuittuq NPR
30. Déline Fishery and Old Fort Franklin NHS
31. Ellesmere Island NPR
32. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
33. Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills NHS
34. Ivvavik NP
35. Kitigaryuit NHS
36. Klondike NHS (Dawson City)
37. Kluane NP
38. Kluane NPR
39. Nagwichoonjik NHS
40. Nahanni NPR
41. Our Lady of Good Hope Church NHS
42. Pingo Canadian Landmark
43. Tuktoyaktuk NP
44. Vuntut NP
45. Wapusk NP
46. Wood Buffalo NP
47. Yukon NHS (SS Klondike)

* **Areas Under Study**

48. Akpatok Island
49. Digges Island
50. Foxe Basin Islands
51. Mills Lake
52. Rasmussen Lowlands
53. Wolf Lake



+ *National Park and National Historic Site Proposals*

- 54 East Arm of Great Slave Lake
- 55. Northern Bathurst Island
- 56. Sirmilik
- 57. Torngat Mountains
- 58. Tukturnogait
- 59. Ukkusiksalik
- 60. Utkuhiksalik

★ *Heritage Rivers*

- 61. Alsek
- 62. Arctic Red River
- 63. Bonnet Plume
- 64. Kazan
- 65. Soper
- 66. South Nahanni
- 67. Tatshenshini
- 68. Thelon
- 69. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)

▼ *Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals*

- 70 Beechey Island
- 71. Kusawa Lake
- 72. Mount Pelly
- 73. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition
- 74. Ram Plateau

▲ *Proposed Heritage Rivers*

- 75. Coppermine

□ *Other Conservation Areas*

- 76. Ddhaw Gro Special Management Area
- 77. Fishing Branch River Special Management Area
- 78 Harry Gibbons/East Bay Bird Sanctuary
- 79. Horseshoe Slough Habitat Protection Area
- 80. Iqaluit National Wildlife Area
- 81. Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary
- 82. L'hutsaw Wetlands Special Management Area
- 83. Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area
- 84. Nitsutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area
- 85. Nordenskiold River Special Management Area
- 86. Old Crow Special Management Area
- 87. Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area
- 88. Prince Leopold Island Bird Sanctuary
- 89. Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary
- 90. Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area
- 91. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuaary
- 92. Tombstone Mountain Special Management Area



Legend

- Existing parks, park reserves, game sanctuaries
- Proposed parks
- Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
- National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
- * Areas Under Study
- + National Park and National Historic Site Proposals
- ★ Heritage Rivers
- ▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
- ▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers
- Other Conservation Areas

continuation of traditional use by Vuntut Gwitchin as guiding principles. A three-year study of the waterfowl and wetland habitats of the Flats continues. Information from this study will be used in the development of a management plan to be prepared jointly by the Yukon and federal governments and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

Ta'tla Mun

Ta'tla Mun (formerly Tatlain Lake) is an important food fish lake southeast of Pelly Crossing in the traditional territory of the Selkirk First Nation. It also has a reputation as a high quality fly-in sport fishing lake. Ta'tla Mun has been identified as a Special Management Area under the *Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement*. A Steering Committee made up of members nominated by the Yukon and Selkirk governments, is preparing a management plan for the Ta'tla Mun with public involvement. The plan should be completed by the end of 1999.

Tombstone Mountain

Tombstone Mountain is identified as a Special Management Area in the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Final Agreement (THFNFA)*. The area will be established as a natural environment park in two phases.

A Steering Committee was established in early 1999 to identify a recommended park boundary through the evaluation of surrounding lands. Public input and consultation with the various bodies and interest groups is also a requirement. The core area has already been identified in the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Agreement*. The *Agreement* provides a period of 18 months to finalize the boundary.

Following the completion of the boundary review, the entire area would be designated as a Natural Environment Park under the *Yukon Parks Act*. Preparation of a park management plan will then proceed in accordance with the process outlined in the Tombstone Territorial Park Schedule of the *THFNFA*. Best efforts will be made to complete the Management Plan within 18 months of determining the park boundaries.

Canadian Heritage Rivers

Bonnet Plume River

The Bonnet Plume River passes through the remote wilderness of the Wernecke Mountains. It was nominated as a Canadian Heritage River in January 1993 with participation of the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation. A draft management plan covering the entire watershed was prepared in consultation with a stakeholder advisory committee and was made available to the public through a broad consultation process during 1997. The final management plan was presented to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board in February 1998 and accepted. Implementation of the Plan has begun.

Tatshenshini River

The Tatshenshini River is an internationally renowned river that cuts through the spectacular coastal mountains on its way from the Yukon through British Columbia to the Alaskan coast. The Canadian Heritage Rivers Board designated the Tatshenshini River in 1998. Preparation of a management plan began in January 1999.

Government of Canada - Parks Canada - National Parks

Wolf Lake (Gooch Aa)

Wolf Lake is located in the southern Yukon, about 200 km east of Whitehorse, near the community of Teslin. The area surrounding Wolf Lake includes rugged mountains along both sides of the Continental Divide north of the Yukon/British Columbia border, and the headwaters of the Liard, Morley and Wolf Rivers. A great variety of vegetation communities occur, in part because of the difference in elevation (up to 2100 metres). Treeless tundra is common, along with forested lowlands and valleys at lower elevations. Outstanding features in the area include important winter range for the Wolf Lake herd of woodland caribou; the Wolf River, a highly productive habitat for moose and beaver; a rich population of large predators, fish and birds; and remnant populations of mountain goats and Stone's sheep. The historical stability of the Wolf Lake predator-prey ecosystem, particularly wolves and caribou, is of great scientific interest.

In early 1998, Parks Canada held initial discussions with the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Teslin Renewable Resources Council concerning a possible feasibility study for a new national park in the area. In December 1998, the Government of Yukon released its Protected Areas Strategy, which identified the Wolf Lake (Gooch Aa) area as one of three priority areas for protected areas planning in the Yukon during 1999/00. The Strategy commits to establishing a local planning team in Teslin to

begin the work and discussions are now underway with the Teslin Tlingit Council, the village of Teslin, the Teslin Renewable Resources Council, and the Government of Canada.

A planning process for this area would include technical studies, public consultations and inter-governmental co-operation. If the process results in a recommendation to protect the Wolf Lake area, governments may then be in a position to negotiate the establishment of a new national or territorial park.

