



***RE: EAST PAINT LAKE PARK RESERVE***

Several months have now gone by since the first public meetings respecting the future of the East Paint Lake Park Reserve were held in Thompson and Winnipeg.

The responses received from the public and the mining industry at the meeting and in the interim have indicated considerable support for the reuniting of the park reserve with Paint Lake Provincial Park, as well as considerable support for protected status for the park reserve area, if this protection does not impact the future viability of the city of Thompson.

A significant piece of information respecting the mineral potential of the park reserve and surrounding area is the pending CAMIRO Nickel Belt study being prepared by the mining sector. The results of this study are expected to be made available later this year. Several requests to postpone a final decision on the East Paint Lake Park Reserve until this information is available have been received.

The province has recently confirmed that the parks legislation contains the option to extend the park reserve consultation process for a further five years. The present park reserve expires September 11, 2002. Your opinion respecting the value of extending this time period to more fully explore the idea of protected status for the East Paint Lake Park Reserve area is requested. Please contact Gordon A. Jones, Director of Parks and Natural Areas, in writing, at 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 3W3 or by fax at 204-945-0012 or by email at [pai@gov.mb.ca](mailto:pai@gov.mb.ca) by August 30, 2002.

Thank you in advance for your continuing contribution to this consultation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Wotton".

Dave Wotton  
Assistant Deputy Minister