

A landscape photograph showing a calm body of water in the foreground, reflecting the sky and the surrounding green forest. The trees are dense and appear to be a mix of deciduous and coniferous species. The sky is bright with some light clouds.

Report from the Steering Committee

Protecting our Natural Heritage

The work of the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition steering committee continues. It has shortened its name from the Chebucto Peninsula Wilderness Coalition to the Chebucto Wilderness Coalition (CWC). The shorter name is simpler and it's acronym easier to pronounce. Protecting public lands within the boundaries of Highways 103 and 333 under the Wilderness Protection Act remains its sole objective.

Since the CWC's meeting with Minister Parent on June 2, the Minister has indicated that the goal of protecting 12% of Nova Scotia's Crown Land remains important to his administration and his staff is now doing its initial assessment of the Crown Lands we have identified. The Minister further indicated that the province must serve diverse interests and encouraged the Coalition to reach out to increase the diversity of its membership. He also suggested that the CWC should "articulate a vision" for the lands proposed for protection.

The CWC objective has secured the support of the HRM Regional Council. Special thanks are due to Reg Rankin for providing leadership on this endorsement.

Judy Streach, MLA for Chester St. Margaret's, has promised a letter confirming her support for protecting the area under the Wilderness Areas Protection Act.

After considerable delays we have an appointment on October 21 with David Morse, Minister of the Department of Natural Resources. Minister Morse has attached importance to the support of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and the Ecology Action Centre (ECA). In turn, these two organizations have offered to reaffirm their support by having members attend the meeting with Minister Morse.

The CWC Steering Committee held its most recent meeting on October 9, 2008. A key item on the agenda dealt with future communication about its work with all groups that have supported the CWC's initiative. This report is the first of a series.

You can support CWC's work by copying the petition on the FBWHC website (www.fivebridgestrust.ca), carrying it with you, gathering signatures of support, and returning them to the FBWHT Chair, Beth McGee, 2 Wooden's River Road, Seabright, NS B3Z 3E2. Please include email addresses as future communications about the work of the CWC will be done mostly by email.