

**The Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter
of the
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society**

**Strategic Conservation Plan
and
Constitution**

Compiled by the CPAWS - NL Organizing Committee

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**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CHAPTER OF THE CANADIAN PARKS
AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLAN AND CONSTITUTION**

1.0 Introduction

On February 15, 2003 a founding meeting was held in St. John's, Newfoundland to gauge the interest in forming a Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Chapter (CPAWS) in Newfoundland and Labrador. An Organizing Committee was established and an Interim Coordinator was appointed soon after. Since then, the Organizing Committee has elected Co-chairs and has met about once every six weeks. The primary goal of the committee was to draft the administrative documents for review by the National CPAWS board in the Fall of 2003.

To facilitate the drafting of the required documents, Terrestrial and Marine Sub-committees were formed. These groups drafted separate strategic conservation plans. Linkages between these plans were identified by the Organizing Committee and the final draft is detailed in this document.

This document also contains a draft Chapter Constitution which was modelled after the Ottawa Valley Chapter's Constitution. In short, the plans outline the conservation priorities while the constitution describes the basic administrative parameters of the proposed chapter.

A high level of interest and dedication has been shown to date. The Organizing Committee firmly believes that a CPAWS Chapter is necessary for Newfoundland and Labrador and that, within a relatively short time, can become an active member in this Province's conservation community.

1.1 Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote the systematic establishment of new terrestrial and marine protected areas, and to foster effective governance of existing parks, protected reserves, and wilderness areas in the province.

1.2 Vision

For the benefit of present and future generations, we envision the establishment of a representative system of terrestrial and marine protected areas that incorporates the ecological, social and economic values of local communities, and recognizes the value of protected areas and wilderness as an essential part of ecosystems governance and planning.

1.3 Objectives

- 1. To foster the identification and establishment of terrestrial, freshwater and marine protected areas based on scientific knowledge and representativeness of ecological diversity in the province;*
- 2. To support research to identify terrestrial and marine ecological regions for protection and preservation;*
- 3. To encourage the recognition and value of protected areas and wilderness as essential components of ecosystems governance and planning;*
- 4. To promote connectivity of protected areas including connectivity of adjacent terrestrial and marine protected areas where applicable;*
- 5. To support the protection of critical habitats for species at risk through government legislation;*

- 6. To discourage activities resulting in environmental degradation to vulnerable aquatic and terrestrial wilderness;*
- 7. To support economic opportunities in protected areas that are pursued in a non-intrusive manner;*
- 8. To promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of protected areas and wilderness through experience and education;*
- 9. To promote the protection of marine and terrestrial wilderness areas through public education and community stewardship;*
- 10. To work collaboratively with individuals, communities, businesses, government, aboriginal groups, and others to encourage the future protection of special marine and terrestrial wilderness areas.*

1.4 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of Newfoundland and Labrador CPAWS members and is located in the capital city of St. John's. Upon official recognition of CPAWS –NL by the national office, the Board will consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and members-at-large.

The Board of Directors will oversee all activities, including decision-making, formation of new committees, and ensure that all activities are in accordance with the rules of the national office. Overall, the Board will manage affairs so as to promote the specific objectives and interest of the Chapter. The Board must relate information to members-at-large and between committees.

The Board is also responsible for maintaining relations and collaborating with CPAWS Nova Scotia and with the national office, and the Board will carry out all activities in accordance with the National Policy of CPAWS.

Duties of Executive Members:

President: The president is responsible for attending all meetings of the Board of Directors, as well as all general meetings of the Chapter and Annual Meetings of the Chapter. The president is also the chief spokesperson for the Chapter and shall represent the NL Chapter on the CPAWS National Board.

Vice-President: The Vice-President assists the President in carrying out her/his duties and relieves the president when he/she cannot fulfill duties.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for the custody of funds, payments of bills authorized by the Board of Directors, and the preparation of any financial reports required of the Chapter. Three executives among the Board should be granted signing authority on the Chapter's bank accounts and two of these names must be signed to each account.

Secretary: The Secretary keeps minutes of each meeting and sends a copy of the minutes account to the Board of Directors and all members-at-large. All records and financial accounts should be organized and filed by the Secretary.

