

Date: Mon, 8 March 1999
Anne M Keiver, M.C.I.P.
President, New Brunswick Association of Planners

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New Brunswick Association of Planners  
c/o P.O. Box 5001, 25 Beaverbrook Avenue  
Saint-John, NB E2L 4Y9

February 25, 1999

Hon. Camille Theriault  
Premier of New Brunswick  
Government of New Brunswick  
670 King St., Room 212  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

RE:

## **Support for Protecting Bio-Diversity for Future Generations of New Brunswickers**

Honourable Premier Theriault:

The New Brunswick Association of Planners congratulates the Government of New Brunswick for initiating a strategy to select certain areas of the province for special protection. Our members, professional planners, hold a set of strong values based on respect for the needs of future generations. Our members value the natural and cultural environment, acknowledging the future needs of people, other species, and their environments.

The New Brunswick Association of Planners urges the government to continue the work that needs to be done, without losing the momentum of the planning process begun by Dr. Louis LaPierre. We urge you to conduct a detailed multi-disciplinary assessment that examines all the factors.

Many valid questions have been raised through the public consultation process and these should be answered by a team of acknowledged experts in forest employment, wood supply, economic diversification, tourism employment and rural development. This analysis should be done in an open and transparent way, with methodology and detailed results available to industry, non-government organizations and the public.

We urge the New Brunswick government to continue discussions with industry, conservation groups, aboriginal groups, wildlife groups, recreation groups, scientists, landowners and other interested parties. Wise planning decisions depend upon meaningful public participation by all individuals and groups.

Balancing the needs of communities and individuals is the very essence of good planning. The trade-offs and choices are never easy to make. Such policy decisions must be based on sound evidence and analysis.

Discussions among the representatives of all interest groups will help the parties work constructively with government. A sound planning process will help the parties work together in good faith, negotiating trade-offs that will ultimately protect significant wildlands, maintain employment in the natural resource industries, diversify the economy and provide new employment opportunities. It is important to maintain the momentum.

Please ensure that the socio-economic analysis is completed within six months to one year. This will allow the twelve candidate areas to be discussed within the context of the upcoming 2002 forest management plans.

Respectfully yours,

Anne M Keiver, M.C.I.P.

President, New Brunswick Association of Planners

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cc: Honourable Doug Tyler, Minister of Natural Resources  
Dr. Louis LaPierre