

September, 2005

Public Consultation Extension of the Fisher Bay Provincial Park Reserve

In May, 2000, following a request by Fisher River First Nation, a Park Reserve was created in the Fisher Bay area on the North-west side of Lake Winnipeg about 200 kilometres north of the Winnipeg. The Park Reserve is over 89,000 hectares in size, and has more than 29,000 hectares of land in protected status (the remainder being comprised of the waters of Lake Winnipeg).

The purpose of the Fisher Bay Park Reserve designation is to conserve the area's natural, cultural and recreational values and maintain it free from logging, mining or the development of oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydro-electric power while public views on the future of the land, including a final designation, are discussed in a public consultation process.

The intent of the public consultation is to enable everyone with an interest in the area to review/provide current information respecting present area use and allocations, compatibility of uses, user expectations, implications of changing existing boundaries or land use practices, or comments respecting highest and best use for the Park Reserve land base, and contribute to the process of developing a framework for long-term management of the area.

Additional time to identify and review community ideas and suggestion for the area is needed. In addition, review to date has identified interests in the area by two other First Nations. It is considered very important that further review with these three communities be held before any further discussion or review proceeds. Therefore, it is proposed that the Park Reserve be renewed as is, with the understanding that the consultation process over the five year extension will identify and address all existing and forecast uses and include all Manitobans.

Your comments respecting the proposal to extend the existing Park Reserve designation to enable this continued consultation are requested. Please do not hesitate to forward additional information on specific uses and values along with your point of view respecting the future of this area. If you would prefer to respond electronically, wish any further information, or would like to speak to someone respecting any aspect of this process, please call Rick Wilson at (204) 945-4365 or email parksystem@gov.mb.ca. Your response before October 15, 2005 would be appreciated.

Thank you for your continuing interest in Manitoba's provincial park system.

Sincerely,

Rick Wilson Head, Park System Planning Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas