

Terms of Reference
Provincial Parks Advisory Committee with First Nations
November 30, 2016

1. Background

Following an extensive review, changes to the *Parks Act* came into force on June 24, 2014. One of the legislative changes provides the Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture with the authority to create an advisory committee for Provincial Parks, which includes members of New Brunswick Mi'gmaq and Wolastoqiyik First Nation communities of New Brunswick.

Under the updated *Parks Act*, all provincial parks are dedicated to residents of the Province, visitors and future generations to permanently protect ecosystems, biodiversity and the elements of natural and cultural heritage; provide opportunities for recreational and outdoor educational activities to promote a healthy lifestyle; provide opportunities to increase knowledge and appreciation of the natural and cultural heritage of the Province; and offer a tourism product that enhances the Province's image as a quality vacation destination.

The implementation of the Provincial Parks Advisory Committee with First Nations will ensure that the interests of the Mi'gmaq and Wolastoqiyik are considered in the management of New Brunswick Provincial Parks governed under the *Parks Act*.

2. Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Provincial Parks Advisory Committee with First Nations is to:

- (i) Make recommendations regarding Provincial Parks to the Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture on matters of mutual concern;
- (ii) Discuss technical, cultural and traditional aspects of managing and preserving Provincial Parks;
- (iii) Advise the Minister regarding the incorporation of Aboriginal programming and services in Provincial Parks.

3. Mandate

To provide ongoing input and advice on a wide range of park management, planning and operational issues. The Parties agree that the work of the Committee does not constitute consultation and accommodation regarding Aboriginal and Treaty Rights or Aboriginal Title.

4. Objectives

- (i) To provide input on working together to ensure that the mandate of the Advisory Committee is fulfilled;

- (ii) To provide input on facilitating the sharing of information and knowledge regarding New Brunswick Provincial Parks;
- (iii) To provide input in the presentation and integration of First Nations themes in Provincial Parks in order to increase knowledge of First Nations' rights, history, culture, language and interests;
- (iv) To provide input on collaboration on mutual interests in Provincial Parks;
- (v) To provide input on facilitating communication between First Nations and on-site Provincial Park managers;
- (vi) To provide input into the development and on-going maintenance of resource management plans for Provincial Parks;
- (vii) To provide input on the development and delivery of First Nations cultural training to all Provincial Park staff;
- (viii) To provide input on developing employment opportunities for First Nations at Provincial Parks;
- (ix) To provide input on facilitating the development of First Nations heritage programs and on facilitating the sharing of cultural heritage by First Nations people;
- (x) To provide input on facilitating economic development opportunities for First Nations associated with the tourism industry;
- (xi) To provide input on Provincial Park management processes and practices; and
- (xii) To provide input on monitoring the implementation of commitments made to First Nations in the resource management plans, on reporting findings to the Parties and on further recommended actions.

5. Committee Composition

To maintain the Committee at a manageable size and encourage full member participation, the Advisory Committee will include:

- Three (3) Wolastoqiyik representatives (appointed by Chiefs);
- Three (3) Mi'gmaq representatives (appointed by Chiefs);
- The Assistant Deputy Minister from the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture (or appointed representative);
- The Director of Parks and Attractions, the Manager of Park Operations and one (1) Analyst from the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture; and,
- Two (2) Park Managers (on a rotating basis).

6. Meetings

The advisory committee will meet bi-annually, with the possibility of additional meetings if required, either by conference call, or teleconference. The bi-annual meetings will be held at different Provincial Parks.

7. Funding Arrangement

The Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture will fund travel and honoraria approved in advance under Government's established policies and guidelines for those participants who are not receiving a salary for attending meetings.

Subject to the immediately preceding paragraph, the First Nation representatives may be compensated for 2 days honoraria in relation to each meeting. It is anticipated that First Nations' representatives will require ½ day preparation time and ½ day summarizing, report writing and related activities for the advisory committee meetings.

8. Review and Amendment

At least every two years the Parties shall review these Terms of Reference and the function of this advisory committee and may amend either as they deem necessary.