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The Canada Endangered Species Protection Act

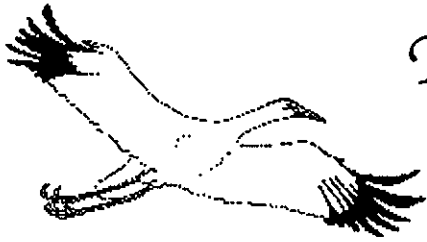
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**Information Kit for
Members of Parliament
and Senators**



Canada 



The Canada Endangered Species —Protection Act—

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Information Kit for Members of Parliament and Senators

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Overview

The Canada Endangered Species Protection Act (CESPA) aims to prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct or lost from the wild and to secure their recovery. Since no single entity, working alone, can effectively protect endangered species, the Bill emphasizes:

- **Co-operation among all parties.** Non-government organizations, the provinces, territories, Aboriginal peoples, communities, and international governments, as well as representatives of industry, agriculture, mining, forestry and fisheries will be involved and will work co-operatively with the Government of Canada. This approach will ensure the integration of environmental and socio-economic concerns.
- **The Government of Canada will do its part.** Ministers will use legislation and programs to make the federal contribution to the national effort to protect and recover endangered species. In particular, the habitat of all species at risk on federal lands, the habitat of aquatic species, and residences of migratory birds off federal lands will be protected by the legislation.

CESPA will protect species by:

Listing species based on science:

- Decisions to list species will be made by the Government of Canada, based on the advice of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), an independent body of scientific experts. Using science and traditional ecological knowledge, COSEWIC will make recommendations to the government. The Governor-in-Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Environment, will decide whether the species will be included on a List of Wildlife Species at Risk. Both scientists and democratically accountable officials have clearly defined roles.
- Furthermore, the public has the opportunity to comment on COSEWIC's designations in two ways. The list of species designated to be at risk by COSEWIC will be placed in the public registry. In addition, any amendments to the official List of Wildlife Species at Risk will be made public through the normal Gazetting process.





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Overview (cont'd)

Automatic prohibitions and exemptions:

- The Bill provides for immediate and limited protection for listed endangered and threatened species and their residences. Killing a member of that species, or destroying its residence, for example, will be automatically prohibited unless a specific exemption is created. Exemptions can be granted through permits or agreements under CESA or other Acts of Parliament, provided that special measures are taken to minimize impacts. Other exemptions include activities required for national security, safety and health.

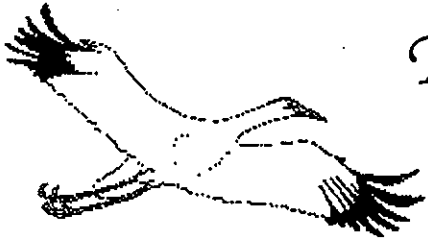
Recovery Planning:

- Once a species has been listed as threatened, endangered or extirpated (lost from the wild in Canada), a recovery plan must be produced. This plan must address the threats to the survival of the species, including the loss of habitat and **must** include an evaluation of the costs and benefits of each research and management activity. All parties affected by the plan – landowners, industries, citizens, governments, for example – will be involved in its development and implementation.
- Within 150 days of completion of a recovery plan, the government must specify how and when it intends to implement the measures contained in the plan.

Public Involvement and Overall Accountability:

- The Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council, comprising the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for wildlife, will provide overall leadership to the national effort related to the protection of wildlife species at risk. It will also provide general direction on the activities of COSEWIC and on the development and implementation of recovery plans.
- Three federal Ministers – the Ministers of the Environment, Fisheries and Oceans and Canadian Heritage – have responsibility for different aspects of wildlife management. They may apply the full weight of all laws and regulations to support the goals of this Act. The Minister of the Environment will administer the Act.





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Overview (cont'd)

- CESPAs provides for openness and accountability through the establishment of a public registry. This will allow all Canadians to judge whether species are being protected from extinction and whether social and economic concerns of resource users and communities are being fairly considered. The registry will provide information on COSEWIC's criteria for the designation of wildlife species; status reports; decisions about the designation; the national List of Wildlife Species at Risk; species determined not to be at risk; recovery plans; and regulations.
- The Government of Canada is committed to protect endangered species. Civil actions will allow citizens to take action to ensure the government lives up to its commitments. Safeguards against civil actions which are 'frivolous and vexatious' are built directly into the legislation.
- A three-year review period has been built into CESPAs to allow the Government of Canada to make any necessary adjustments.





