



“Unimpaired for Future Generations”?

**Volume II:
Setting a New Direction for Canada's National Parks**

Panel on
the Ecological
Integrity of Canada's
National Parks



Commission sur
l'intégrité écologique
des parcs nationaux
du Canada

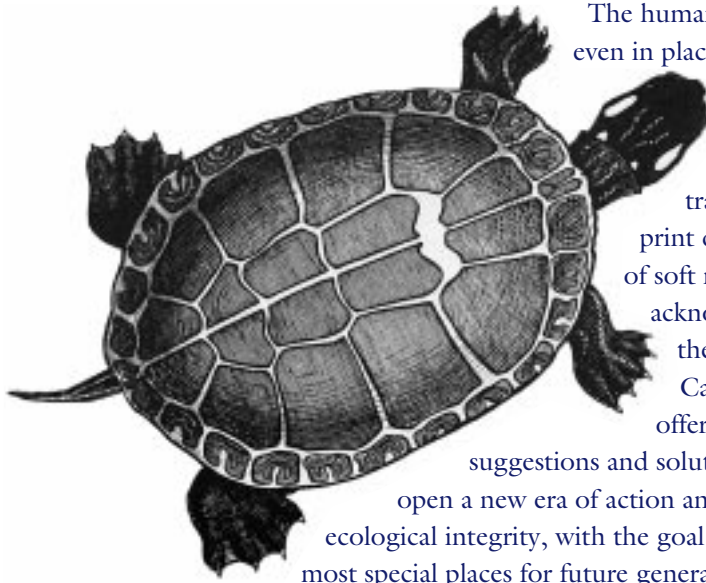
“Unimpaired for Future Generations”?

Conserving Ecological Integrity
with Canada's National Parks

**Volume II: Setting a New Direction
for Canada's National Parks**

Canada 

On the cover:



The human footprint is inescapable, even in places Canadians call “wilderness.” This photo by Panel Vice-Chair Pamela Wright graphically illustrates that point — a footprint deeply sunk into a bed of soft moss. The Panel’s report acknowledges the significance of the ecological footprint in Canada’s national parks, but offers many recommendations, suggestions and solutions to help Parks Canada

open a new era of action and responsibility for ecological integrity, with the goal of preserving Canada’s most special places for future generations.

The Turtle Image: Many Aboriginal peoples believe that long life endows the turtle with great knowledge and wisdom. According to Haudenosaunee culture, the Sky Woman created the world on the back of a turtle. North America is known as Great Turtle Island to many Aboriginal peoples. The Turtle image appears throughout this report as a symbol of wisdom, respect, and traditional connections to the land.

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SECTION A: A PANEL EXAMINES THE ISSUES

CHAPTER 1: A Sacred Trust

Protecting Ecological Integrity: A Vital Mission 1-2
A Vision for Canada’s National Parks 1-7
Ecological Integrity: Issues and Fundamental Concepts 1-8
Key Findings of the Panel on Ecological Integrity 1-9
Fundamental Tools 1-17
Protecting Ecological Integrity *With* National Parks 1-19

SECTION B: PARKS CANADA AS AN ORGANIZATION

CHAPTER 2: Toward a Culture of Conservation

Toward a Knowledge-based Organization 2-2
Aligning Parks Canada with its Mandate 2-4
Structure, Staffing and Decision-making 2-9
Accountability 2-13
Politics and Parks Canada 2-15
Internal Debate and External Advocacy 2-16

SECTION C: A LEARNING ORGANIZATION

CHAPTER 3: Planning for Ecological Integrity

Learning Through Adaptive Management 3-1
The Current Planning Framework 3-3
Changing the Current Planning Framework 3-6
Planning at the Park Level 3-9
Planning at the National Level 3-17

CHAPTER 4: Building Capacity for Learning and Education

A Science Vision for National Parks 4-2
Science as Necessary Information 4-2
Building Science Capacity 4-6
External Science Capacity: Making Science Connections 4-13

CHAPTER 5: The Need for Active Management and Restoration

Changing Ideas, Changing Approaches 5-1
Restoring Fire — Righting 50 Years of Active Suppression 5-4
Species Restoration — Species at Risk 5-6
Site Restoration 5-7

