



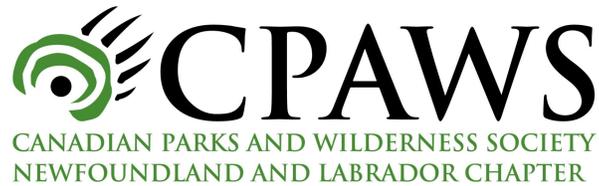
# CPAWS

CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CHAPTER

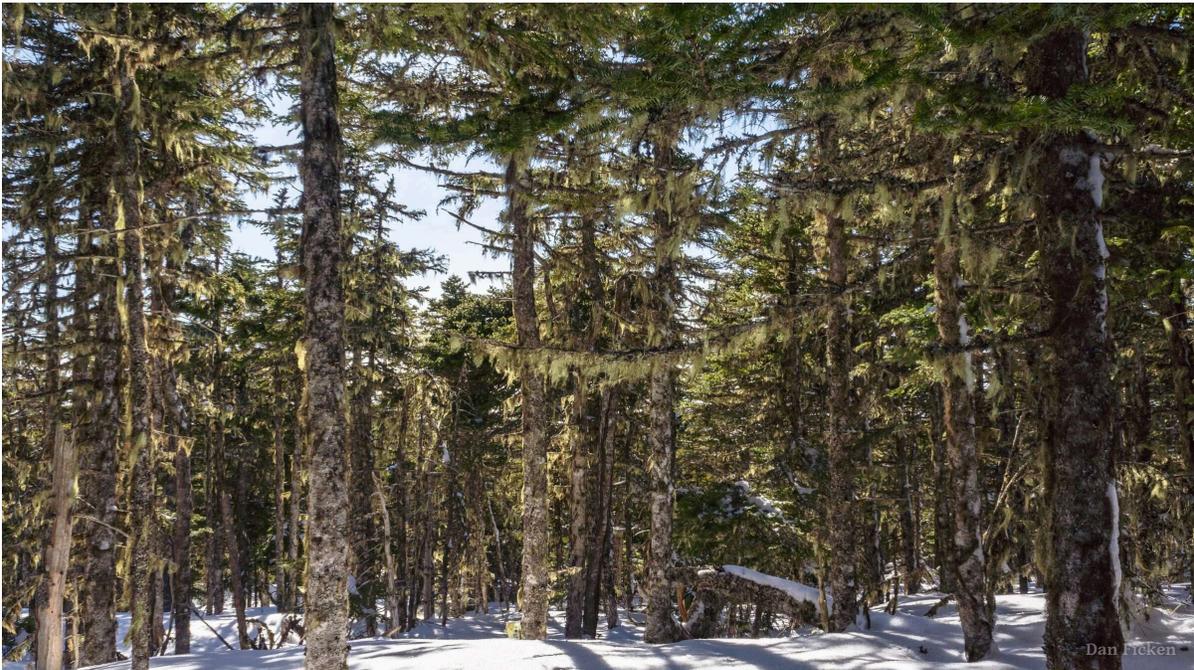
---

**February 2026 Newsletter**





It's been another busy month with lots of events and campaigns on the go. Read on for all the details, including a message from the President of our Board of Directors, Dan Ficken!



*A wintery forest scene captured by Dan Ficken*

## **Message from the President**

Dear CPAWS NL supporters, February tends to be the coldest month, thus I would like to extend my warmest welcome to you all! Show of hands, who likes conserving nature? All of you? Well, I'm not surprised, you have come to the right place. And while time is always getting away from me halfway through a nice Newfoundland and Labrador winter, the hard working folks in the CPAWS office have been busy doing great things in the community. Here are some examples of our organization's work and accomplishments over the past year.

Work in the community has always been forefront for our chapter, and we have particularly dedicated ourselves to working alongside Indigenous-led conservation initiatives, such as providing support for Miawpukek First Nation's Forest Management Agreement and a number of proposed Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas endorsed by the Chief and Council. CPAWS has helped build capacity in this community through Species at Risk funding, and guardian and youth training, as well as integrating Indigenous knowledge and science through mapping culturally and ecologically significant areas and native plant biodiversity, and even advancing lichen species at risk projects.

