



Healthy Land, Healthy People

Government of the Northwest Territories Priorities
for the Territorial Conservation Network

2022-2027

Glossary of Terms

- **Conservation Areas**: Conservation areas protect natural and cultural values, and contribute to the conservation network by providing complementary, but less restrictive, protection than protected areas. In the NWT, conservation areas are equivalent to other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) as defined in national and international biodiversity targets.
- **Protected Areas**: Protected areas are the backbone of a conservation network, as they are ecologically intact and have the highest level of protection, including prohibitions on industrial development. Protected areas are intended to be permanent, resilient, and effectively managed and monitored.
- **Other Effective Conservation Measures**: A geographically defined area other than a protected area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services where applicable with cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.¹
- **Territorial Protected Areas**: Protected areas established under the *Protected Areas Act*.
- **Territorial Wildlife Conservation Areas**: Conservation Areas established under the *Wildlife Act*.
- **Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas**²: Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas are lands and waters where Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance, and knowledge systems. Culture and language are fundamental to these areas. Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas can overlap with other designations, such as territorial protected areas.
- **Conservation Network**: A conservation network includes protected and conserved areas that collectively contribute to maintaining the integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity, and sustaining cultural continuity.
- **Management Plan**: A management plan guides the management of a protected area and includes conservation and cultural continuity objectives, indicators, management actions, and a review process that takes into consideration climate change impacts.
- **Biodiversity**: Biological diversity (commonly abbreviated to biodiversity) means the full variety of life in a given region, including the biological and genetic diversity of plants and animals.
- **Ecosystem integrity**: Ecosystems have integrity when they have their native components – for example, water, soils, species diversity and abundance, natural processes – intact and they are able to persist into the future.
- **Cultural continuity**: The evolving linkages and ongoing relationship between an Indigenous culture and the natural environment. This also encompasses the transmission of knowledge across generations through time³.

¹ Accounting for Protected and Other Conserved Areas. Conservation 2020 Canada, July 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.conservation2020canada.ca/accounting>

² We Rise Together: Achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 through the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in the spirit and practice of reconciliation. The Indigenous Circle of Experts Report and Recommendations, March 2018

³ Cultural Continuity as a Determinant of Indigenous Peoples' Health: A Metasynthesis of Qualitative Research in Canada and the United States Monique D. Auger

Introduction

The Northwest Territories is one of the few remaining places on Earth that is defined by vast and largely undisturbed landscapes that are rich with diverse, sensitive, and unique species and ecosystems. However, at the same time, these are culturally significant landscapes where people have lived and prospered for generations, creating deep relationships and connections to the land. Recognizing the value of these landscapes, the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to ensuring the lands and waters of the Northwest Territories are managed for the long-term health of the natural environment, cultural continuity, and sustainable economic development for current and future generations.

Central to the goal of a healthy landscape is the development of a robust conservation network. In the Northwest Territories, the conservation network is the sum of a broad spectrum of mechanisms, such as territorial protected areas, wildlife conservation areas, national parks and national park reserves, migratory bird sanctuaries, and Indigenous protected and conservation areas, that work together to protect biodiversity and the ways of life of the people of the Northwest Territories. In addition to the conservation network, other forms of land and resource management, including land claim agreements, land use planning, species specific planning, environmental assessment, and regulation of land and water uses, are also important to maintain a healthy landscape.

Beyond the role the conservation network plays in protecting lands, waters, and livelihoods in the territory, the network also serves as a key driver for economic diversification, community prosperity, and climate change mitigation. The GNWT is dedicated to implementing a northern approach to conservation network planning to ensure these values are maintained into the future by strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new relationships. This includes a commitment to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) through the collaborative development of the *Protected Areas Act*, and the joint establishment and management of protected areas with Indigenous governments.

To ensure that the potential held by the conservation network is realized and integrated into broader government initiatives, this work plan sets out the Government of the Northwest Territories' priorities and vision for the network over the next five years.