National Historic Sites

Carnegie Library/Masonic Lodge

Built in 1903/04 with a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, the Carnegie Library is a two-storey building, remarkable both for the role it played in the cultural life of this remote Gold Rush town and for its form. As a library, the building connected the people of Dawson to the wider world through its books and magazines and many meetings held there. The building's most distinctive physical values are its pressed metal façade and interior, stylistically organized into a symmetrical classical renaissance design, with a classical entrance portico as the central focal point. The colour and texture of the surface evokes the image of a stone building, imparting a sense of permanence and refinement in this frontier setting. The Library/Masonic Lodge was designated a National Historic Site in 1967 following a meeting of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) in Dawson that same

year. In 1998, Masonic Order Yukon Lodge No. 45 requested that the building be considered for funding assistance under the National Cost Sharing Program and, following an assessment that same year, the HSMBC approved the request. Parks Canada will be working directly with the Masonic Lodge members, as well as the City of Dawson and the Yukon Heritage Branch, to ensure the continuing historical integrity of the Carnegie Library for the future. A meeting between the four parties was held in March 1999 to outline how the Cost Share process works in terms of defining the roles and responsibilities of the participants, as well as setting out a rough time line for these events to occur.

Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park

The Klondike Gold Rush had a major impact on this part of the continent. It brought new people to settle and encouraged development in the Yukon, and reinforced sovereignty in a corner of the country little known to most Canadians. Accelerating the settlement of the interior of Alaska, the Klondike Gold Rush led to the creation of towns that would play a major role in the future of the State.

The route to the Klondike Gold Rush traversed the traditional territory of the Carcross-Tagish First Nation. Members have expressed interest in working with Parks Canada, an interest Parks Canada welcomes. Projects to enhance interpretation of the First Nation's culture and history in the area and incorporate First Nation members into the work

force are underway.

On the 100th anniversary of the Klondike Gold Rush, governments designated specific lands from Seattle (Washington) to Dawson City (Yukon) as the Klondike Gold Rush International Historical Park. Work continues to preserve important sites along the trail.

Yukon First Nations National Historic Sites Initiative

1998 saw four Yukon First Nations continue research and consultations leading to the enhanced national commemoration of aboriginal peoples in Canada's National Historic Sites system.

Carcross-Tagish

The Carcross-Tagish First Nation has long expressed its interest in the enhanced commemoration of its people and culture in the area of Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site. The First Nation completed a multi-year project to inventory and catalogue the heritage sites within their traditional lands in 1998.

Champagne & Aishihik

As part of a continuing program of research on the heritage sites within their traditional lands, the Champagne & Aishihik First Nation completed a major study of the Hutshi area. This study took Elders back to their traditional camps and recorded their memories, that resulted in an attractive report to help the community express and ensure the protection of the values of the site.

Ta'an Kwachin

Last year the Kwanlin Dun First Nation prepared a set of biographies of the Chiefs and Leaders and suggested that Jim Boss be considered a person of national historic significance. A turn-of-the-century Chief of the Lake Lebarge area First Nations, Jim Boss was the first to file for a land claim agreement. The Boss family lineage also reaches into the present membership of the Ta'an Kwachin First Nation and consultation between the two First Nations has been setup to develop an appropriate nomination to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation (THFN) was very active in carrying forward its program of cultural commemoration. The biannual Moosehide Gathering, a three day open house and potlatch at the community's traditional camp on the Yukon River, was also the scene for the formal signing of the

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Final Agreement. This was the start of a major program of commemoration research linked to the Tr'o-ju-wech'in Heritage Site.

Tr'o-ju-wech'in is the traditional fish camp at the mouth of the Klondike River and was identified by the THFN in their claim as a heritage site. In considering various forms of commemoration a Heritage Steering Committee has been established and is directing a two year program of research before initiating work on a management plan for the site.

This research program is international in scope reflecting the fact that the United States of America (USA)/Canada boundary divides the traditional Han lands in two.

Research projects in 1998 included:

- the preparation of an ethnographic study of Han of both Eagle (Alaska) and Dawson (Yukon) sponsored by the USA National Park Service
- the collection and catalogu-

ing of some 3000 historic photos of the Upper Yukon River watershed, supported by Parks Canada

- research into the history of the Tr'o-ju-wech'in heritage site and the nearby community of Moosehide
- a survey of North American aboriginal heritage sites managed by First Nations or Native Americans, supported by Parks Canada. This project provided a wealth of information on common issues facing aboriginal peoples in the commemoration of their culture.
- a continuing program of community meetings and presentations describing the findings of, and seeking direction for, the research projects
- a Heritage Officer was hired by the First Nation to facilitate the research and planning work for the heritage site.

(Also see Government of Yukon - Heritage article page 12)

Nunavut

Inuit Heritage Trust Incorporated

Inuit Heritage Trust

The Inuit Heritage Trust (IHT) was established in April 1994 by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) under the provisions of Article 33 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NCLA)*. It consists of a board of four trustees; three appointed by, and representing Inuit from each of Nunavut's regions, and the fourth

appointed as the NTI representative.

The current Trustees are: Mr. Appitak Enuaraq from Pond Inlet (Qikiqtani Region), Ms. Millie Kuliktana from Kugluktuk (Kitikmeot Region), Mr. Barnabus Peryouar a respected Elder from Baker Lake (Kivalliq Region), and Ms. Deborah Webster, originally from Baker Lake (NTI). The IHT office is located in Iqaluit, and is staffed by Dr. Douglas Stenton, Executive Director.

IHT's primary responsibility is to provide direction and leadership in the management and protection of all cultural resources in or from the Nunavut Settlement Area. Articles 33 and 34 of the *NCLA* specify the responsibilities of the IHT relating to Nunavut's archaeological resources, traditional place names, ethnographic objects and archival materials. IHT plays a direct role in the development and implementation of heritage

policy and legislation, in the review of archaeology research permit applications, and in the review of proposed changes to geographic place names in Nunavut. IHT also works in close consultation with Inuit, and government and non-government organizations on a wide range of issues relating to cultural resource management in Nunavut.

In 1998, the IHT Incorporated completed a number of important initiatives.

Archaeology Research Applications

Under the provisions of Article 33, all applications to conduct archaeological research in the Nunavut Settlement Area must be reviewed by the IHT. Since its establishment, IHT has reviewed over 75 archaeological permit applications. In 1998 alone, IHT reviewed a total of 14 applications for permits relating to mineral exploration and development activities, land management planning, academic research, site surveys and assessments, and archaeological training.

