

*From: The New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Coalition
180 St. John Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 4A9
phone: 506-452-9902; fax: 506-458-1047; nbpnac@nbnet.nb.ca*

Send letters to Premier Bernard Lord and Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Jeannot Volpé, urging them to follow through with full protection for the eight protected areas candidates.

June 9, 2000

Dear NBEN member,

As you know, in 1997 the NB Department of Natural Resources and Energy asked a consultant, Dr. Louis LaPierre, to propose a strategy for developing a network of protected areas for New Brunswick. The first report went out for discussion in the fall of 1998, followed by 18 public meetings held around the province. In the fall of 1999, Dr. LaPierre's final report, entitled, A Protected Areas Strategy for New Brunswick - Summary of Public Hearings and Recommendations, was released.

This report included 50 recommendations, including interim protection for eight wilderness areas on Crown land (2 per cent of the province's land mass). The government immediately acted upon this recommendation and gave interim protection status to all eight areas.

Since January, 1999, a government-appointed committee of representatives from forestry, mining, environmental and wildlife groups has been working on an action plan for the implementation of the protected areas strategy. This action plan will be submitted to the provincial government early this summer, which means that final decisions about the future of these eight areas will be made very soon.

The New Brunswick Protected Natural Areas Coalition is asking you to send letters to Premier Bernard Lord and Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Jeannot Volpé, urging them to follow through with full protection for the eight protected areas candidates. A sample letter is provided below for your convenience. The letter will make a stronger impact with politicians if you

add your own thoughts and feelings to the letter. A call or letter to your local MLA would also be helpful.

Please send the Coalition copies of your letters or a quick note to say that you've taken action on this important conservation issue.

The NB Protected Natural Areas Coalition believes that the protection of these spectacular wild reminders of our natural heritage will help ensure a healthy quality of life and a more diverse economy for our province. With your help, the chance of permanently protecting these areas will grow stronger. Thank you for your action.

Sincerely,
Roberta Clowater
Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION AND SAMPLE LETTER

The Honourable Bernard Lord
Premier of New Brunswick
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1
fax: (506) 453-7407
Email: premier@gov.nb.ca

The Honourable Jeannot Volpé
Minister of Natural Resources and Energy
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1
Fax: (506) 453-2510
Email: jeannot.volpe@gov.nb.ca

Dear Premier Lord/Minister Volpé,
(please choose one salutation at a time and send to the premier and the minister separately, also send a letter to your MLA)

I would like to offer my congratulations to your government for taking the action of giving interim protection to eight important wilderness areas. It is crucial that you now make the decision to give permanent protection to all 8 of our last remaining roadless areas.

New Brunswick's natural areas have immeasurable value beyond the trees or minerals we can obtain from them. Fundamentally, these wild areas provide us with ecological services in the form of clean and plentiful water, clean air, regulation of flooding, and other services that prove very expensive for us to even attempt to duplicate. They are also critical habitat for plants and animals that are more sensitive to human disturbances, and offer natural wilderness experiences that are becoming very scarce in New Brunswick and the rest of the world.

As a New Brunswicker who wants to see our quality of life maintained and our economy enhanced, I encourage you to make sure your government gives permanent protection to the eight areas currently under interim protection. I look to our government to ensure there is a balance in the way our forests, wetlands and rivers are used, and right now that balance is skewed in a direction that is not healthy for any of us.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

(Your name and address)