Conservation in the Northwest Territories

For decades, the GNWT, Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, communities and other planning partners in the Northwest Territories have worked together to develop the conservation network.

In 1999, the finalization of the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy formalized a collaborative planning process involving communities, governments, environmental non-governmental organizations, and industry. Through this community-led process, the Saoyú-?ehdacho National Historic Site was established, several areas of interest were identified across the territory, and a series of assessments were conducted for each area to provide the information necessary to work towards formal designation. Currently, 17.3% of the Northwest Territories has been established as federal, territorial, or Indigenous protected areas, conserved areas, and conservation zones.

Building on the Northwest Territories Protected Area Strategy and preparing for a more active role in land management resulting from the 2014 devolution of authority from the federal to the territorial government, the Government of the Northwest Territories developed *Healthy Land, Healthy People* in 2016, the first five-year work plan to advance conservation network planning. This work plan sets out two priority outcomes that were to be achieved through a series of objectives:

- Conclude the planning and decision-making processes for each of the existing candidate areas.
- Develop a renewed strategy for conservation network planning in partnership with Indigenous governments and other partners.

Significant progress was made to advance the conservation network over this period. One of the central achievements was the 2019 enactment of the *Protected Areas Act*, which the Government of the Northwest Territories developed in partnership with Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, regulatory boards, non-government organizations, industry representatives, and the public. The *Act* provides a new uniquely collaborative means to protect, conserve, and maintain the biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural continuity of the territory through the creation of Territorial Protected Areas, which are cooperatively established and managed with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations.

Through the *Act*, and financially supported by the Canada Nature Fund, two new Territorial Protected Areas, Thaidene Nëné and Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta, have been established, significantly expanding the conservation network. In addition, connected to Thaidene Nëné Territorial Protected Area the GNWT also established a Wildlife Conservation Area and collaborated with Parks Canada and Indigenous government partners on the establishment of a National Park Reserve. The Government of the Northwest Territories also worked closely with Indigenous and federal partners on the establishment of the Edézhíe Dehcho Protected Area and proposed National Wildlife Area.

Beyond the expansion of the network and innovations in the legislative framework for conservation, the Government of the Northwest Territories also dedicated considerable effort to increasing the understanding and awareness of, as well as capacity to support, conservation efforts in the Northwest Territories. Territorial government staff and leadership made significant contributions to national projects, such as the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative⁴, the Indigenous Circle of Experts, the

⁴ Pathway to Canada Target 1 was a partnership of federal, provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments that came together to meet Canada's biodiversity goals and targets, including protection of at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland waters, and 10% of marine and coastal area of Canada by 2023. <https://www.conservation2020canada.ca/home>

Canadian Parks Council, and the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas. Within the territory, ongoing work has focused on building a network of conservation practitioners by bringing experts in to provide training, share insights from other jurisdictions, and study the challenges facing northern conservation efforts. Recent highlights of this work include the February 2020 NWT Conservation Network Gathering in Yellowknife that brought together practitioners from across the territory and experts from around Canada to learn and share, and in early 2021 a series of training sessions on Healthy Country Planning, an Indigenous-led conservation planning tool developed in Australia. Both of these projects demonstrate the extent to which territorial interest and capacity in conservation has grown over the past five years.

While much progress has been made on the two priority outcomes from *Healthy Land, Healthy People 2016-2021*, some items from the original work plan are outstanding. We hope to address these in this work plan and we look forward to continued progress on the NWT conservation network.

Protecting What's Important

Recent years have seen great innovation and progress in conservation initiatives across the country. Building upon decades of effort and invention, the conservation field has grown and matured.

Key to the growth and momentum of conservation in Canada are two factors: a commitment to engage with Indigenous governments and communities as partners and leaders in protecting lands and water, and renewed commitment to robust national biodiversity targets.

Indigenous Leadership

In recent decades there has been a growing recognition of the important role of Indigenous leadership and stewardship in conservation, as well as the often-damaging history of conservation efforts on Indigenous communities. Around the world, Indigenous peoples' own, use, occupy, or manage at least a quarter of the planet's land, including much of the areas with limited human disturbance.