Protocols for Access to Human Remains and Burial Goods for Research Purposes

In 1998 the IHT reviewed a request to analyze samples of human skeletal remains (collected approximately 40 years ago) for DNA and related genetic studies. Following extensive consultations with affected communities and organizations, the request was approved. As a result, this project identified the need for protocols for research on human remains and associated funerary objects. IHT met with representatives of the Canadian

Museum of Civilization and a Memorandum of Agreement outlining roles and responsibilities has been drafted for IHT review and approval in 1999.

Long-Term Loan of Archaeological Specimens

Under the provisions of Article 33, the IHT and Government must agree to any long-term loan (i.e. loan of materials for three or more years) of any archaeological specimen found in the Nunavut Settlement Area. In 1996, the IHT and Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre reached an agreement on the procedures to be followed in cases where the long-term loan clause applies. In 1998, discussions were held with the Canadian Museum of Civilization concerning the loan of archaeological specimens currently housed there.

Designation of Sacred & Spiritual Sites

The protection of sites of Inuit religious or spiritual significance is a key concern of Inuit and of the IHT. Additional information on this topic was obtained from Elders and other knowledgeable individuals at the Nunavut Social Development Council's Traditional Knowledge Workshop. The Trust is in the process of drafting terms and definitions for the classification of sacred sites, as well as recommendations for the protection and management of these sites for future generations. These recommendations will be circulated in 1999 to Inuit organizations and Designated Agencies for review and comment.

Public Education & Awareness

The IHT remains active in the area of public education and awareness. In collaboration with Parks Canada, IHT is producing a series of educational posters designed to raise public awareness about the importance of preserving Nunavut's archaeological heritage. The first of the posters, on the subject of ancient harpoon heads, was completed and received very positive reviews. It was distributed to schools, visitor centres, and other organizations throughout Nunavut. The remaining two posters on the subjects of *uluit* and *Inuksuit* have also been completed and are available from Parks Canada (Pangnirtung) or from IHT.

For further information about the IHT Incorporated, please contact:

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Government of Nunavut - Department of Sustainable Development - Parks, Trade and Tourism

A New Department of Sustainable Development

With the creation of Nunavut, the former Department of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development in the Eastern Arctic will become the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD). The new Department's vision is a strong and healthy community life in

Nunavut including the management of environmental conditions and biodiversity through both science and traditional knowledge, building and supporting healthy communities and sustainable economies, and providing and maintaining a quality system of parks and conservation areas.

A New Nunavut Parks Program

Residents of Nunavut are proud of their natural and cultural heritage, their strong relationship to the diverse landscape and its resources, their communities, the wildlife, and their rich and important history. The 11 existing territorial parks not only demonstrate and protect these significant natural and cultural areas and landscapes, but they celebrate them and proudly showcase them locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Although primarily established to serve local tourism through the provision of camping and local recreation opportunities, territorial parks are being looked at to meet the changing expectations of both residents and visitors. Parks are also playing valuable roles for conservation of unique ecosystems, wildlife habitat, special landscape features or historic sites.

A Nunavut Parks and Conservation Areas Program is now being developed to identify these roles in Nunavut. When completed, the Parks Program will continue to provide opportunities for effective long-term contributions to the goals of Nunavut and its communities through tourism, recreation, habitat protection, economic growth and sustainable development.

Working closely with communities, the Parks Program will identify the meaning and value of parks to and for Nunavut, describe the relationships between Territorial and National Parks, Heritage Rivers, and Conservation Areas, and outline a park planning and management framework for existing and proposed Territorial Parks. As well, it will demonstrate the important links between the land and its people and communities, its natural and cultural heritage, and its resources.

Nunavut Territorial Park Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement

Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) negotiations for territorial parks within Nunavut will continue in 1999. In 1998, preliminary meetings were held to discuss the status of Nunavut Parks and the goals of the IIBA process. In keeping with procedures outlined in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, developments for territorial parks within Nunavut will be limited until an agreement is successfully negotiated. It is anticipated that an agreement will be completed in 1999.

Territorial Parks in Nunavut

In conjunction with the Parks Program, an identity for Nunavut Parks will be developed through a new logo, signage guidelines, and design standards for the territorial parks in Nunavut. These standards will identify all territorial parks and will be used to help in promotions and awareness of the Nunavut Parks Program.

Beechey Island Historic Park

Beechey Island is a tiny island off the southwest tip of Devon Island, some 80 km east

of Resolute. It includes graves, a monument, and other historic resources related to the ill-fated Franklin Expedition and to a depot subsequently established to assist those engaged in the search for Franklin. A small historic park has been suggested. The community did not select the island during the Nunavut land claim negotiations so that a historic park might be created in the future. Following review of the matter by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, the Minister of Canadian Heritage declared in 1994 that the various camps, depots, cairns, and other historic resources of Beechey Island are individually and collectively of national historic significance. New air photo coverage of the island was obtained in 1995. Community and regional opinion will be sought in the coming year to determine whether there is sufficient support to pursue establishment of a territorial historic park.

Bloody Falls Territorial Park

Bloody Falls on the Coppermine River, lies 15 km upstream from the community of Kugluktuk. Bloody Falls was recognized as a National Historic Site in 1978. The Arctic char fishery at the site is particularly important in the fall. Remnants of winter houses used more than 500 years ago by Thule, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps over 1,500 years ago, Pre-Dorset use at the site more than 3,500 years ago, and a rich history of arctic exploration only begin to demonstrate the historic significance of the site.

The park landscape is typical of the area, with rolling tundra occasionally interrupted by escarpments and rocky outcrops, and the steep cliffs at the falls and at other areas along the river provide for great wildlife watching, fishing, hiking and camping. The park has become a well-used one-day canoe trip from Kugluktuk and nearly all canoeing and rafting parties descending the Coppermine River choose to camp at Bloody Falls. Local use of the area by community residents for camping and fishing is increasing, and reflects the traditional pattern of use for the site.

Given the increasing use of the area and concerns that the natural and cultural values of the area could be at risk, representatives of the community and the DSD participated in the development of a park at Bloody Falls. A conceptual park management plan was prepared in 1995 and approved by the community. Throughout the process, a community survey and meetings helped to identify the primary concerns that a park should address. The three major objectives identified were: protecting the archaeological sites; maintaining the area free of litter; and limiting the impact of all-terrain vehicles (ATV) by improving a defined route. Facility development is ongoing and picnic tables, garbage enclosures, and outhouses have been developed at the campsite. Improvements to the ATV trail outside of the park (between Kugluktuk and Heart Lake) were completed in summer of 1997. Future plans include the enhancement of the trail within the park, along

with detailed facility and interpretive design and development.