1.5 Committees

Committees are official groups within the structure of CPAWS - NL that consist of a chair and active CPAWS - NL members. To obtain official recognition, the Board must approve a proposed committee. Once approved, a committee may access funds of CPAWS – NL to enhance and promote their committee as well as carry out proposals and projects under the committee.

The committee chairs must periodically report to the Chapter's Board providing updates on committee activities, detailing the committee expenditures and progress of their stated objectives and goals.

Action Committees

Various action committees will work within the Conservation Strategy of CPAWS - NL. Initially there will be a Terrestrial Protected Areas Committee and a Marine Protected Areas Committee that will coordinate with other members to form these committees. We hope to eventually establish a Park watch Committee to ensure the ecological integrity of the province's parks. This committee is also a national level project; therefore national directives will play an important part in the goals of this committee. The Administration Committee is part of the organizational strategy and incorporates membership and financial aspects of CPAWS as well as public relations and communications.

Working Groups

Working groups will be a method of enabling the membership to rally around a cause or issue before the group becomes recognized as an official committee. Working groups can also be formed to deal with temporary issues. They can take action around an isolated issue that is outside the mandate of the existing committees and then disband once the issue has passed. Funding and regulation of these working groups will be case specific.

Active Members

Active members are members who have made a donation in the current year. They may serve on a working group, committee, the board, or the executive. Active members receive all the information that the National Office and the CPAWS- NL Chapter send out.

Supportive Contact Members

This is a list, compiled by members, committees, and the Executive Director, of skilled persons within the local and provincial community who sympathize with the mandates of the organization and have indicated through statement or action that they would be willing to assist in CPAWS efforts. This list could include people such as: politicians,

lawyers, physicians, scientists, government employees, private citizens, accountants, graphic designers, media personalities, celebrities, companies, sponsors.

Volunteers

The success of CPAWS-NL relies on the work of volunteers. Our activities are carried out predominantly through volunteer driven committees that offer opportunities for people who want to get involved in conservation activities of Atlantic Canada. A volunteer can join any of the committees that they have particular interest in with no experience or training.

Relationship with existing protected area NGOs.

CPAWS - NL will work closely with existing non-government organizations interested in protected areas to ensure that there are no conflicts or duplication regarding conservation work or funding initiatives. For example, there are plans to act cooperatively to encourage the Provincial Government to release the Province's Natural Areas Plan.

TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS CONSERVATION STRATEGY

2.0 Introduction

The terrestrial protected areas committee of CPAWS NL will work to establish and maintain a system of protected areas that will include representative examples of all natural terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in Newfoundland and Labrador. This system of protected areas will preserve a sample of the full range of biological diversity found in our onshore areas. It will form an insurance policy against the possibility that development, however well planned, will eliminate elements of natural systems, which form the basis for the beauty, diversity, and economic well-being of our province. The system of protected areas will provide natural laboratories for the scientific study of healthy ecosystems. This system will provide data to assist in the planning of development outside the protected areas and benchmarks against which the effects of that development can be measured. It will provide a storehouse of native species, as well as provide a source of replenishment when "sustainable" development does not live up to expectations. It will also provide areas where visitors can continue to experience the natural wonders of our province and where local communities can benefit from opportunities in eco-and adventure tourism. It will ensure that we can pass some of the bounty and the beauty of this place undamaged to future generations, so that they can live on this land as we do, and be thankful that their ancestors looked after it well, not as a commodity to be used and exploited, but as a sustaining homeland to be maintained and cherished.

Presently, less than 4% of the land area of Newfoundland and Labrador is included in protected natural areas. Only 5 of the 35 ecological regions identified in the province are adequately represented in fully established reserves.

The Protected Areas Association (PAA) of Newfoundland and Labrador first initiated the process of developing a natural areas plan in the early 1990s. A preliminary plan was presented to government by the PAA in 1993, after extensive consultation with the local scientific community. This plan established the basic principles on which a natural areas plan for the province should be based, and suggested some general areas for study to

determine their suitability for reserve status. Government accepted the PAA report and established an internal system plan committee to complete a natural areas plan for the province based on the PAA study. The system plan committee submitted its report to government in November 1996. The committee's recommendations have remained confidential, and no substantive public announcements have been made regarding the natural areas planning process since that time.