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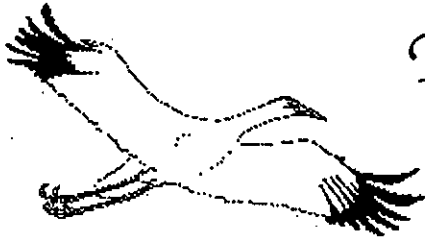
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Canadian Facts and Figures

- Endangered species legislation delivers on a number of commitments. In June 1992, Canada signed the Biodiversity Convention at the United Nations Conference in Rio de Janeiro. In December 1992, Canada was the first industrialized nation to ratify the Convention and thereby committed itself to providing legal protection for endangered species.
- This legislation fulfills a specific commitment by the Government of Canada in the February 1996 Speech from the Throne.
- The new Act – plus the federal/provincial/territorial National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk – equals protection for endangered species from coast to coast to coast.
- To date, 276 species of wildlife have been designated as being at risk by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Of these, 10 are extinct and lost forever and 11 others are no longer found in the wild in Canada.

Category	Birds	Mammals	Fish	Amphibians & Reptiles	Marine Molluscs	Plants	Lichens	TOTAL
Extinct	3	2	4	0	1	0	0	10
Extirpated	1	5	2	1	0	2	0	11
Endangered	16	12	4	4	0	28	1	65
Threatened	6	9	12	3	0	35	0	65
Vulnerable	20	25	38	8	0	31	3	125
TOTAL	46	53	60	16	1	96	4	276





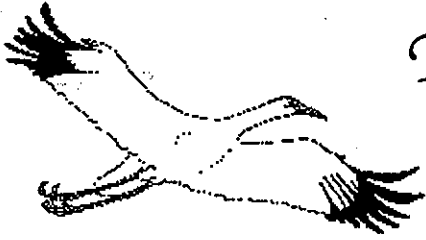
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The National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk: Federal, Provincial and Territorial Co-operation

- Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments have long co-operated effectively in the management of wildlife in Canada. The protection of species can only be met by this partnership because no single jurisdiction, acting on its own, can meet the needs of all endangered species.
- CESPA respects the traditional and constitutional roles that each jurisdiction has played in wildlife protection and conservation. New provisions have been introduced to more clearly recognize provincial and territorial authorities with respect to the management of endangered wildlife species. CESPA will not apply to international cross-border species where an equivalency agreement is in place with a province or territory. CESPA also allows for administrative agreements with other levels of government for the effective and efficient delivery of the Act.
- By passing CESPA, the Government of Canada will meet its commitment under the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk. The Accord represents a commitment by federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for wildlife to adopt a national approach for the protection of species at risk. It establishes a Council of Ministers as a mechanism for co-operation among federal, provincial and territorial governments with the goal of preventing species in Canada from becoming extinct as a consequence of human activity.
- Agreement-in-principle on the Accord was reached by all jurisdictions at the Wildlife Ministers meeting in October 1996. Four provinces – Manitoba, Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario – currently have endangered species legislation. Nova Scotia recently introduced an endangered species bill.
- The Accord:
 - commits governments to providing complementary legislation and programs that provide for effective protection of species at risk in Canada;
 - establishes the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council to coordinate activities and resolve issues; and
 - recognizes the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as a source of independent advice on the status of species at risk nationally.





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The National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk: Federal, Provincial and Territorial Co-operation (cont'd)

- The Accord recognizes that:
 - co-operation and collaboration are crucial to the conservation and protection of species at risk;
 - conservation of species at risk is essential to conserving biological diversity in Canada;
 - governments must play a leadership role in providing sound information and measures for conservation and protection;
 - Canadians must be involved; and
 - complementary federal, provincial and territorial legislation and programs are needed to effectively address species conservation.