Ijiraliq (Meliadine River) Territorial Park

Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about 10 km northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Ijiraliq (Meliadine River) Territorial Park. In summer, visitors and residents come to enjoy the river valley's spectacular scenery, eskers and bedrock outcrops, as well as fishing, and viewing the park's abundant wildlife including the endangered peregrine falcon. The park's most outstanding features, however, are its many architectural sites, remnant of Dorset, Pre-Dorset and Thule cultures.

The Hamlet Council of Rankin Inlet expressed its support for the proposed park in March 1990 and established a park committee to work on it with DSD staff. Ongoing community consultation sessions were held with DSD, the Parks Committee, and Hamlet representatives. A conceptual park plan was completed in 1992, and the community's expanded Block Land Transfer was approved to include the area of the park in 1994. Lands were reserved for the territorial park prior to 1994.

Park development is now underway. Upgrading of the road to the park has been completed, and the Hamlet has replaced the interpretative signs at the Thule site and marked the park boundary. As well, the Hamlet prefabricated park facilities such as an Elders' shelter, picnic tables, outhouses and signs and put them in place during spring 1997. Future

plans include installation of additional signage, interpretation and production of a park brochure. In 1999, DSD will also work with the local community in developing a design for a new regional gateway and Visitors' Centre for Rankin Inlet to promote and interpret the region as well as the park. It has been demonstrated that one quarter of visitors to a visitor centre in Nunavut add local and regional activities to their trip.

Katannilik Territorial Park

Katannilik ("the place of waterfalls") in the South Baffin near Lake Harbour includes an area of approximately 1269 km², almost all of it in the Soper River watershed. A management plan for the park was prepared in 1991 and the land was formally transferred to the territorial government for park purposes in 1995. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing, and kayaking, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling.

Katannilik stretches northward from the top of Pleasant Inlet along the west coast of Hudson Strait (just outside of the community of Kimmirut) toward the south shore of Frobisher Bay, following the Soper Valley and a traditional overland trail. The park extends east and west beyond the valley, encompassing some of the rivers, deep gorges, sloping valleys, lakes and hills that make up the relief of the lower plateau.

Known as Kuujjuaq ("big river"), the Soper was designated a Canadian Heritage River in 1992 for its cultural significance

in the lives of Inuit, its natural beauty, and its countless opportunities for recreation. The Park's four distinct vegetation communities; including dwarf shrub/heath tundra, grassland tundra, bedrock/hill summit, and the snowpatch; are home to caribou, fox, wolves, polar bear, and birds including peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons, ptarmigan, migrating geese, loons and shorebirds.

Several low key facilities were completed in the park in 1994 intended primarily to address concerns relating to public safety and to limiting the impacts resulting from random camping and other visitor activities.

In 1995 construction started on a new building in Lake Harbour that serves as both the Visitor Centre and a park operational base. Exhibits were designed and installed in 1997. This work was completed in conjunction with the restoration of the Dewey Soper House and the associated arts and crafts warehouse. A river guide for canoeists and rafters using the Soper River was published in 1995 as a companion piece to the trail guide prepared a year earlier. The latter is now available in English, Inuktitut, French and German. Projects planned for the near future include facility signage for Soper House and the arts and crafts warehouse, boathouse, campground, enhanced interpretation including oral history research, and the purchase and installation of exterior park signs for the Visitor Centre.

Mallikjuaq Territorial Park

Located immediately north of the community of Cape Dorset, Mallikjuaq ("big wave") was named for the rounded hills and low tundra valleys of Mallik Island, which resemble giant rolling waves. Within the 45-minute walk from Cape Dorset, several Thule sites and stone structures dating back some three millennia can be found. As well as good vantage points offering panoramic views of the numerous islands and complex coastline of southwest Baffin and the many tundra wildflowers, caribou, peregrine falcons, snowy owls, ptarmigan, polar bear, seals, beluga and possibly the bow-head whale can be seen.

This area has often been recognized for its natural and cultural heritage potential for park and tourism development. In 1991, a feasibility study recommended that park status be pursued, with a focus on cultural resources and activities. In 1992, archaeological and interpretative studies were carried out and plans were developed for a hiking trail. An oral history project and place name study followed in 1993. With further archaeological work in 1994, a Thule sod house was reconstructed. DSD acquired the old Baffin Trading Company building, which was relocated and restored for use as a park visitor centre. DSD will undertake extensive site investigation, environmental inventory and site assessment/park feasibility in 1999 followed by the development of a park management and master plan, and site and facility design. A park guidebook has also been published in English and Inuktitut during the past year.

Mount Pelly Territorial Park

Mount Pelly is approximately 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. Tourism reports in recent years have highlighted the importance of Mount Pelly for tourism, largely because of its proximity to Cambridge Bay, its interesting mountain and lake landscape, and its characteristic Arctic wildlife. Notably, the area is renowned for its diversity and numbers of Arctic birds, and many bird watchers are attracted by opportunities to add to their life lists.

Although Mount Pelly is currently accessible only by a rough narrow route, it is already the most important day-use destination for local operators who wish to give visitors an appreciation of the Cambridge Bay area. Scheduled jet service and cruise ship traffic through the Northwest Passage are increasing visitation to the area.

Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition

This is not a park in the conventional sense. Instead it is an effort to link stories from several communities and sites into one broad theme. This theme would interest various parties investigating the potential for Arctic cruises and other tourism initiatives. The two related sub-themes that are most prominent in this regard are the search by Europeans for a Northwest Passage and the search by several expeditions for answers to the disappearance of the Franklin expedition.

Some of the sites involved include Beechey Island off southwest Devon Island, where the Franklin Expedition

wintered in 1845/46; Port Leopold on Somerset Island, where the first Franklin search expedition wintered in 1848/49; and Cape Hotham and Assistance Bay near Resolute, associated with search expeditions of the early 1850s. Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven both have associations with Amundsen who successfully navigated the Northwest Passage from 1903 to 1906. For these and other locations, efforts will be made to co-ordinate identification, protection, and interpretation of sites associated with the Northwest Passage and Franklin themes.

In Gjoa Haven, the Northwest Passage Historic Park, which was opened in 1988, is a component part of this development. The signage along the walking trail through the town, coupled with the display in the Hamlet complex, concentrates on Amundsen's exploration and time in the community. Future development will provide additional interpretative research, planning and exhibit design, and renovations to the interior and exterior of the visitor information centre.