Indigenous peoples, employing land management practices that have stewarded their territories for generations, continue to ensure natural systems are protected and their ways of life are sustained. For Canada, and the world, to meet its conservation targets, it is essential to learn from, support and work with Indigenous peoples.

In Canada, a central focus of the discussion around Indigenous leadership in conservation has been the concept of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas, which was developed and adopted by the Indigenous Circle of Experts, a group of Indigenous leaders that was formed to support and provide advice to the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative. The final report of the Indigenous Circle of Experts, *We Rise Together*, describes these areas as having a spectrum of governance structures and management objectives and sharing three key elements:

- They are Indigenous-led conservation initiatives that reflect the objectives and needs of their respective nations or governments and emerge through transparent negotiations.

- They represent a long-term commitment to conservation to conserve lands and waters for future generations, as aligned with Indigenous peoples’ multi-generational view of stewarding their territories; and
- They elevate Indigenous rights and responsibilities and ensure Indigenous peoples’ continued relationship with and authority over the land and water is assured.

The benefit and promise of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas is that they not only provide for long-term protection and stewardship, but do so while promoting respect for Indigenous knowledge systems, protocols and ceremony, supporting the revitalization of Indigenous languages, building economic opportunities, protecting food security, and employing holistic approaches to management planning.

In the Northwest Territories, Indigenous Governments have taken action to protect the land and waters through a variety of means. In recent years, several Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas have been or are planned to be designated through Indigenous law (ie. band council, regional assembly resolutions, or through a law of a self-government), on private land or also designated through territorial and federal law.

National Biodiversity Targets

The most globally recognized way to conserve biodiversity is through national and global targets to conserve land and water. The current goals and targets went until 2020 and approval of new goals and targets has been delayed due to the global pandemic. Both the global (Aichi Target 11) and national (Canada Target 1) targets aim to protect 17 percent of terrestrial lands and 10 percent of marine areas by 2020.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is developing a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which is anticipated to be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD meeting in April 2022. This framework will undoubtedly include protected area targets that build on previous targets. Following the release of global biodiversity targets, it is expected that member countries to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including Canada, would release their own national targets to reflect their regional actions to achieve the global framework.

To achieve the 2020 global and national targets, the multi-partner Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative, which included local, provincial, territorial, federal governments, Indigenous organizations and non-governmental organizations, developed a plan for how jurisdictions could reach Canada’s Target 1. The resulting *One With Nature* report provides broad guidance for this effort including best practices and indicators for making and measuring success. In addition, the federal government invested significant funding through the Canada Nature Fund to support projects that add to Canada’s conservation network, and have announced new, complementary funding for nature-based solutions as part of its most recent budget.

Beyond the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative, the federal government has committed to conserve and protect 25% of Canada’s land and 25% of Canada’s oceans by 2025, and work towards 30% of

each by 2030⁵, and has committed considerable funds to achieve these goals. The GNWT will continue to engage in national conservation discussions, however decisions in the NWT will continue to be made in collaboration with Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations and stakeholder input. This work will contribute to, but is not based on, these federal targets.

Amidst discussions of more ambitious targets and engagement with Indigenous peoples, territorial and federal governments continue to strive to work more effectively to address various conservation concerns. Central to this pursuit are questions around how to leverage protected areas to mitigate the impacts of climate change, ensure that a robust network of protected areas remains well-connected, and manage these remote areas effectively and efficiently. The Northwest Territories is facing each of these challenges, but in the strength of the collaboration between Indigenous, territorial, and federal governments, and partners and the continued health of the land there is great opportunity to address them.

Climate Change: In the Northwest Territories, as in all northern regions, climate change will have a significant impact on the fragile landscapes and a way of life that has evolved to thrive in the cold. However, the conservation network offers one part of a broader solution by providing refuge for increasingly threatened species and ecosystems, protection from ongoing human disturbance, and allowing for monitoring to better understand the scope of change in the territory.