The natural areas plan initiated by the PAA, and further developed by government's system plan committee, is based on the principles of conservation biology, and on scientific data of natural ecosystems in the province. It proposes to protect the full range of provincial biodiversity by establishing a three component system of reserves:

Component 1 Reserves: large reserves, which cross ecoregion boundaries and protect the critical habitat of high-level, wide-ranging native species, serving as indicators for the ecosystems of which they form a part. Level 1 reserves form the core of the natural areas plan.

Component 2 Reserves: proposed for ecoregions that are not fully represented in Level 1 reserves. They will be designed to include examples of essential features that characterize the ecoregion they represent.

Component 3 Reserves: small reserves protecting unique ecological features not included in Level 1 or 2 reserve areas. These reserves will protect sites of special ecological importance, such as seabird breeding colonies and rare plant habitat. Level 3 reserves can be expected to grow in number as scientific knowledge of the natural systems in the province increases.

CPAWS-NL will work with relevant agencies and groups to advance the work initiated in 1993. The advancement of the plan will involve further development of the natural areas plan so it is truly representative of the biological diversity of the province. This work will help promote the establishment of the reserves as well as to help monitor reserve

management to ensure it adheres to the objectives of the plan and to management plans of individual reserves. Specific strategies in each of the areas (planning, establishment and management) are outlined below.

2.1 Planning

1. The protected areas system will be based on the principles of conservation biology and on scientific data relating to ecosystems.
2. The reserve system will be based on the three-component natural areas system plan initiated by the Protected Areas Association in 1993, and further developed by government's system plan committee in 1995-96.
3. CPAWS-NL will review the principles underlying the existing plan to ensure that it adheres to the principles of conservation biology. The essential features of each study area will be identified and mapped to ensure these proposed reserves truly represent the segment of biodiversity they are designed to protect, and to identify the critical zones within the study areas.
4. The system plan will be completed by proposing study areas for ecoregions and other aspects of provincial biodiversity that are not included or not adequately represented in the plan, as it now exists.
5. CPAWS-NL will request the assistance of local residents, the scientific community, and government agencies, to ensure that the provincial plan is based on the best data available, and has broad public support.

2.2 Establishment

1. CPAWS-NL will:
 - a. invite wide public participation in the planning of the network;
 - b. plan and implement public relations/public education programs;
 - c. promote appropriate local recreational and economic use of existing reserves;
 - d. promote scientific research within the reserve system and promote the use of scientific data in planning development and land use outside the reserves;

- e. encourage public participation in reserve management through the establishment of local management advisory committees.
1. CPAWS-NL will seek to build political support for the protected areas network by direct informing of politicians, stressing the role of the reserves in the local economy as well as in sustainable resource management.
2. CPAWS-NL will work closely with government agencies responsible for the reserve system (WERAC, Parks and Natural Areas Division), and will meet frequently with them to coordinate programs and exchange information, monitoring their progress in reserve planning and establishment, and providing a public voice to support their efforts.
3. CPAWS-NL will promote establishment of individual reserves by building reserve databases, including natural feature and conflict mapping, by preparing and implementing public relations programs for proposed reserves, by meeting with conflicting land use proponents and responding to them appropriately, and by direct communication at all political levels.

2.3 Management

1. CPAWS-NL will assist where possible with the preparation of draft management plans for proposed reserves and will review and comment on these plans through the public hearing process;
2. CPAWS-NL will monitor reserve management, identifying deficiencies and required changes to the appropriate agency;
3. CPAWS-NL will promote the scientific study of reserves and the establishment of a database on the reserve system to clearly understand the elements and processes in provincial ecosystems.
4. CPAWS-NL will promote the use of scientific data from the reserve system to aid in developments outside the reserve. Reserves can also be used as benchmarks to measure the effects of development in other areas;
5. CPAWS-NL will seek to identify areas in which the reserves can contribute to local economies, and support eco- and adventure tourism within reserves;
6. CPAWS-NL will seek to involve the reserves in education at the local level;

7. CPAWS-NL will promote local involvement in reserve management through the establishment of local volunteer advisory committees.

2.4 Priority Action Items

1. Review the existing plan, identifying gaps and deficiencies
2. Meet with appropriate government agencies to express CPAWS' interest in the natural areas plan. CPAWS -NL will also request status reports of the plan, offer support for government efforts, and report concerns that may emerge from the action items.
3. Review the status of proposed Level 1 Reserves (Torngat and Mealy Mountains National Parks, Lac Joseph-Atikonak and Caribou House Wilderness Reserves), select a reserve or reserves for priority action, develop databases on the selected reserve(s) and plan strategies to promote its establishment.
4. Meet with environmental groups, business, schools and other interested parties in the province to introduce the chapter and its goals, and develop cooperative working arrangements.

MARINE PROTECTED AREA CONSERVATION STRATEGY

3.0 Introduction

The marine protected areas committee will be responsible for all matters relating to the planning, establishment and management of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Marine protected areas, as it applies here, is a collective term including all marine sites where human activities are regulated. It includes sites where fisheries regulations are in place to manage specific fish stocks as well as conservation areas where all species and habitat are protected¹.

Understanding of the marine environment is essential to the development of a plan to establish the basic principles on which marine natural areas for the province should be based, and to the identification of critical areas and general areas for study to determine their suitability for protection. The promotion and use of community knowledge and scientific research to identify potential marine protected area sites and critical areas is necessary to obtain a comprehensive understanding of aquatic ecosystems. Collection of scientific data from within a designated marine protected area will aid in the research of other areas of special concern outside a marine protected area.

Since the establishment of marine protected areas will only be possible if the general public, politicians and fishers become aware of their value and are willing to support them, an intensive educational campaign using all possible resources will be undertaken.

Local community groups and individuals will be invited to initiate and participate in the process of establishing a marine protected area as early as possible.

Marine Protected Areas will have the following objectives:

1. To protect representatives of the marine communities found from the coastline out to the continental slope. These marine communities will conserve biological and genetic diversity.
2. To protect sites of special concern, such as unique habitats or the habitat of endangered species.
3. To provide a refuge for exploited biological resources, such as fish, molluscs or mammals that will assist in their rational and beneficial management.
4. To protect representative communities from the adverse effects of oil, gas and mineral exploration and exploitation.
5. To provide control sites against which the effects of any manipulation of marine resources, such as fishing or scientific study can be assessed.
6. To demonstrate the economic value of MPAs to the general public and politicians.
7. To make MPA sites available to groups and individuals for educational purposes, field courses and field trips.
8. To establish a comprehensive marine database to aid in the identification and selection of areas of special concern and potential sites for the designation of an MPA.

3.1 Jurisdictional Issues

There are significant jurisdictional problems associated with the establishment of Marine Protected Areas because of the number of agencies involved in their establishment. Four Provinces and two National Governments (Canada and France) could have an interest. Three federal government departments including Heritage (Parks Canada), Environment (Canadian Wildlife Service) and Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) have varying mandates for their MPA programs.

Marine protected areas have been established by extending terrestrial protected areas, such as national parks, into the ocean, and protecting sites of special concern as part of fisheries management, or by identifying and designating areas that represent a type or several types of biological communities.

3.2 Planning

1. To document all marine areas with special protection in the Province in an effort to determine the level and type of protection that is required.
2. To identify if connectivity of adjacent terrestrial and marine protected areas should be promoted.
3. To create an inventory of videos and other resources demonstrating the value of MPAs for educational use for the general public, politicians and fishers.
4. To identify all area types for which representatives should have some level of protection.
5. To identify marine areas of special concern which possess unique or rare characteristics. For example, salt marshes are found in many areas, but those with *Spartina* are rare.
6. To provide protected marine habitat for species at risk.
7. To encourage the formation of local groups, which will actively participate in the establishment and management of MPAs and solicit participation of the public and scientific communities and anyone else who has an interest and knowledge, which will help the Committee.

3.3 Establishment

The establishment of marine protected areas will only be possible if the general public, members of appropriate government departments, politicians and fishers become aware of their value. An intensive educational campaign using all resources possible is crucial.

Input from the above groups from the beginning of the implementation process is also crucial to ensure that everyone is aware of what is happening.

Members of these groups should be directly involved in the process of implementation, so that they can advise on the best course of action.

CONSTITUTION
of
**The Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter Canadian Parks and
Wilderness Society**

As established at _____.