In Cambridge Bay, Amundsen's *Bay Maud*, which sank near the original town site, is being considered by the Vancouver Maritime Museum as a historic component of their Northwest Passage project. The RCMP ship, the *St. Roch*, is also included in the project and is featured graphically in the Arctic Coast Visitor Centre in Cambridge Bay.

Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park

Located only a kilometre from the heart of Iqaluit, the new capital of Nunavut, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park

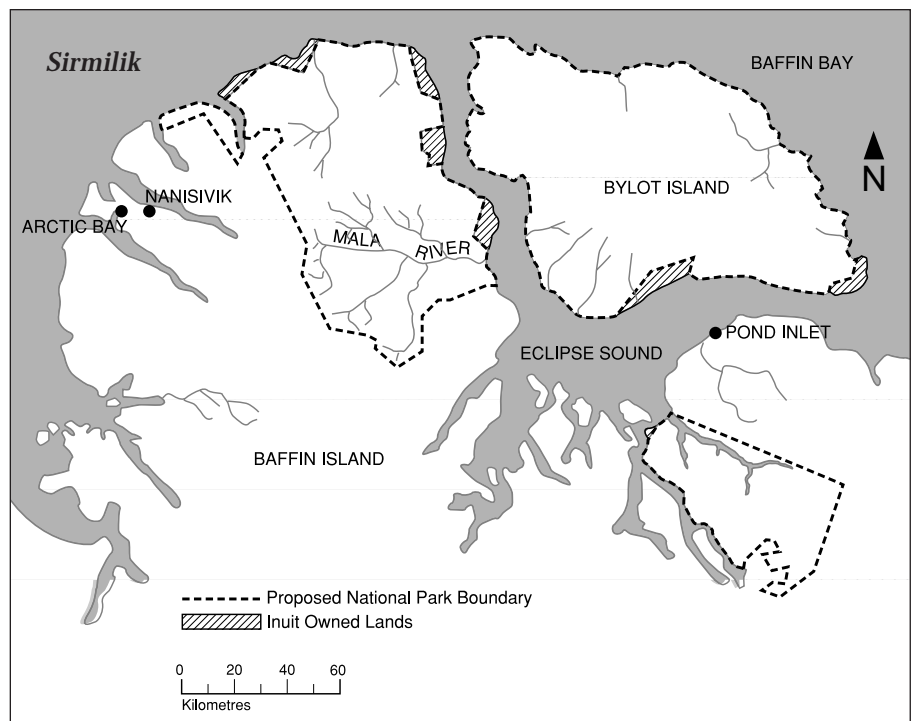
provides an opportunity for the many visitors and residents to readily experience the Arctic landscape. The park provides the visitor a chance to see the Baffin Island flora, including several rare plants such as the woodsia fern; fauna, primarily caribou and arctic fox; and its cultural heritage, including traditional fishing sites at the rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins.

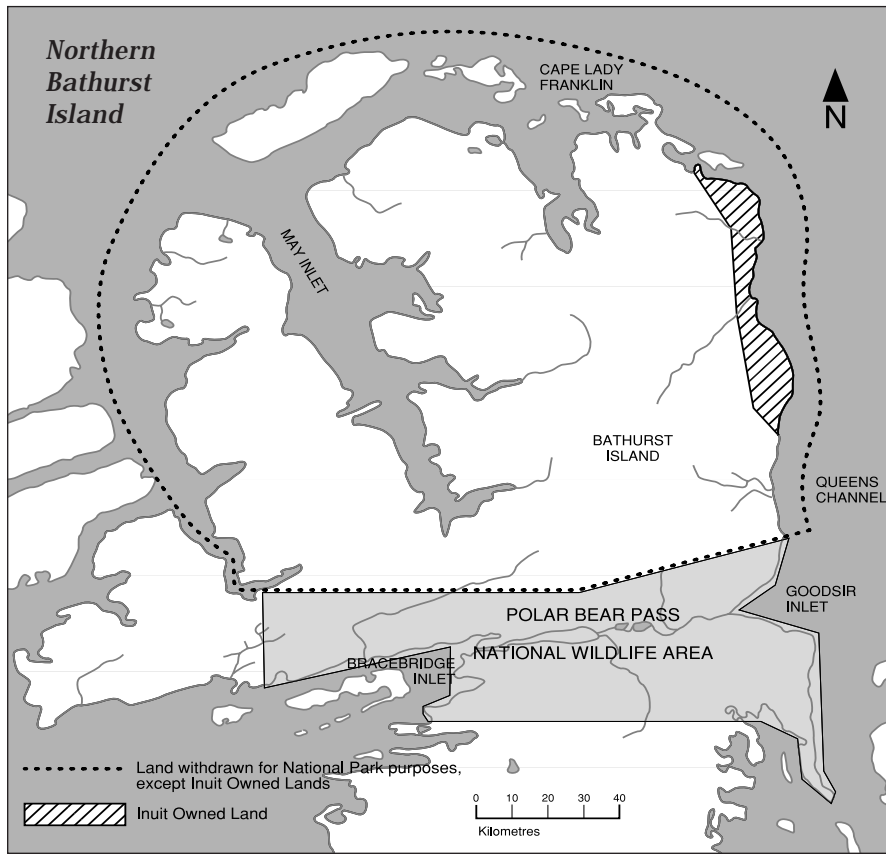
In keeping with the Master Plan, park facilities were expanded in 1998. A new all-season pavilion and deck were completed. Construction of a viewing platform overlooking the water and an access trail from the viewing platform to the water, as well as new washroom facilities, were also completed. Future development plans include a footbridge link between Sylvia Grinnell and Qaummaarviit Territorial Park, along with expanded access and the establishment of formal camping areas.

Government of Canada - Parks Canada - National Parks

Auyuittuq, Ellesmere Island and Sirmilik (North Baffin)

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* requires Government and Inuit to conclude an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) prior to the establishment of national parks in the Nunavut Settlement Area. The original IIBA deadlines in the *NLCA* were July 1995 for Ellesmere Island and Auyuittuq National Park Reserves and July 1996 for the proposed national park at the northern end of Baffin Island (Sirmilik). The deadline was extended and the Parties to the IIBA, the federal Government and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), concluded negotiations in June 1998. At the time of writing, the IIBA was being submitted to Cabinet and the QIA Board of Directors for their approval.