Dealing with Alien Species	5-8
Harvesting	5-10
Managing Hyperabundant Species	5-12
CHAPTER 6: Tools for Understanding and Assessing Ecological Integrity	
Inventory, Research, and Monitoring	6-1
National and Park-level Reporting	6-9
Data and Information Management	6-12

SECTION D: ABORIGINAL PEOPLES AND NATIONAL PARKS

CHAPTER 7: Working with Aboriginal Peoples

The Lessons of History - From Expulsion to Co-management	7-2
Shared Vision — The Spirit of Ecological Integrity	7-3
Forming Genuine Partnerships	7-4
Aboriginal Harvest in National Parks: From Rights to Responsibilities	7-5

SECTION E: PROTECTED AREAS AND PARTNERSHIPS

CHAPTER 8: National Parks in the Canadian Protected Areas Network

Divergent Approaches to Protection	8-2
The National Parks System	8-4
Establishing New National Parks	8-5

CHAPTER 9: From Islands to Networks

National Parks as Ecological Islands	9-1
Regional Empowerment and Responsibility	9-3
Regional Co-operation and National Goals	9-6
Supporting Partnerships	9-9
Legal and Economic Implications	9-14

SECTION F: USE AND ENJOYMENT

CHAPTER 10: Interpretation and Outreach

Interpretation Issues	10-2
Focus Interpretation on Ecological Integrity	10-3
Current and Potential Audiences	10-11
The Importance of Partners in Interpretation	10-17
Marketing and Ecological Integrity	10-19

CHAPTER 11: Enjoyment and Appropriate Use

Use Within Limits	11-2
Allowable and Appropriate Use	11-4
Historical Precedents and Non-conforming Uses: A Clarification	11-9

CHAPTER 12: Shrinking the Ecological Footprint

Ecological Design	12-2
Daily Operations	12-10
Environmental Assessment	12-13

SECTION G: INVESTING IN ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

CHAPTER 13: The Need for Committed Investment

Actual Spending Levels are Difficult to Determine	13-2
Reduced Budgets	13-2
Prerequisites to Additional Resources for Ecological Integrity	13-9
Additional Resources	13-11
Additional Resources for New Parks	13-15
Allocation of Project Funds	13-16
The Revenue Policy	13-18

In Closing: Guarding the National Interest

Unimpaired for Future Generations	14-1
The Way Forward	14-3
Initial Steps on the Path	14-4
Signs of Success	14-5

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Methods — How the Panel Worked	A:1
Organization of the Panel and Secretariat	A:1
Biographies	A:3
Appendix B: Glossary	B:1
Appendix C: Report of the Sierra Legal Defense Fund to the Panel	C:1
Appendix D: Parks Canada Organization Chart	D:1
Appendix E: Significant Aboriginal Rights Cases	E:1
Appendix F: References and Further Reading	F:1
Appendix G: Summary of Recommendations	G:1
Mohawk Thanksgiving	Back Cover

Acknowledgements

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The Panel also extends sincere thanks to our Secretariat, who tirelessly sought information, made meeting, workshop and travel arrangements, and provided valuable input in a myriad of ways.

Editor's Notes

Each of the Panel members, the Panel's international advisors, and the Panel Secretariat contributed their words, ideas and energy to this work. There is no single author although certain members took the lead in preparing the report's individual chapters. In editing the report it's been my intention not to homogenize the text but to allow the voices and passions of Panel members to speak directly to the reader.

Throughout this report, Panel members quote extensively from published materials, as well as from verbal and written submissions made during the Panel's many sessions in national parks and other locations across Canada. Many of these submissions were made in confidence, enabling those making submissions to treat sensitive topics openly and honestly. For that reason, the Panel has chosen not to identify the source of submissions quoted throughout this report, but to identify some sources only as a "submission to the Panel."

Throughout both volumes of the report, I have used several conventions, as follows:

- italics indicate a direct quote;
- sidebars — short pieces of text set off from the main text of the report by horizontal lines above and below — provide additional information or details to supplement the main text;
- the Panel's recommendations are clearly set apart from the main text by a black title box.

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