Connectivity: Increasingly it is understood and acknowledged that a conservation network cannot be a collection of protected ecological islands. Instead, the network needs to be well-connected to counter the impacts of ecosystem fragmentation and provide greater resilience in the face of a changing climate. However, climate change and ongoing development pressures can create a challenge for future connectivity. To ensure connectivity is maintained, conservation network planning needs to complement broader ongoing regional land use planning discussions that set out an overarching vision for a healthy landscape. The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to ensuring lands in the territory remain healthy and sustainably managed. This vision is set out in the government's *Land Use and Sustainability Framework*.

Supporting Indigenous Guardians: While expanding the conservation network provides greater biodiversity protection, minimizes the effects of climate change, and improves connectivity, greater scale creates greater management challenges. Increasingly, to manage the conservation network effectively as well as draw upon and support Indigenous stewardship, Indigenous communities are championing, developing, and implementing Guardian programs. Guardians are often described as the 'boots-on-the-ground' and the 'eyes and ears' of the territory. These programs employ Indigenous community members to act as stewards on the land, patrolling, monitoring, collecting data, and providing technical assistance to conservation officers and scientists while also educating visitors about proper land use. Moreover, Guardians programs have a direct link to strengthening culture by educating Indigenous youth on cultural values and conservation laws, building opportunities to share

⁵ A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy. Government of Canada 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/healthy-environment-healthy-economy.html#tc8>

Indigenous worldviews with visitors and other land users, and creating sustainable livelihoods. In the Northwest Territories, Guardians programs are increasingly central to the implementation of management agendas for conservation and protected areas.

Priority Outcomes for the Territorial Conservation Network 2022-2027

Recognizing that conservation is a key part of ensuring a healthy landscape and is maintained for future generations, it is important to continue looking ahead. This document outlines the Government of the Northwest Territories' priorities and work plan for developing, monitoring, and supporting the conservation network and managing Territorial Protected Areas over the next 5 years.

This plan was developed based on a review of outstanding items from the original *Healthy Land, Healthy People* work plan, operational changes resulting from new legislative requirements, and input from a public survey in early 2021 on the next steps for the territorial conservation network. The public survey highlighted several key sentiments including a desire to see the existing priorities from the original work plan carry forward, further focus on partnerships and collaboration, an emphasis on maximizing the value of conservation to northerners by supporting economic development interests, and additional support for capacity building among conservation partners. Further details about the feedback received through this public survey can be found online at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources website. The following set of priority outcomes and specific objectives aim to capture the expectations of respondents, meet the government's legislated responsibilities, and set out the future of the conservation network.

1. Support the Effective and Equitable Management of the Conservation Network	
Objective	Description
Develop and implement regulations for each Territorial Protected Area	Territorial Protected Areas are created through site-specific regulations that give force to the terms of each establishment agreement signed with Indigenous governments. Each establishment agreement sets out a unique and tailored governance and management framework to suit the area. For each Territorial Protected Area, the Government of the Northwest Territories will work with its partners to develop and implement regulations.
Support the management responsibilities of Territorial Protected Area Management Boards	Authority for Territorial Protected Area management is delegated to protected area-specific management boards. These boards are responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of protected area management plans and ongoing authorizations within the protected area. Government of the Northwest Territories staff will support the operations of these boards and work through the processes set out in the establishment agreements to implement board recommendations.