The IIBA will cover all three parks but there will be sections dealing with certain park-specific provisions. Some sections of the IIBA will be unique to Sirmilik because that park will include within its boundaries most of the existing Bylot Island Bird Sanctuary. The conservation regime for the Sanctuary will continue to be in effect after establishment of the national park.

Northern Bathurst Island (Tuktusiuqvaluk)

Northern Bathurst Island is a good representation of the geology, landforms, vegetation and wildlife of the Western High Arctic Natural Region. It is also important habitat for Peary caribou, an endangered species found only in Canada's Arctic islands. As a result of severe winters the population

of Peary caribou has decreased dramatically in the past few years. A major calving area for this species is found on northern Bathurst Island. Establishment of a national park would help to protect this critical habitat.

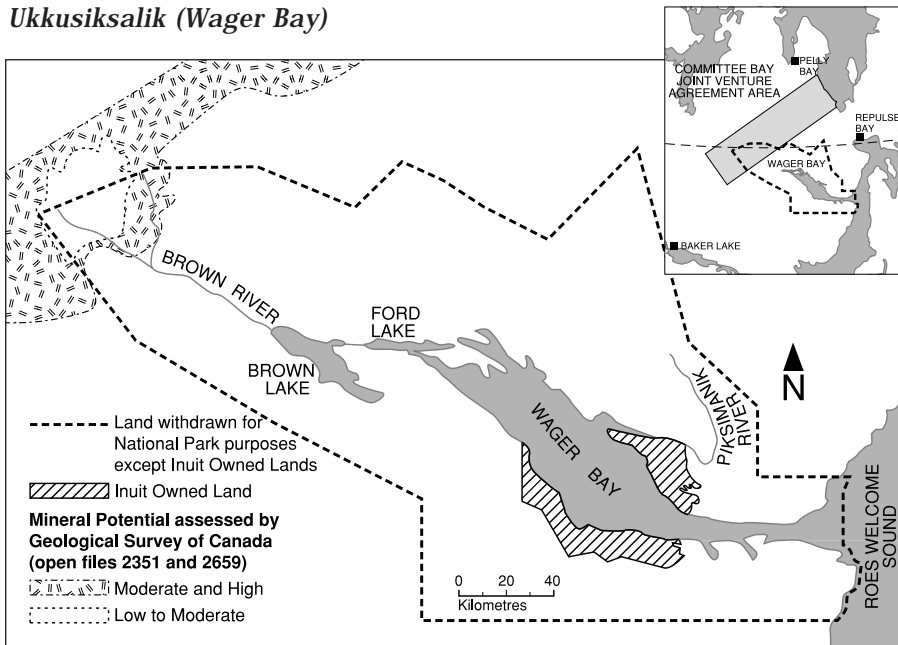
In October 1996, with the support of the community, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA), the Prime Minister of Canada announced that lands for the proposed national park had been reserved under the *Territorial Lands Act*. This will prevent the creation of new third-party interests until October 1, 2001.

Bathurst Island is adjacent to Little Cornwallis Island, site of the Polaris Mine, the northernmost base metal mine in the world. The reserves at the

Polaris Mine are diminishing and the Company is actively exploring in the area for new reserves to extend the mine's life. Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) geologists discovered a new showing of lead and zinc mineralization on Bathurst Island (south of the proposed park area) in 1995. Preliminary Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA) reports by the GSC have noted that parts of northern Bathurst Island, within the proposed park area, have very high potential for lead and zinc mineralization. To the northwest of Bathurst Island is the Sverdrup Basin, which hosts large reserves of oil and gas.

The final MERA report, to be released as an open file in 1999, indicates potential for carbonate-hosted zinc-lead is considered to be high to very high, particularly in the Cornwallis Fold Belt. Carbonate-hosted and Sedex-style base metal potential is considered moderate to high in areas of both the Cornwallis Fold Belt and the Parry Islands Fold Belt. Significant potential exists for non-renewable energy resources within the report area with favourable geological conditions for natural gas throughout the Parry Islands Fold Belt and for both oil and gas in the Cornwallis Fold Belt. Resource potential is rated as moderate and moderate to high for gas within numerous identified closures of the Parry Islands belt and as high and moderate to high for oil and gas in similar structures of the Cornwallis belt. Large areas on the flanks of the mapped closures are also deemed to have significant subsurface energy potential.

Ukkusiksalik (Wager Bay)



In 1999, Parks Canada will continue to work with the people of Resolute, QIA and other government departments to complete the park feasibility study. A consultant will be hired to visit Resolute for meetings and discussions, and to prepare information about tourism potential and visitor markets. Information about the area has been previously collected through interviews with hunters and Elders knowledgeable about the island, and through scientific study. The community will review and consider the information which covers such areas as: mineral potential, biophysical resources, tourism potential and archaeological sites. A workshop will be organized in Resolute to discuss mining, mineral and oil/gas potential. In addition, boundary options for a park will be prepared and evaluated. IIBA negotiations between Canada and Inuit can begin as soon as the feasibility study is complete.

Ukkusiksalik (Wager Bay)

Negotiations continue towards the creation of a national park at Wager Bay. As required by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)*, the Governments of Canada and Nunavut and the Kivalliq Inuit Association, on behalf of all Inuit, are negotiating an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA). This agreement will set out the conditions under which a national park can be created and will include such topics as: park boundary, access, economic benefits to Inuit, co-operative management of the park, management of emergency kills of polar bears, out-post camps, and Inuit access to carving stone.

This long-standing proposal was first suggested in 1978. Public consultations started after the *NLCA* was completed and formal negotiations began in May 1997. The parties expect to conclude negotiations in 1999.

Ukkusiksalik is representative of the Central Tundra Natural Region. The heart of the

park proposal is Wager Bay, an inland sea that extends 100 km westward from Hudson Bay. The proposed park area includes an impressive variety of landforms including eskers, mudflats, cliffs and drumlins. A wide range of habitats occur supporting such wildlife as caribou, muskox, wolf, arctic hare, peregrine and gyrfalcon. Coastal elements are prominent and a major marine component is included in the park proposal. Wager Bay has eight metre tides and strong tidal action that produces a dramatic reversing waterfall. Two areas of salt water remain open year-round and this contributes to the rich marine mammal life which includes polar bear, beluga, ringed and bearded seal. Cultural resources are prominent: over 500 archaeological sites have been found in the area and they include such features as fox traps, tent rings, food caches and inuksuit. The abandoned 20th century Hudson's Bay Post and Roman Catholic Mission add to the human story of the area and Inuit residents from Keewatin communities continue to travel to the area to hunt and fish.