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Public Consultations

- In November 1994, the Government of Canada released a Discussion Paper on Endangered Species Legislation in Canada and invited public comment on the approach it should take on this issue. In the months that followed, many organizations and individuals across Canada commented on the Discussion Paper.
- In April 1995, a discussion document, *A National Approach to Endangered Species Conservation in Canada*, was released to the public.
- In May 1995, the Government of Canada, assisted by the provinces and territories, held consultation workshops to discuss the national document in 14 cities across Canada: Charlottetown, St. John's, Fredericton, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina, Whitehorse, Prince Albert, Edmonton, Yellowknife and Vancouver.
- In August 1995, the Government of Canada released another Discussion Paper, *The Canadian Endangered Protection Species Act: A Legislative Proposal*, to the public, which included options for legislation.
- From May 1995 to May 1996, the Task Force on Federal Endangered Species Conservation worked to prepare a report to the Minister of the Environment. The Task Force included representatives from the following organizations:
 - Canadian Pulp and Paper Association
 - Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
 - Fisheries Council of Canada
 - Canadian Federation of Agriculture
 - Animal Alliance of Canada
 - Canadian Wildlife Federation
 - Sierra Legal Defence Fund
 - National Agriculture Environment Committee
 - Mining Association of Canada
 - Prince Edward Island Nature Trust
- In May 1996, the Task Force released its report, which had two components: *Task Force Report on Federal Endangered Species Legislation and Supporting Elements of a Federal Endangered Species Program*.





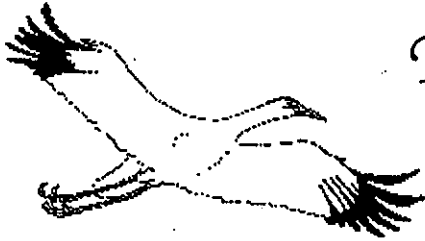
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Public Consultations (cont'd)

- In October 1996, the proposed Canada Endangered Species Protection Act, Bill C-65, was tabled in the House of Commons for First Reading.
- From November 1996 to February 1997, the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development heard over 70 witnesses in Ottawa, Vancouver, and Edmonton. They included representatives of Aboriginal groups, academics, environmental non-government organizations, industry, forestry, fisheries, pulp and paper, agriculture, ranching, mining, and labour sectors. Others submitted written briefs.
- Public involvement has been and will continue to be a key feature of CESP: a three-year review period has been built into CESP to enable the Government of Canada to review early progress and make any necessary adjustments to the legislation.
- All material has been available on Environment Canada's Green Lane World Wide Web site (<http://www.ec.gc.ca>) on the Internet immediately upon public release.





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Commercial Fishery and Aquaculture

- A multistakeholder Task Force on Endangered Species Conservation, which included a representative from the Fisheries Council of Canada, provided the Government of Canada with advice on recommended elements of endangered species legislation. Eighty percent of the Task Force's recommendations are reflected in Bill C-65. Amendments have been introduced to the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act (CESPA), that respond specifically to concerns raised by a wide range of Canadians since the Bill was introduced, and ensure that endangered species protection in Canada is fair, equitable and balanced.
- Under CESPA, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans continues to be responsible for aquatic species and their habitat. The Minister of Fisheries will therefore be responsible for the application of CESPA in the marine environment using all available authorities, including the Fisheries Act.
- Decisions to list species will be made by the Government of Canada, based on the advice of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), an independent body of experts. Using science and traditional ecological knowledge, COSEWIC will make recommendations to the government. The Governor-in-Council, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Environment, will decide whether the species will be included on a List of Wildlife Species At Risk. Both scientists and democratically accountable officials have clearly defined roles.
- A new feature of CESPA is a clause that allows for bycatch. A valid fishing or aquaculture licence issued by DFO will provide operators with exemptions from the prohibitions under the Act.
- The civil enforcement provisions are an important part of this open and transparent process. They provide a formal means of public accountability in the implementation of the act by the Government of Canada. These provisions enable citizens to ensure that the government follows through on its commitments under CESPA.





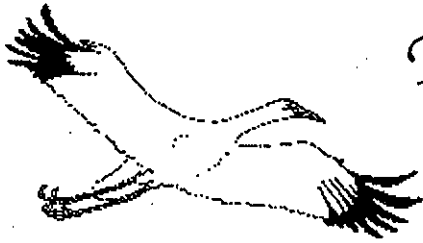
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Commercial Fishery and Aquaculture (cont'd)

