

October 5, 2010

Fisher Bay Park Reserve
Parks and Natural Areas
Box 53, 200 Saulteaux Crescent
Winnipeg, MB
R3J 3W3

Honourable Bill Blaikie
Minister of Conservation
Room 330 Legislative Building, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Dear Minister Blaikie;

Re: Fisher Bay Park Reserve - Intention to renew interim protection for another five years

We have attached here our previous letter on this topic, which pertains to both Fisher River and Birch Island park reserves.

The additional information received since our first letter was submitted became the basis for writing again. You will note that we asked why Birch Island review was to move to permanent protection under the Parks Act while Fisher Bay park reserve seemed to be moving to another five years of interim protection.

We have since seen media coverage identifying concerns from Fisher River First Nation. And we have noticed the anomaly regarding treaty land entitlement selection in Manitoba Conservation mapping of the Fish Bay park reserve. At this time Manitoba Wildlands is repeating its question - why five more years of interim protection for one park reserve while the other goes to permanent protection?

The First Nation affected by Fisher Bay park reserve seeks an end to interim status for the park reserve, with permanent designation. Manitoba Conservation may be lacking clear policy when there is a treaty land entitlement land selection inside a park, park reserve, or other crown land designation.

At this time we would urge you, and your department to reconcile policy and procedures for park reserves, especially when those lands are nominated by First Nations for protected status, with policy and procedures for treaty land entitlement selections. Such policy and procedures would then also apply to protected status and TLE selections in other crown land designations per the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement.

Manitoba Wildlands



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Manitoba Wildlands supports protection of the Fisher Bay park reserve, with permanent designation that recognizes Aboriginal rights - and the wishes of Fisher River First Nation and Peguis First Nation.

You will note from our earlier letter that Manitoba Wildlands identifies two primary issues with the lands and water scope of the park. The lack of ability to protect water such as Fisher Bay and around Birch Island under the Parks Act results in a low likelihood of sustainability for these lands and waters over time.

Regards,

Gaile Whelan Enns
Director, Manitoba Wildlands

Attached: Manitoba Wildlands September 23rd, 2010 Letter regarding Proposal Renewal of Fisher Bay as a Park Reserve and Proposal to Designate Birch Island Park Reserve as a Provincial Park