CPAWS NL also facilitated marine planning and coastal protection discussions in local and Indigenous communities, and has collaborated with academic, government, and community partners in establishing National Marine Wildlife Area designations. In collecting marine data, our conservation staff have enhanced ocean data collection via the Coastal Environmental Baseline Program, another program directly involving members of the community.

While CPAWS NL does a lot of work in the marine environment, we also ensure conservation of our province's terrestrial areas to align with Canada's 30x30 targets as well. One such example integrates climate resilience such as climate adaptation strategies and carbon sequestration into protected area planning, which includes working with government partners and First Nations. And these partnerships have resulted in the support for four proposed protected areas, and even contributed to national conservation through the co-authoring of a national report on protected areas.

On the ground, our Chapter also leads hands on activities such as delivering beach cleanups, underwater harbour debris removal, targeted harbour cleanup surveys, school and

community presentations on marine waste, habitat protection, and species stewardship, and we have launched a new freshwater awareness program which promotes clean water and ecosystem resilience. And of course, who can forget the annual puffin and petrel patrol; CPAWS NL has expanded the world renowned program resulting in a reduction of seabird strandings through education and outreach in the community.

As always, 2025 did not disappoint, and 2026 is off to a great start. I want to thank you all for your continued support, every little bit helps! And I especially want to support and recognize those in the office and those who volunteer for this important cause. There has been a lot of positive change over the years bit by bit, and it takes a lot of hard work and dedication to make it happen. All the best to you, and I hope you get to spend some time this winter in the great outdoors while the days are beginning to get longer.

Dan Ficken

CPAWS-NL President



## **Stand Up for the South Coast: Letter-Writing Campaign**

There's still time to make your voice heard! Our letter campaign is still in full-swing, with almost 700 letters sent so far!

The Province's recent decision to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding for the feasibility assessment of a proposed

South Coast National Marine Conservation Area has abruptly ended a collaborative, evidence-based process designed to explore conservation alongside sustainable economic opportunity.

Please consider joining our letter-writing campaign to express your concern over this decision. Use our template below!

[Send a letter](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Trivia Night in Fortune

Join us for a trivia night at the Fortune Lion's Club on February 24th! Come out to test your local wildlife knowledge, enjoy some snacks and have a chance to win some prizes! Throughout the event, we will take the opportunity to discuss research completed in the area.

**Where:** the Fortune Lion's Club, 42 Eldon St, Fortune

**When:** Thursday, February 24th at 7:00 PM

If you have any questions about the event, contact Hayley via email at [hmyers@cpaws.org](mailto:hmyers@cpaws.org)

### Petty Harbour Clean Currents Town Hall

Come voice your opinion on marine debris in Petty Harbour! This event is your chance to share local knowledge, voice concerns, and help shape the future of conservation in Petty Harbour. We'll be discussing marine debris impacts, gathering community input, and exploring solutions to keep our harbour thriving

for generations to come. Complimentary snacks and drinks provided!

**Where:** the Harbour Authority Building, 13 Southside Rd, Petty Harbour

**When:** Friday, March 6th at 6:00 PM

For more information or if you have questions, contact Amy via email at [afrostwicks@cpaws.org](mailto:afrostwicks@cpaws.org)

## Species Spotlight: Dovekie

What's that floating in the water? Is it a little buoy, or a chunk of ice? It might be a dovekie!

Dovekies (*Alle alle*) are one of the most abundant seabirds in the Northern Hemisphere, but because of how far north they live, only a lucky few people (like us, here in Newfoundland and Labrador) get to see them. These chunky little birds can be seen along the province's coasts and shorelines in the winter months, where they're also known as "ice birds", "bull birds", "bully birds" because of their stout appearance.

Dovekies are about half the size of an Atlantic puffin, with a stubby beak and a small tail, and round bodies with almost no neck. But don't be fooled by their appearance – these little birds are agile underwater foragers, diving deeply to capture their prey and swimming back to the surface in a zig-zag pattern.



*Photo: Rob Edsall via the Macaulay Library*

---

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](http://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.



**Tanya Edwards**  
Executive Director  
CPAWS NL





Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter  
360 Topsail Rd, Suite 303  
St. John's, NL, A1E 2B6

You received this email because you signed up for communications from CPAWS.  
You can [manage your preferences](#) to update the type of emails you receive from us, or you can [unsubscribe](#) from all our communications.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#)