- Under CESP, any citizen who believes that an offence has been committed may apply for an investigation by the responsible Minister. A citizen has the right to pursue legal action through the courts if the responsible Minister has decided not to conduct the investigation and has given a justification that is not reasonable, or has not reported back in a timely manner.
- Numerous safeguards exist to prevent unnecessary legal action. No action can be initiated before an investigation into an alleged offence has been undertaken by the responsible Minister. The Minister can dismiss an application for an investigation that is found to be frivolous or vexatious. Furthermore, an action can only be undertaken in cases where the alleged offence has caused or will cause significant harm to the endangered species.
- In Canada, unlike the U.S., civil enforcement provisions have not created a litigious environment nor have they targeted individuals or industry sectors. Four jurisdictions have similar civil action provisions in environmental legislation – Ontario, Quebec, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. These provisions have seldom, if ever, been exercised, and there is no evidence that there has ever been a civil action in any of these jurisdictions that has caused undue hardship to individuals or industry sectors.
- To clarify the habitat protection provisions of CESP, the government has used the existing definition of habitat for aquatic species, as defined in the Fisheries Act. This will ensure that habitat protection for endangered species remains consistent with existing tools.
- There are currently no ocean-dwelling fish species designated by COSEWIC as endangered or threatened by COSEWIC.
- A three-year review period has been built into CESP to allow the Government of Canada to make any necessary adjustments to the legislation.





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Agriculture

- A multistakeholder Task Force on Endangered Species Conservation, which included representatives from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Environment Committee, provided the Government of Canada with advice on recommended elements of endangered species legislation. Eighty percent of the Task Force's recommendations are reflected in Bill C-65. Amendments have been introduced to Bill C-65, the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act, that respond specifically to concerns raised by a wide range of Canadians since the Bill was introduced, and ensure that endangered species protection in Canada is fair, equitable and balanced.
- CESA applies to wildlife species that are already managed by the Government of Canada or are on federal lands. CESA additionally applies to international cross-border animals (those which migrate or have a range across a border we share with another country). Cross-border species will be protected by the Government of Canada under CESA only where equivalent provisions do not exist in a province or territory.
- Decisions to list species will be made by the Government of Canada based on the advice of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), an independent body of experts. Using science and traditional ecological knowledge, COSEWIC will make recommendations to the government on the status of wildlife species. Both scientists and democratically elected officials have clearly defined roles in the process of listing species.
- Exemptions from the prohibitions exist under the Act for any agricultural activity that is conducted in accordance with a valid agreement, permit, licence or order.
- In addition, a recovery plan will be developed for each listed species under federal jurisdiction within a specified timeframe. Socio-economic considerations are taken into account at the recovery planning stage, which will include consultation with all affected stakeholders.
- The civil enforcement provisions are an important part of this open and transparent process. They provide a formal means of public accountability in the implementation of the act by the Government of Canada. These provisions enable citizens to ensure that the government follows through on its commitments under CESA.





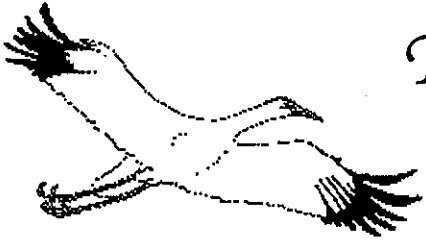
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Agriculture (cont'd)

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- Recovery plans will also identify agreements and financial contributions for private landowners needed to ensure the success of the plans. In the latest federal Budget, the tax rules for valuing easements and land donations were simplified to encourage donations of environmentally sensitive lands. These measures will allow landowners to participate in recovery efforts for endangered species and help defray the costs.
- The federal government is working with a group of interested people, including the agricultural sector and environmental groups, to examine the issue of support for voluntary conservation efforts. It is looking at incentives and education, particularly relevant to the agricultural sector, to facilitate broader participation. Many of the "success stories" in the recovery of endangered species are based on co-operation and partnership with the agricultural community.





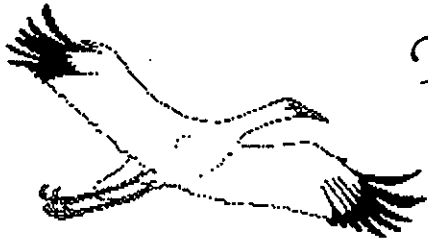
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Agriculture (cont'd)

- The Government of Canada recognizes the important contribution that farmers, ranchers and landowners have made to the protection of endangered species in Canada. Operation Burrowing Owl in the prairies is one of many examples of how the agricultural sector has worked in partnership with governments and environmental groups to protect species on the brink of extinction. These types of partnerships are exactly the sorts of agreements that are encouraged throughout CESPA.
- A three-year review period has been built into CESPA to allow the Government of Canada to make any necessary adjustments to the legislation.