I: NAME

The name of this Chapter shall be The Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter of The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society or CPAWS - NL.

II: MISSION

The mission of the Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is to promote the systematic establishment of new terrestrial and marine protected areas, and to foster effective governance of existing parks, protected reserves, and wilderness areas in the province.

III: VISION

For the benefit of present and future generations, the Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society envisions the establishment of a representative system of terrestrial and marine protected areas that incorporates the ecological, social and economic values of local communities, and recognizes the value of protected areas and wilderness as an essential part of ecosystems governance and planning.

III.1 OBJECTIVES

The Chapter will work:

- 1. To foster the identification and establishment of terrestrial, freshwater and marine protected areas based on scientific knowledge and representativeness of ecological diversity in the province;*
- 2. To support research to identify terrestrial and marine ecological regions for protection and preservation;*
- 3. To encourage the recognition and value of protected areas and wilderness as essential components of ecosystems governance and planning;*

- 4. To promote connectivity of protected areas including connectivity of adjacent terrestrial and marine protected areas where applicable;*
- 5. To support the protection of critical habitats for species at risk through government legislation;*
- 6. To discourage activities resulting in environmental degradation to vulnerable aquatic and terrestrial wilderness;*
- 7. To support economic opportunities in protected areas that are pursued in a non-intrusive manner;*
- 8. To promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of protected areas and wilderness through experience and education;*
- 9. To promote the protection of marine and terrestrial wilderness areas through public education and community stewardship;*
- 10. To work collaboratively with individuals, communities, businesses, government, aboriginal groups, and others to encourage the future protection of special marine and terrestrial wilderness areas.*

IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section IV.1

- I. The Board of Directors of this Chapter shall consist of a President, Past President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary, plus one member from each region (illustrated in Schedule A), plus no more than two additional members for a maximum of 12 board members.
- II. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the Chapter and may act in all matters to carry out or promote the objectives and interest of the Chapter. The Board of Directors shall have the power to establish committees or subcommittees as required, made up of members of the Board or the general membership.
- III. Positions taken and opinions expressed publicly by Chapter representatives shall reflect the policy of the Chapter. Chapter representatives are Chapter members who are authorized by the board of directors to speak on behalf of the Chapter.

V: DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section V.1

- I. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board of Directors and Annual Meetings of the Chapter, be the chief spokesperson for the chapter, and shall represent the Chapter on the CPAWS national Board.
- II. The Vice-President assists the President in carrying out her/his duties and relieves the president when he/she cannot fulfill duties.
- III. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the custody of the funds of the Chapter, and for paying such bills of the Chapter as are authorized by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall prepare a financial report which shall be provided to the membership in advance of or during the Annual Meeting.
- IV. The Board shall designate three executive officers from among the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Director to have signing authority on the chapter's bank accounts. Cheques issued on behalf of the Chapter shall require the signatures of any two of these three officers.
- V. The Secretary shall be the keeper of all records of the Chapter, other than Financial Accounts.

VI: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A director or officer of the Chapter who is directly or indirectly a party to a material contract or transaction, or a proposed material contract or transaction with the Chapter, shall disclose in writing to the Chapter, or request to have entered in the minutes of the meeting of the Board, the nature and extent of the interest. This disclosure of interest shall occur at the first meeting that the contract or transaction is discussed. In the event that an interest in a contract or transaction by a director or officer occurs after the item is first introduced, the director or officer shall disclose the interest at the subsequent meeting.

The director or officer who makes the disclosure of interest in an item of business shall not take part in any discussion, debate or vote on the item of business. The director or officer, on an adopted motion by the Board, shall leave the meeting until the item of business is completed.

VII: MEMBERSHIP

Terms of membership in the Chapter shall be provided in the Constitution of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society.

VIII: AREA

The membership base of the Chapter shall be drawn from the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

IX: MEETINGS

Section IX.1

The Board of Directors of the Chapter shall meet from time to time as necessary. The President, or Vice-President, upon the authority of the President, shall convene all meetings of the Board. However, a meeting of the Board of Directors may also be called at the request of four of its members.

The Board of Directors may at any time call a general meeting to consider any business. An agenda for the meeting shall be sent to all members.