<p>Work with Territorial Protected Area Management Boards to monitor Territorial Protected Areas to ensure management goals are being met</p>	<p>Setting management goals for each protected area is a crucial task for management boards as they develop plans for the area. However, to ensure the goals for each plan are achieved, it is essential to also set out indicators to monitor the effectiveness of strategies to achieve management goals. The Government of the Northwest Territories will work with management boards to develop and implement a robust monitoring program to ensure management goals are being met and key elements of each area remain well-protected.</p>
<p>Public education and enforcement in Territorial Protected Areas</p>	<p>The establishment of protected areas creates new restrictions around what can and cannot be done within an area. Restrictions are essential to ensure management goals are met and the key features of an area are protected. Renewable Resource Officers play an important role in enforcing regulations. The Government of the Northwest Territories will continue to promote public awareness of the <i>Protected Areas Act</i> and site-specific regulations.</p>
<p>2. Learn and Communicate about Innovation across the Conservation Network</p>	
<p>Objective</p>	<p>Description</p>
<p>Develop a research plan to support conservation network establishment, planning, and implementation</p>	<p>There are many questions and challenges for the future of the Northwest Territories' conservation network, the unknowns of climate change, ongoing developments around how to effectively manage areas for their long-term health, the role and integration of traditional knowledge into decision-making processes, changes in wildlife patterns and habits, and much more. To ensure that these questions are addressed and conservation in the Northwest Territories is pursued in the most innovative and up-to-date manner, the Government of the Northwest Territories will work with Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations and academic partners to develop a research plan to support conservation network establishment, planning, and implementation.</p>
<p>Provide public with timely and relevant information on the conservation network</p>	<p>Key to the long-term success of the conservation network is strong public support. Ensuring the public is supportive of conservation requires understanding and awareness of what is happening and why. To this end, the Government of the Northwest Territories will work to ensure the public has up-to-date and relevant information through the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Registry and improved website materials.</p>
<p>Provide robust public education and appropriate visitor experience in Territorial Protected Areas</p>	<p>Beyond the protection of biodiversity and ecological integrity, the conservation network provides a unique opportunity for the public to learn about the lands and</p>

	waters of the Northwest Territories and the ways of life of Indigenous peoples. Robust public education and visitor experiences are important for building support for conservation and improving the well-being of all residents. The Government of the Northwest Territories will work with its partners and the management boards to develop public education materials for Territorial Protected Areas and the conservation network broadly, as well as ensuring appropriate, respectful, and engaging visitor experience opportunities.
3. Continue to Develop the Northwest Territories Conservation Network	
Objective	Description
Continue with Dinàgà Wek'èhodì negotiations towards decision-making on the establishment of the Candidate Protected Area under the <i>Protected Areas Act</i> .	Currently, Dinàgà Wek'èhodì in North Arm of Great Slave Lake, is listed as a Candidate Protected Area under the <i>Protected Areas Act</i> . Negotiations with the Indigenous partners are ongoing and will continue to work towards establishment.
Conclude decision-making processes on other areas of interest.	The original <i>Healthy Land, Healthy People</i> work plan set out seven areas that were identified and assessed through the Protected Area Strategy and an eighth area (Thaidene Nënë) advanced as a proposed National Park Reserve and territorial conservation designations. Three of these areas, Thaidene Nënë, Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta, and Edézhíe, have been established as protected areas, and a fourth, Dinàgà Wek'èhodì, is currently listed as a Candidate Area under the <i>Protected Areas Act</i> . The remaining four areas, Ka'a'gee Tu, Łue Túé Sųlá, Ejié Túé Ndáde, and Sambaa K'e, will continue to be a priority focus going forward and the Government of the Northwest Territories will work to conclude decision-making for each of these areas with local and regional Indigenous governments.
Support Indigenous governments on areas nominated for inclusion in the conservation network.	The GNWT will support Indigenous governments as requested on reviewing options for inclusion of areas of interest in the conservation network. The Government of the Northwest Territories will support IGOs with assistance to ensure the nomination package is complete. The nomination process is outlined in Appendix A.
4. Assess Conservation Network Planning in the Northwest Territories	
Objective	Description
Create criteria for the nomination of new Territorial Protected Areas	The Government of the Northwest Territories will work with its partners and internally to determine appropriate criteria to determine the eligibility of land to be considered for establishment as a candidate protected area. Please see draft criteria (appendix A.) Note: We