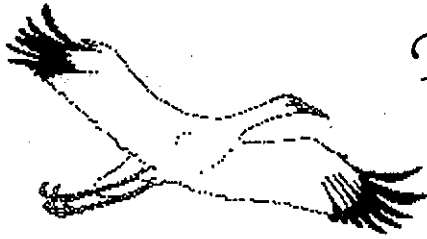
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Forestry

- A multistakeholder Task Force on Endangered Species Conservation, which included a representative from the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, provided the Government of Canada with advice on recommended elements of endangered species legislation. Eighty percent of the Task Force's recommendations are reflected in Bill C-65. Amendments have been introduced to Bill C-65, the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act, that respond specifically to concerns raised by a wide range of Canadians since the Bill was introduced, and ensure that endangered species protection in Canada is fair, equitable and balanced.
- CESA applies to wildlife species that are already managed by the Government of Canada or are on federal lands. CESA additionally applies to international cross-border animals (those which migrate or have a range across a border we share with another country). Cross-border species will be protected by the Government of Canada under CESA only where equivalent provisions do not exist in a province or territory.
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- Furthermore, the public has the opportunity to comment on COSEWIC's designations in two ways. The list of species designated to be at risk by COSEWIC will be placed in the public registry. In addition, any amendments to the official List of Wildlife Species at Risk will be made public through the normal Gazetting process.
- Exemptions from the prohibitions exist under the Act for any forestry activity that is conducted in accordance with a valid agreement, permit, licence or order. A co-ordinated approach for dealing with endangered species can be achieved under the Act through administrative and equivalency agreements with provinces and territories.





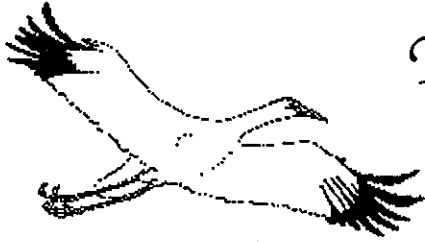
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Forestry (cont'd)

- In addition, a recovery plan will be developed for each listed species under federal jurisdiction within a specified timeframe. Socio-economic considerations are taken into account at the recovery planning stage, which will include consultation with all affected stakeholders.
 - The civil enforcement provisions are an important part of this open and transparent process. They provide a formal means of public accountability in the implementation of the act by the Government of Canada. These provisions enable citizens to ensure that the government follows through on its commitments under CESPA.
- Under CESPA, any citizen who believes that an offence has been committed, may apply for an investigation by the responsible Minister. A citizen has the right to pursue legal action through the courts if the responsible Minister has decided not to conduct the investigation and has given a justification that is not reasonable, or has not reported back in a timely manner.
- Numerous safeguards exist to prevent unnecessary legal action. No action can be initiated before an investigation into an alleged offence has been undertaken by the responsible Minister. The Minister can dismiss an application for an investigation that is found to be frivolous or vexatious. Furthermore, an action can only be undertaken in cases where the alleged offence has caused or will cause significant harm to the endangered species.
- In the latest federal Budget, the tax rules for valuing easements and land donations were simplified to encourage donations of environmentally sensitive lands. This will allow landowners to participate in recovery efforts for endangered species and help defray the costs.
- The Government of Canada continues to work with sectors such as forestry in recovery planning projects and the development of educational programs, which are as important as legislation.





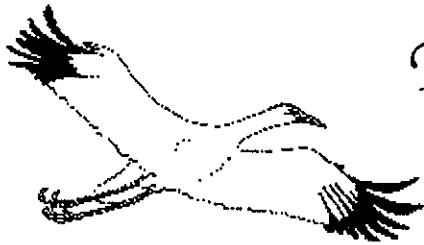
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Forestry (cont'd)

- Biologists from TimberWest Forest and MacMillan Bloedel, for example, have worked with the provincial government to relocate Vancouver Island marmots from the Nanaimo watershed, home to a handful of marmots that constitute the entire world population, to the Nitinat alpine tundra. The relocation project is an effort to restore the species to an area it may once have occupied.
- Another excellent example is the Canadian Forestry Association's "Loggers for Wildlife" workshop being supported by Environment Canada and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest program in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Ontario Forestry Association and Domtar Forest Products. This pilot project is aimed at helping forest workers and private woodlot owners better understand how to protect endangered species in their day-to-day operations.
- A three-year review period has been built into CESPAs to allow the Government of Canada to make any adjustment to the legislation.