Section IX.2

- I. The Board of Directors will call a general meeting of the Chapter upon receipt by the President or Secretary of a written request signed by any ten Chapter members.
- II. A general meeting of the Chapter shall be held at least once in each calendar year at intervals not greater than 15 months.
- III. Members shall be sent notice in writing of the place, time, and agenda of all general and annual meetings at least ten days in advance.

Section IX.3

A majority of the board members shall constitute quorum for a Board meeting.

Quorum for a duly announced annual or general meeting of the Chapter shall be five members in good standing. Bourinot's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority for the conduct of meetings.

X: ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Section X.1: Board of Directors

- I. The Board of Directors shall be elected by the members of the Chapter present at each annual meeting.
- II. Each member of the Board of Directors shall be a member in good standing of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and serve for a period until the next annual meeting of the Chapter.
- III. Members may submit names of potential Board candidates to the Nominations Committee prior to the annual general meeting. Nominations from the floor at the Annual General Meeting are permitted.

- IV. In the event of more than 12 names being submitted (excluding the Past President), an election by secret ballot shall be held. The 12 people with the highest numbers of votes shall be declared elected.
- V. If a board member is absent for more than 2 board meetings in succession, that person shall automatically cease to be a board member. A vote of the remaining board members can excuse the absences and reinstate the board member.

Section X.2: Appointment of Executive Officers

- I. From its membership at its first meeting, the Board of Directors shall elect a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- II. Nominations for Chapter President, duly seconded must be received by the Secretary of the Board of Directors at least 48 hours prior to the first meeting of the Board following the annual general meeting.
- III. Candidates names and a brief statement of qualifications will be circulated to members of the Board at the commencement of its first meeting following the annual general meeting, prior to the election.
- IV. Each candidate may present a brief statement of intent at said Board meeting, following which an election will be held by secret ballot. The winner will be selected by simple majority.
- V. In the event of a tie vote, ballots will be recast for the candidates receiving the most votes.
- VI. In the event of a vacancy of the office of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary, the Board of Directors shall appoint a member of the Board to fill the vacancy. The person appointed shall hold office for the remainder of his or her predecessor's term.
- VII. In the event of any other vacancy on the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors may appoint a member of the Chapter to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term of that Board of Directors.
- VIII. Any member of the Board of Directors shall upon expiration of his or her term of office be eligible for re-election.

Section X.3: Appointment of Executive Director

- I. The Board may hire an Executive Director.
- II. The Executive Director shall be appointed by and be responsible to the Board.
- III. The appointment shall be by a majority vote of the Board.
- IV. The Executive Director shall report through the President to the Board and shall take instructions from the President.

- V. The Executive Director shall attend Board meetings, shall have a voice at the meeting, but shall not vote.

XI: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section XI.1

The Board shall appoint a Nominations Committee which shall solicit and propose nominations for Directors.

Section XI.2

The Executive Committee, consisting of the Executive Officers, namely the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Director, shall execute the business of the chapter as authorized by the board.

XII: PUBLICATIONS

- I. The Chapter shall publish a Newsletter whose purpose shall be to keep members informed of the activities and issues relevant to the objectives of the Chapter.
- II. The Newsletter may include articles both in English and French.
 - I. All members shall receive the Newsletter.
 - II. From its membership the Board shall appoint a Newsletter Editor.

XIII: LIABILITIES

No member shall be liable to contribute towards the payment of the debts or liabilities of the Chapter, in the event of the dissolution of the Chapter.

XIV: AUDIT

The financial records of the Chapter shall be examined each year prior to the Annual Meeting by two Chapter members selected by the Board.

XV: AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended at any general meeting of the Chapter by a two-thirds vote of members voting. A proposal to amend the Constitution may be submitted by the Board of Directors, or by the written request of a member addressed to the Secretary and received by her/him at least 30 days before the date fixed for that meeting. Notice of the proposed amendments shall be sent to all members with the Notice of Meeting.

XVI: DISSOLUTION

Should the Board of Directors or the general membership fail to have at least one meeting within any period of 15 months, this Chapter shall cease to have legal status, and its assets may then be directed by the Treasurer or Secretary to the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, or failing that to a tax-exempt Canadian conservation organization.