**New Initiatives and Existing
Conservation Areas**

The *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NCLA)* devotes an entire chapter to conservation areas, including two National Wildlife Areas and 12 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) which are administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). Requirements of the *NCLA* include negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for most conservation areas, and the production of management plans for all conservation areas. CWS is working on the IIBA and management plans for two of these areas, described below. CWS and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. are discussing ways to conclude IIBAs for Nunavut's MBS.

CWS has identified priority sites for protection of critical wildlife habitat. As well, communities have nominated other sites to be protected by CWS legislation. Progress on one of

these initiatives is also described below.

Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area

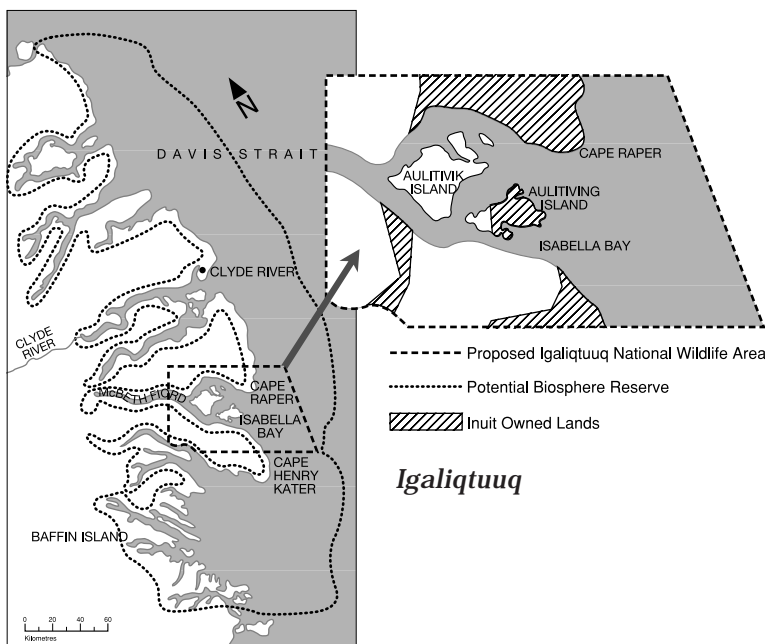
In 1992, the community of Clyde River proposed the creation of Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area (NWA) to protect important bowhead whale habitat at Isabella Bay, Baffin Island. The boundaries for Igaliqtuuq were approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in June 1994. A planning committee composed of representatives from the Nangmoutaq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) and federal and territorial departments has completed a draft of the NWA's management plan. IIBA negotiations between the HTO and the federal and territorial governments began in September 1997. A draft IIBA was produced in February 1998. CWS is presently obtaining funds to complete the IIBA. Final negotiations are expected to begin in the spring/summer of 1999. Upon conclusion of the IIBA, CWS will begin the formal designation process for the NWA.

Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area

Coburg Island and the surrounding waters were proclaimed as a National Wildlife Area (NWA) on August 30, 1995. The NWA, located off of the southeastern tip of Ellesmere Island, comprises one of the most important seabird nesting areas in the Canadian Arctic. Up to 385,000 thick-billed murres, black-legged kittiwakes, northern fulmars, and black guillemots nest on the precipitous cliffs on the south coast of Coburg Island, and on Princess Charlotte Monument, a small islet near the Coburg Island colony. The close proximity of Coburg Island to year-round openings in the sea ice (polynyas) in Baffin Bay and Lady Ann Strait provides abundant food for the birds and attractive habitat for polar bears, ringed and bearded seals, walrus, and migrating narwhal and beluga.

An ad-hoc management committee composed of Inuit representatives from Grise Fiord, CWS, and the Department of Sustainable Development has determined goals and objectives for the NWA management plan. Further work on the management plan was halted, pending commencement of the IIBA. In late 1997, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) received Designated Inuit Organization status for Nirjutiqavvik. After preliminary discussions between CWS and QIA, QIA opted to delay the start of negotiations until the Igaliqtuuq IIBA is completed.

In July 1998, the Iviq (Grise Fiord) Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) completed a cleanup of the old North Water



Polynya Research Station on Coburg Island. An initial environmental assessment was completed in 1996, and further to work completed in 1997 the HTO incinerated old fuel from nearly 100 fuel drums at the site, and stockpiled them for removal. In 1998 garbage stockpiled from the previous year was removed. These projects were co-funded by Environment Canada's *Action 21* program, Environment Canada's contaminants program, and by the Iviq HTO.

Baseline studies at the NWA's massive seabird colony began in the early 1970s and continue today. A team of five seabird researchers from CWS was on Coburg Island for July and August 1997 and 1998, conducting ecological studies of black-legged kittiwakes,

thick-billed murre, and glaucous gulls. They collected information about timing of breeding, diet, how parents feed their offspring, and other aspects of the species' reproductive success. This information will be compared with data collected at a similar seabird colony on Hakluyt Island, Greenland. The work at these two high Arctic colonies is part of an international research project that examines the biology and oceanography of the Northwater Polynya (located just east of Coburg Island).

