

## FACTSHEET

### THE CANADIAN ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION COUNCIL (CESCC)

The Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC) was formed in 1998 by federal, provincial and territorial Wildlife Ministers under the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada*. Federally, this includes the Minister of Environment Canada, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency. The Council is co-chaired by the Minister of the Environment and the Minister from the host province or territory.

The Council is responsible for national leadership and direction for preventing wild species from becoming at risk. It has specific responsibilities for overseeing the listing and recovery of species that are at risk nationally, and plays a role in resolving issues under the Accord.

Species assessments are made by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), an arm's length committee of wildlife experts. COSEWIC makes its list public and forwards it to CESCC along with a rationale for each designation on the list. The CESCC determines and coordinates the most effective response actions.

The CESCC is releasing response statements for the 32 species listed as *extirpated*, *endangered* or *threatened* by COSEWIC at its meetings in May and November 2001. This is the first time response statements have been released. The statements are a new step in the national recovery process developed under the *Accord*, and are designed to show the immediate action that governments propose to take to protect *endangered* and *threatened* species found within their jurisdiction. They include a description of the protection that is already in place for the species, the immediate conservation and protection measures that will be undertaken, and preliminary recovery information including the recovery approach. They also designate the lead jurisdiction or jurisdictions for the recovery of each species.

The CESCC is responsible for monitoring and reporting every five years on the status of all species in Canada, and for communicating the progress on programs to the public. The first such report (*Wild Species 2000: The General Status of Species in Canada*) was released in April 2001. The CESCC is also responsible for ensuring that good stewardship of natural habitats is recognized and promoted in efforts to protect species at risk. The Council is mandated to seek and consider advice and recommendations from stakeholder groups for the implementation of the *Accord*.

More information can be found on the Canadian Wildlife Service's Web site at:  
<http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/sara/main.htm>