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Civil Actions

- Involving Canadians in the protection and conservation of species at risk is critical to the success of the Canada Endangered Species Protection Act. CESPAs incorporates citizen participation in each stage of the protection and recovery process.
- The civil enforcement provisions are an important part of this open and transparent process. They provide a formal means of public accountability in the implementation of the Act by the government. These provisions enable citizens to ensure that the government follows through on its commitments under CESPAs.
- Only offences under the Act, such as killing an endangered species, can be used to trigger civil actions. Activities authorized by permits or licences issued under CESPAs or other Acts of Parliament are exempt from the offence provisions of the legislation. Civil actions cannot be triggered by any other provisions under the Act, including COSEWIC designations, listing decisions, recovery plan development or administrative procedures.
- Under CESPAs, any citizen who believes that an offence has been committed may apply for an investigation by the responsible Minister. A citizen has the right to pursue legal action through the courts if the responsible Minister has decided not to conduct the investigation and has given a justification that is not reasonable, or has not reported back in a timely manner.
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- In Canada, unlike the U.S., civil enforcement provisions have not created a litigious environment nor have they targeted individuals or industry sectors. Four jurisdictions have similar civil action provisions in environmental legislation – Ontario, Quebec, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. These provisions have seldom, if ever, been exercised, and there is no evidence that there has ever been a civil action in any of these jurisdictions that has caused undue hardship to individuals or industry sectors.
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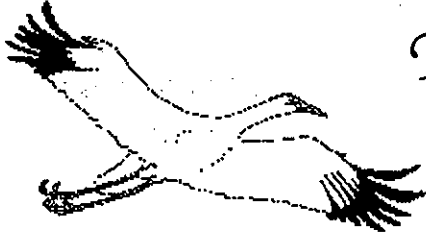
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Comparisons Between Canadian and U.S. Legislation

- The Canada Endangered Species Protection Act (CESPA) is based on cooperation with government organizations, the provinces, territories, Aboriginal peoples, agriculture, mining, forestry and fisheries. This approach is consistent with the traditional approach that Canadians from all walks of life have taken to the management of wildlife.
- CESPA has been developed to integrate ecological and economic considerations. Under recovery planning, evaluation of the costs and benefits of each research and management activity will be looked at, along with the likelihood of success.
- The United States has had a stand-alone Endangered Species Act since 1973. Much of what has been learned through the U.S. experience, both good and bad, has informed the development of Canada's first-ever federal endangered species legislation. CESPA differs from the U.S. Act in both scope and approach and is tailored to Canada's unique social and constitutional situation.
- Key differences between CESPA and the U.S. legislation:
 - **Scope** - CESPA applies to listed species under federal jurisdiction (aquatic species and migratory birds) and to all other listed species only on federal lands. The prohibitions apply to international cross-border animal species only if a province does not have equivalent provisions in place. The U.S. Act protects all listed species.
 - **Habitat Protection** - Under CESPA, automatic protection is provided to the residences of federally protected species and to other species on federal lands. Critical habitat protection will be achieved on a case-by-case basis through recovery planning and co-operative actions. In the U.S., habitat of listed species is automatically protected.

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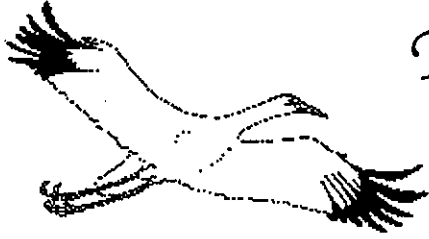
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Comparisons Between Canadian and U.S. Legislation (cont'd)

- **Civil actions** - Under CESA, only offences under the Act, such as killing an endangered species, can be used to trigger civil actions. Activities authorized by permits or licences issued under CESA or other Acts of Parliament are exempt from the offence provisions of the legislation. Civil actions cannot be triggered by any other provisions under the Act, including COSEWIC designation, listing decisions, recovery plan development or administrative procedures. Any citizen who believes that an offence has been committed may apply for an investigation by the responsible Minister. Numerous safeguards exist to prevent unnecessary legal action and the Minister can dismiss any application for an investigation that is found to be frivolous or vexatious. In the U.S., anybody may commence a civil action under the Endangered Species Act at any stage in the process, from listing to recovery planning.