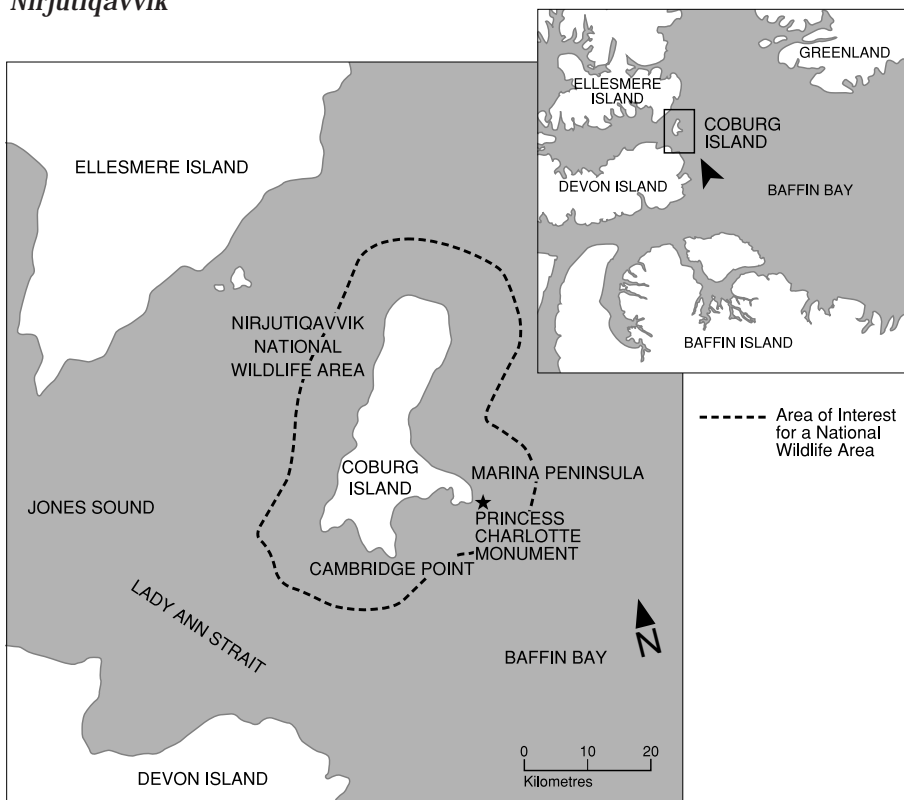
Labrador

Parks Canada is considering two areas of national park interest in Labrador - the Torngat Mountains in the extreme north, and the Mealy Mountains area of central Labrador.

The Torngat Mountains area, found in Natural Region 24 and lying north of the treeline, has been used by Inuit and their ancestors for thousands of years. It is a spectacular Arctic wilderness of rugged mountains, gentle valleys, fiords, and sheer cliffs fronting the Labrador Sea. Discussions have been continuing toward the anticipated establishment of a national park reserve pending the resolution of all relevant Aboriginal land claims.

Representing Natural Region 21, the Mealy Mountains area touches the southern shores of Hamilton Inlet, a vast inland sea that extends over 150 km from the Atlantic Ocean into Labrador. The varied environments in this area of mountain tundra, expansive uplands, bogs, boreal forest and wild rivers have sustained many generations of Aboriginal peoples. Parks Canada, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Aboriginal groups anticipate a formal launch of a national park feasibility study as soon as all parties are in a position to do so.

Nirjutiqavvik



Legislation

Parks Canada Agency

On December 21, 1998, Parks Canada officially became the Parks Canada Agency under an *Act* of the same name. Two rounds of consultations with the Canadian public contributed to the legislation.

The Agency will continue to provide for the management and growth of Canada's national parks, national historic sites and related protected heritage areas, and national marine conservation areas. It will also continue to maintain its excellent service to Canadians and the roughly 24 million annual visitors.

Under the direction of the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Parks Canada Agency remains accountable to Canadians and Parliament.

Marine Conservation Areas

On June 11, 1998, Bill C-48, *An Act Respecting Marine Conservation Areas*, was introduced in the House of Commons. This Bill provides the authority for the establishment and management of marine conservation areas with the objective of protecting and conserving a variety of aquatic environments.

Parks Canada has a continuing interest in marine conservation areas in the North, and a longstanding interest in the Lancaster Sound area.

National Parks Act

As this publication went to press, government had just introduced Bill C-70 to create a new *National Parks Act* that will include some important new initiatives. Among these are the formal establishment of Aulavik National Park in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, as well as Wapusk National Park (Hudson Bay lowlands of Manitoba), Gros Morne National Park (Newfoundland), and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve (British Columbia). The National Parks Bill also introduces a number of housekeeping measures and streamlines provisions that resulted from numerous amendments over the years.

The proposed legislation will make it easier to establish new parks and park reserves, while ensuring continued parliamentary scrutiny of new proposals for protected areas. Especially important in northern Canada, the legislation will provide for the continuation of traditional resource harvesting activities in keeping with comprehensive land claim agreements, treaty entitlements, and agreements to establish parks. Stiffer penalties for wildlife poaching will be introduced, and trafficking in some species of protected wildlife will now be an offence under the *National Parks Act*.

Elizabeth M. Seale

Eight years ago, Mrs. Seale produced the first issue of *New Parks North*. It was 12 short pages, and included new parks and related heritage initiatives covered by Economic Development and Tourism (Government of the NWT) and Parks Canada. In 1993, she expanded the newsletter to include conservation projects by the Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Government of Yukon). Over the next six years, Mrs. Seale encouraged the submission of articles from the (now three) territorial governments, federal government departments, and aboriginal cultural agencies created under land claims, culminating in what is produced today. It was her wish to go international and include the USA and Greenland. Perhaps, one day...

Elizabeth will be leaving our small team this fall to take up her new position as Parks Canada's Superintendent of Nunavut. We wish her all the best on this new path in her extensive career with Parks Canada. One step closer to Greenland...

For more information ...

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

NWT Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

Parks and Tourism

Government of the NWT

Box 1320

Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

www.rwed.gov.nt.ca

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Co-ordinator, Services and Promotion

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fax: (867) 873-0163

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barry_stoneman@gov.nt.ca

Nunavut Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers

Department of Sustainable Development

Parks, Trade and Tourism Division

Government of Nunavut

Box 1870

Iqaluit, NT X0A 0H0

www.rwed.gov.nt.ca

Attention: Richard Wyma

Manager, Parks and

Conservation Areas

phone: (867) 979-5121

fax: (867) 979-6026

e-mail:

rwyma@gov.nu.ca

NWT Cultural Resources

Education, Culture and Employment

Culture and Heritage Branch

Prince of Wales Northern

Heritage Centre

Government of the NWT

Box 1320

Yellowknife, NWT X1A 2L9

www.pwhnc.learnnet.nt.ca

Attention: Boris Atamanenko

Manager, Community Programs

phone: (867) 920-6370

fax: (867) 873-0205

e-mail:

boris_atamanenko@ece.

learnnet.nt.ca

Yukon Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers

Renewable Resources

Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Government of Yukon

Box 2703

Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

www.gov.yk.ca

Attention: Dave Ladret

Special Projects Officer

phone: (867) 667-3595

fax: (867) 393-6223

e-mail:

dave.ladret@gov.yk.ca

Yukon Historic Sites

Tourism

Heritage Branch

Government of Yukon

Box 2703

Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

www.touryukon.com

Attention: Doug Olynyk

Historic Sites Coordinator

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National Parks and National Historic Sites

Parks Canada

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parkscanada.pch.gc.ca

Attention: The Editors

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All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium.

We welcome your comments addressed to the Co-Editors at the National Parks and National Historic Sites address above.