	welcome comments on Appendix A and could pull this out before sending the document out for external review and request input more broadly on draft criteria.
Assess the conservation network for gaps in ecological representation, cultural continuity and connectivity.	Recognizing the importance of connectivity and ecological representation to a robust and effective conservation network, it is important to understand what needs exist prior to seeking opportunities to fill the gaps. The Government of the Northwest Territories will undertake an assessment of the conservation network to understand these gaps, in turn providing more detailed information to inform future conservation network planning decisions.
Develop a plan for sustainably financing the conservation network	The establishment of a conservation network is only one part of the broader conservation effort. Ensuring that an area, and the network generally, are effectively managed to support conservation goals is crucial. However, achieving these goals requires ongoing and sustainable financing to support management operations. The Government of the Northwest Territories will work with partners from Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, the federal government, the philanthropic sector, non-governmental organizations, and other jurisdictions to develop a detailed plan to ensure the conservation network is sustainably funded over the long-term.
5. Support Indigenous Government and Organization Capacity Building	
Objective	Description
Provide information and support to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations on conservation initiatives as requested.	Land initiatives such as conservation and protected areas establishment, land use planning and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas are important avenues for Indigenous governments and communities to further promote traditional knowledge systems, protocols and ceremony, supporting the revitalization of language, building economic opportunities, protecting food security, and employing holistic approaches to management planning. The Government of the Northwest Territories will work with Indigenous partners to ensure a shared understanding of how various designations work and potentially integrate into the conservation network.
Support the development and implementation of Guardians programs	Guardians programs for protected areas are an increasingly central part of Indigenous conservation efforts. Several programs currently exist in the Northwest Territories, operating throughout the respective community's traditional territory. The Government of the Northwest Territories will work with

	<p>its partners to support the continued development and implementation of Guardians programs through training and funding programs, as well as facilitating the sharing of knowledge and innovation.</p>
<p>Provide robust and relevant training for conservation planning and management</p>	<p>Across the territory, Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations are contributing to conservation initiatives in a variety of ways, through direct involvement in cooperative management boards for Territorial Protected Areas, National Park Reserves, National Wildlife Areas and other protected areas, the development of Guardians programs, land use planning, and much more. The Government of the Northwest Territories will support this broad spectrum of work by working with Indigenous communities to identify training requirements and implement programs, such as the recent Healthy Country Planning training program, to fill those needs.</p>

Appendix A

Nomination Process under the *Protected Areas Act*

To be considered as a Nominated Protected Areas under the *Protected Areas Act*, an area must meet the following criteria:

- Be supported by an Indigenous government or by Executive Council.
- Meets the purpose of the Act (*Protected Areas Act* 11(1)(a)).
- Made up exclusively of public land, or any portions of the nominated protected area that are settlement lands or other private lands are either excluded from the boundary or included with the consent of the private landholder (*Protected Areas Act* 10(2)(a) and 11(1)(d)).

Additional Criteria for areas to be nominated under the *Protected Areas Act*

An area nominated under the *Protected Areas Act* will be reviewed against the following criteria.

- Nominations should describe how this protected area will ensure balance between economic development and conservation in the region.
- Has been identified for protection in an approved regional Land Use Plan or a land claim agreement.
- Can be shown to contribute to at least one of the following NWT conservation priorities:
 - Contribute to climate change resilience by filling gaps in ecological representation⁶,
 - Contribute to cultural continuity,
 - Include areas of importance to biodiversity like Key Biodiversity Areas⁷ or critical habitat for species at risk, or
 - Contribute to connectivity between other areas within the existing conservation network.

⁶ See IUCN Guideline No. 24 on Adapting to Climate Change
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/PAG-024.pdf>

⁷ For more information on the science-based criteria and rigour in which an area is identified as Key Biodiversity Areas in Canada, see <http://www.kbacanada.org/>

A nomination package would be submitted to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). The nomination package would include, at minimum:

- A summary of known values of the area which should include the best available information including Indigenous traditional knowledge and values, local and community knowledge and scientific knowledge,
- A description of how the area meets the purpose of the Act and the criteria identified in this policy,
- A map of the area being nominated, indicating any portions of the area that are settlement lands or other private lands, and
- If the area includes settlement lands or other private lands, an indication of the private landowners' consent to be nominated.