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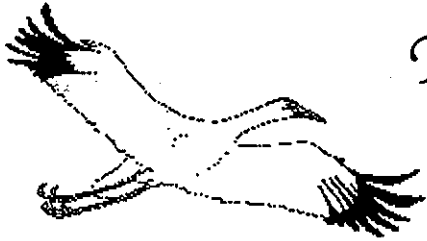
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Success Stories

The co-operation and involvement of provinces, territories, municipalities, private landowners, farmers, industry, the environmental and scientific communities, Aboriginal peoples and other individual Canadians have been key in a number of successful recovery efforts. This involvement will continue and will be encouraged under CESA. The following examples demonstrate what has already been achieved through a variety of co-operative efforts that demonstrate ingenuity, perseverance and commitment.

- Two forestry companies have helped to ensure that the **Vancouver Island Marmot** gains a new view of life. Biologists from TimberWest Forest and MacMillan Bloedel worked with the provincial government in 1996 to relocate marmots from the Nanaimo watershed, home to a handful of marmots that constitute the entire world population, to the Nitinat alpine tundra. The relocation project is an effort to restore the species.
- **Operation Burrowing Owl** enlists the help of farmers, ranchers and other rural landowners to protect nest sites on agricultural lands, and has vastly improved the chances of survival of these tiny endangered owls. In recent years, several youth groups have become involved in building and installing Burrowing Owl nesting boxes. Sightings of the owl are being tallied through a toll-free 'Hoot Line.' Environment Canada's Action 21 program is among the partners.
- The fate of the threatened **Western Spiderwort** in Manitoba rests largely with the voluntary efforts of a single family. Some 50 years ago, the Hellman family purchased property in southwestern Manitoba that boasts a diverse sand dune community of mixed grass prairie. They are protecting over 8,000 spiderworts – nearly the entire provincial population – found on their property, which is classified as an Ecologically Significant Area under the province's ecological reserve program.
- On Mount Yamaska, less than 60 kilometres from Montreal, Nature-Action Quebec is at work on the protection and recovery of nationally threatened and vulnerable species. Among its projects are the **Red-Shouldered Hawk** and the **Broad Beech Fern**, two vulnerable species found in Canada only in Quebec and Ontario. Among Nature-Action's projects is an outreach program to involve private landowners in the protection of natural resources on their property.





The Canada Endangered Species Protection Act

March 1997

Success Stories (cont'd)

- Canada will soon have its **first northern marine biosphere reserve** and a new national wildlife area, thanks to an initiative from the Inuit community of Clyde River, on Baffin island. The community voted in support of establishing a national Wildlife area and biosphere reserve at Isabella Bay, home to an endangered population of bowhead whales. Environment Canada and other agencies are working with the community to plan the protection of important whale feeding areas in the Bay. The national wildlife area will be established under the Nunavut Final Agreement.
- The Government of Canada continues to work with the **forestry sector** to develop educational programs. An excellent example is the Canadian Forestry Association's Loggers for Wildlife Workshop, which is supported by Environment Canada and the Eastern Ontario Model Forest program, in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Ontario Forestry Association and Domtar Forest Products. This pilot project is aimed at helping forest workers and private woodlot owners better understand how to protect endangered species in their day-to-day operations.

New initiatives are under way to encourage the involvement of Canadians:

- In recent federal budgets, the tax rules for valuing easements and land donations were simplified to encourage and expand donations of environmentally sensitive lands, which are often home to species at risk. Landowners will be able to participate in recovery efforts for endangered species, without undue financial burden. Over 20 ecological gifts covering almost 4000 hectares, with a total value of approximately \$10 million, have been made. Such measures will serve as a valuable tool both in protecting the habitat of endangered species and in helping to defray the cost to landowners.
- The national endangered species program will encourage landowner involvement in species conservation through a variety of educational programs. Additionally, the Government of Canada is working with an ad hoc group of interested parties, including the agricultural sector and environmental groups, to examine the issue of support for voluntary efforts. It is looking at incentives and education, particularly relevant to the agricultural sector, to facilitate broader participation.

