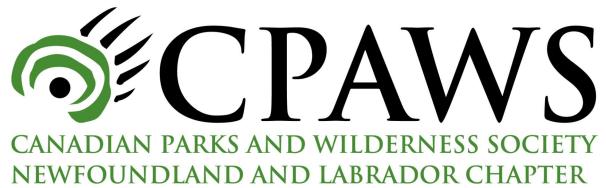




CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CHAPTER

January 2026 Newsletter





2026 is finally here and we hope you're feeling rested and refreshed after the holidays. We're only a few weeks into the new year, but we already have lots of exciting news to share with you!

Meeting with the Minister

This month, our Executive Director, Tanya Edwards, participated in an Environmental NGO roundtable in St. John's with Minister Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature, to discuss nature conservation priorities in Newfoundland and Labrador. Together, they had important conversations on collaboration, implementation, and ensuring nature protection delivers real benefits for communities.



Minister Julie Dabrusin with representatives from provincial and national NGOs

Freshwater Initiative Updates

We're excited to share two upcoming freshwater initiatives, launching over the coming months!

Freshwater photo monitoring stations will be installed in the Gander, CBS, and Clarenville areas, helping us track changes in local landscapes by capturing photos from the same spot over time. These images build a visual record of ecosystem health, water and climate impacts, and conservation efforts.

We're also distributing **Freshwater Exploration Backpacks** to libraries across the island, giving kids and families hands-on tools to explore freshwater ecosystems and learn about local plants and animals. Both projects are designed to make freshwater conservation more accessible, engaging, and community-driven. Stay tuned for updates as we start rolling out these programs!

Do you think your local library would be interested in a freshwater kit? Or do you have any questions about this project? Let us know! Please contact our Ocean Conservation Coordinator, Kristen Butt, at kbutt@cpaws.org.

Website Updates

If you haven't noticed yet, our website has a new look! You can now access all past issues of our newsletter online. Happy reading!

[Check out our past newsletters](#)

Species Spotlight: Boreal Chickadee

The boreal chickadee (*Poecile hudsonicus*) is a small but hardy bird that calls Newfoundland and Labrador's forests home year-round. Unlike its black-capped relatives, the boreal

chickadee has a brown head and a scratchier-sounding chick-a-dee call. These little birds are a familiar presence in our province's spruce and fir forests, even through long, harsh winters. Unlike many songbirds, boreal chickadees don't migrate. Instead, they survive by caching food, fluffing their feathers for insulation, and relying on the stability of boreal habitat.

Protecting large, connected tracts of boreal forest helps ensure boreal chickadees can continue to thrive. By safeguarding old and mixed-age forests, we also protect countless other species that depend on this uniquely northern ecosystem, which defines so much of Newfoundland's natural identity.



As always, feel free to reach out with any questions that you may have. For information on how to [volunteer](#) or make a [donation](#), visit our website at cpawsnl.org! Also, if you're interested in keeping up to date on what's new and exciting at CPAWS-NL follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) for regular updates.



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