



Public Consultation **Extension of the Birch Island Park Reserve**

In May, 2000, following a request by Pine Creek First Nation, a Park Reserve 79,000 hectares in size was created that includes all of Birch Island and the surrounding waters on the Lake Winnipegosis about 150 kilometres north of Dauphin, and about 40 kilometres north of Pine Creek First Nation.

The purpose of the Birch Island Park Reserve designation is to conserve the area's natural and cultural 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.

Community consultations to discuss future direction and management options for the area with the new chief and council for Pine Creek First Nation are needed. It is considered very important that such consultations be held before any further discussion or review proceeds. Therefore, it is proposed that the Park Reserve be renewed as originally supported by this First Nation, with the understanding that the consultation process over the five year extension will seek to identify and address all existing and forecast uses and include all Manitobans.

Your comments respecting the proposal to extend the existing Park Reserve designation for this area to enable this 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
Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas