

Public Consultation Program Phase One Response



Pukaskwa
National Park



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

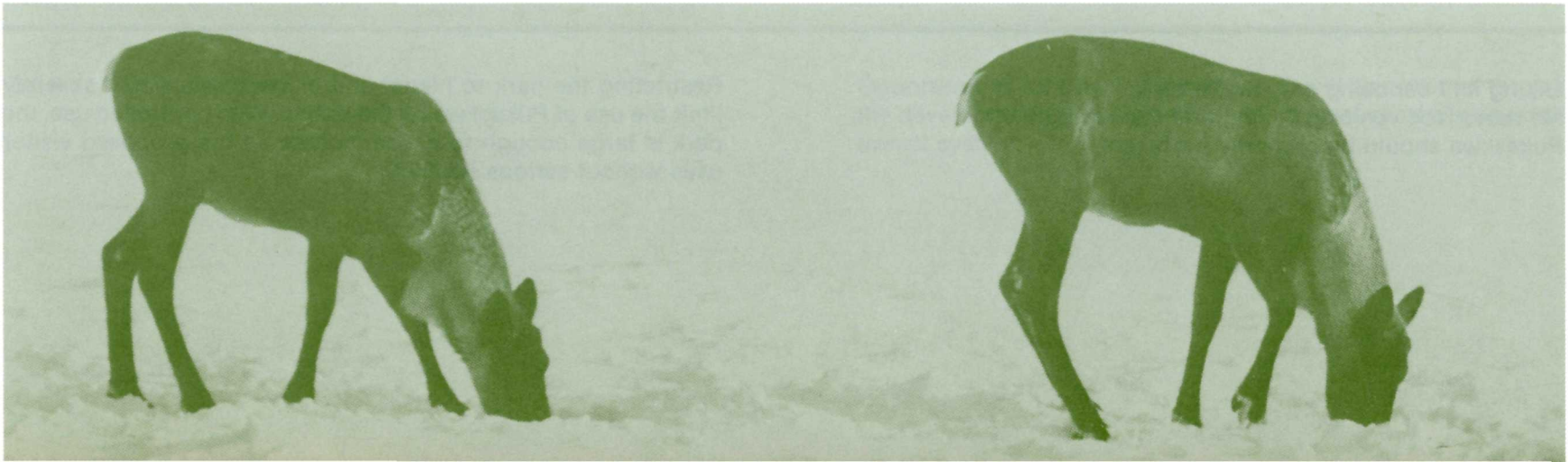
In February, 1978, an agreement was signed between the Province of Ontario and the federal government creating Pukaskwa as Canada's newest national park.

Before proceeding with development of Pukaskwa National Park, Parks Canada released a provisional master plan for public review and comment. A two-phase public consultation program was begun. In the first phase, information was presented through open houses and discussion groups held in cities and towns along the north shore of Lake Superior. Meetings were also held in Toronto and Ottawa.

This is a summary of the first phase of the public consultation program. It includes: comments received at the open houses; clarifying remarks to explain issues and provide background information; extracts of relevant sections of the draft Parks Canada Policy; and the Parks Canada response indicating possible changes to the provisional plan that are being considered.

The second phase of the public consultation program is still underway. It allows interested groups and individuals to review Parks Canada's proposals outlined in the provisional master plan for Pukaskwa National Park and submit detailed letters and briefs. More than 1000 copies of the provisional master plan and an information booklet have been distributed across the country as part of phase two.

Caribou eating slush on an unnamed lake in Pukaskwa



All comments received will be considered by Parks Canada. Based on the public's comments and the provisional master plan, the Pukaskwa National Park Management Plan will be prepared. The park management plan will provide long-range direction for the development, management and use of the park and its resources.

If you wish to be kept up to date on the consultation program, or wish to receive a copy of the park management plan once it is completed, please fill out and return the postage-paid card included with this phase one response package, or contact me directly.

Copies of the phase one response are being distributed to anyone who has expressed an interest in Pukaskwa. Additional copies are available on request. If you have any questions or comments about Pukaskwa National Park or the public consultation program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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PUBLIC'S COMMENTS

CLARIFYING REMARKS

1. TRAVEL WITHIN THE PARK

Would like to see more opportunities for private vehicle access.
Too many roads proposed.
Where do visitors get on the transit vehicles?
Will transit vehicles carry camping gear, canoes?

Through the use of a transit system, Parks Canada can provide a standard means of access to areas for all people, ensure an even and acceptable distribution of visitors and preservation of park resources. Visitors will be able to board the transit vehicles at Hattie Cove and all activity areas. The vehicles will carry all necessary gear including tents and canoes. Additional benefits include lower construction and maintenance costs for restricted access roads.

Develop horse trails, bicycle trails, motorcycle trails.

Trails for horses, bicycles and motorcycles are not compatible with hiking trails. Furthermore, there is a high cost for development and maintenance of these trails and the provision of facilities. Horses, in particular, require considerable area for boarding and exercise and are often responsible for the introduction and spreading of non-native plants.

Hiking and canoeing only in the park.
No motorized vehicles; hiking and canoeing only.
Pukaskwa should be primarily for hikers.

Restricting the park to hikers and/or canoeists would severely limit the use of Pukaskwa by the public. With controlled use, the park is large enough to accommodate all the proposed visitor uses without serious conflict.

PARKS CANADA POLICY

- 2.2.3.3 In choosing a particular method, or mix of methods of circulation and in locating and constructing circulation systems, consideration will be given to:
- protecting park resources
 - providing a quality park experience for visitors of diverse interests, ages and skills
 - taking advantage of interpretive and scenic opportunities
 - park location, size and configuration
 - minimizing visual impact
 - conserving energy
 - providing for a variety of uses in different seasons
 - ensuring public safety
 - controlling costs.

2.2.3.4 Non-motorized means of transportation will be used in national parks wherever feasible. Where motorized transportation is required, preference will be given to public transportation.

2.2.3.4 Same as above

PARKS CANADA RESPONSE

A public transit system is the mode of transportation most compatible with the natural character of the park. It will move more people than private vehicles and be less of an intrusion into the area.

Unless it can be shown that the proposed transit systems will not meet the needs of the majority of park users, there will be no further consideration of providing for private vehicles within the park beyond Hattie Cove.

Trails for horses and motorcycles will not be developed in Pukaskwa National Park. Limited opportunities for bicycling may be developed in the Hattie Cove area if a demand exists. No private motorized vehicles will be permitted to be used in the park for recreational purposes beyond Hattie Cove.

Opportunities for travel within the park will be provided through the development of hiking and canoeing routes as well as a public transit system.

PUBLIC'S COMMENTS

CLARIFYING REMARKS

2. LAND ACCESS

Would like to have continued access to the park via Umbata Falls and South Regan Roads.
Desire access from Wawa.

Desire access from Sault Ste. Marie.
Should be a southern access route.
Access from Michipicoten would increase visitation to the park.

At a single regulated access point to Pukaskwa, Parks Canada has the best opportunity to provide information and assistance. By directing visitors to areas of personal interest, limiting crowding in some areas, reserving campsites in advance and providing general information, Parks Canada can ensure that all visitors have the best possible experience while in the park.

Cost of construction, operation and maintenance of a southern access route is prohibitive.

3. AIR ACCESS

Continue fly-in to Widgeon Lake.
Would like to fly-in to interior lakes.
Do not want aircraft landing and taking off in a park.
Aircraft destroy a wilderness experience.

Alternative areas for fly-in fishing and canoe route access are available outside the park; the transit system will provide access to the major interior lakes (see also section 6, BOUNDARIES).

4. WATER ACCESS

What facilities will be provided for yachts and power boats?

Parks Canada recognises harbours of refuge and will provide anchorage buoys in protected bays along the Superior coastline within the park. Projected use does not warrant provision of additional specialized facilities for large self-contained vessels.

A small boat launch ramp will be provided at Hattie Cove.

PARKS CANADA POLICY

- 2.2.3.1 Access to and circulation within national parks will be encouraged so as to provide the public with the opportunity of understanding and enjoying the park.
- 2.2.3.2 Parks Canada may assist in providing transportation and access to and within national parks.
- 2.3.1 Accurate information about national parks and the opportunities which they provide will be made available to the general public and to park visitors.

- 2.2.3.5 Air transportation will not be permitted within national parks except where small aircraft are necessary for visitor enjoyment of a remote northern roadless park. Efforts will be made to restrict aircraft to specific flight lines and altitudes.
- 2.2.3.6 Aircraft landing sites will be developed only in remote northern roadless national parks.

- 2.2.3.1 Access to and circulation within national parks will be encouraged so as to provide the public with the opportunity of understanding and enjoying the park.
- 2.2.3.2 Parks Canada may assist in providing transportation and access to and within national parks.

PARKS CANADA RESPONSE

Road access to Pukaskwa eventually will be restricted at the boundary and only available via Hattie Cove. An opportunity will be provided in the Wawa area to allow visitors wishing to enter the park from the east by hiking or by water to obtain information and make necessary travel arrangements.

A southern land access route to the park will not be provided.

Access by air to the interior of national parks south of 60° is contrary to Parks Canada Policy and consequently is not provided for in the provisional master plan.

Anchorage buoys will be available in protected bays along the Superior coastline within the park. A small boat launch ramp will be provided at Hattie Cove.

PUBLIC'S COMMENTS

CLARIFYING REMARKS

5. HATTIE COVE DEVELOPMENT

Concerned about the proposed motel and its location.
Facilities such as these should be located outside the park's boundary.
Prefer motel accommodation; unwilling/unable to camp.
Motel may compete with private enterprise.
Who will run the motel, restaurant and outfitting store?
Would like to run the outfitting store.

By providing facilities at the northern tip of Pukaskwa, Parks Canada will be meeting its responsibility to provide opportunities for many Canadians to visit the park and experience the Lake Superior shoreline. A motel at Hattie Cove will extend the use season and meet the needs of those visitors unwilling or unable to camp. During the winter, part of the motel could provide inexpensive accommodation, especially for groups.

It is expected that the facilities will be built by Parks Canada and operated under a concession or other similar agreement.

Ensure protection of rare plants and sensitive habitats.
Northern Twayblade (*Listera borealis*) and Franklin's Ladyslipper (*Cypripedium passerinum*) should be protected.

Protection of the park's resources is one of Parks Canada's most important responsibilities. Through design of facilities, appropriate landscaping and, if necessary, physical restraints, the maximum possible level of resource protection will be assured.

PARKS CANADA POLICY

- 2.2.4.1 Commercial services and facilities such as hotels, stores and service stations and park administration buildings will, where feasible, be located in communities adjacent to national parks.
- 2.2.4.2 Facilities and services directly related to public understanding and enjoyment of park resources, or which are essential to serve basic visitor needs, will be located within national parks.
- 2.2.9.1 Parks Canada will encourage involvement of the private sector whenever appropriate in the development and operation of services and facilities for visitors in national parks.

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- 3.2.1 Natural Resources within national parks will be protected and managed with minimum interference to natural processes to ensure the perpetuation of naturally evolving land and water environments and their associated species.

PARKS CANADA RESPONSE

Should the private sector wish to develop similar facilities outside but within easy access of Pukaskwa National Park, Parks Canada will reconsider proposals for development of a motel, restaurant and/or store.

If possible, the facilities will be operated by the private sector.

Parks Canada will undertake the mitigating measures that are necessary to ensure that its facilities and the visitor use they encourage will not destroy the important natural resources of the park.

PUBLIC'S COMMENTS

CLARIFYING REMARKS

6. BOUNDARIES

How were boundaries determined?

Umbata Falls (on the White River) should be included in the park.

Boundary should extend east to Michipicoten.

Park should include the entire East Pukaskwa River as well.

Bremner River should be part of the park to provide a good canoeing area.

Glad that most rivers originate within the park and so will not be subject to pollution from external sources.

Cannot understand why the park does not extend farther east.

How far into Lake Superior does the park boundary extend?

The boundaries for Pukaskwa National Park are now established. Factors taken into consideration during negotiations with the Province of Ontario included: access and visitor services centre requirements; timber resources; watersheds and bodies of water; gravel and mineral deposits; hydro-electric power generating potential; perpetuation of fly-in fishing; and others.

In lake Superior, Parks Canada controls all islands within 3.2 km (2 miles) of the shoreline between the Pukaskwa and Pic River.

Bonamie Cove



Pukaskwa coastline



PARKS CANADA POLICY

- 1.2.3 Potential national parks will be selected in consultation with provincial (territorial) governments and with the interested public.
- 1.3.5 Parks Canada in conjunction with the provincial government, will consult with the interested public concerning the establishment of a new national park or the adjustment of boundaries of an existing national park.

PARKS CANADA RESPONSE

The boundaries for Pukaskwa National Park were determined through negotiations between Parks Canada and the Province of Ontario. They were finalized in agreements signed in February, 1978.

Some aspects of these agreements are reviewable in 5 or 10 years. These include the exclusion of the Playter Harbour mineral zone and Umbata Falls.

In its present form, Pukaskwa is large enough to maintain its ecological integrity. It will represent the Canadian natural region known as the Central Boreal Uplands.

Moose on the Pukaskwa River.



Lake Superior near the mouth of the Pukaskwa River.



PUBLIC'S COMMENTS

CLARIFYING REMARKS

7. FACILITIES IN THE WINTER

Park facilities should be open year-round.
Would like to see winter outdoor activities.
Encourage cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Some facilities at Hattie Cove, including the visitor reception centre, motel and campground, will be designed to accommodate winter operation.

8. CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Develop cross-country ski trails.
Ski trails should follow hiking trails.
Build shacks for skiers to warm up in.

Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are fully compatible uses of national parks. Trails will be developed. Ski shacks and similar facilities can be provided outside of the park by the private sector.

9. DOWNHILL SKIING

Develop downhill skiing on Tip Top Mountain.
Would like to see ski lodges like in Banff and Jasper National Parks.
Tip Top Mountain gets lots of snow for skiing.

Pukaskwa is intended to be essentially a wilderness park. Specialized recreational activities, particularly those requiring extensive ground work and mechanical equipment, are totally incompatible.

10. SNOWMOBILES

Desire snowmobile trails.
No snowmobiles in the park.
Do not want snowmobiles to be denied access to any area.
Prohibit snowmobiles
Snowmobile corridor along hydro line.
Snowmobile trails to follow hiking trails.

There are already substantial opportunities for snowmobiling in northern Ontario and in the region. Snowmobiles are motorized vehicles and are, therefore, not permitted in the interior of the park (see also Section 1, TRAVEL WITHIN THE PARK). There is strong support for a policy of no motorized over-the-snow vehicles in the park. Native people with trapping rights in the park are exempted.

PARKS CANADA POLICY

PARKS CANADA RESPONSE

2.1.4 Wherever feasible, recreation opportunities will be provided throughout the year.

The provisional master plan provides for winter activities so long as demand dictates.

2.1.4 Same as above

Parks Canada will develop cross-country ski trails in Pukaskwa National Park. Parks Canada does not plan to provide ski shacks or similar wilderness accommodation.

2.1.7 No new golf courses and downhill ski areas will be developed in national parks.

No downhill ski facilities will be developed in Pukaskwa National Park.

2.2.3.4 Non-motorized means of transportation will be used in national parks wherever feasible. Where motorized transportation is required, preference will be given to public transportation.

Recreational snowmobiling will not be permitted in Pukaskwa National Park.

PUBLIC'S COMMENTS

CLARIFYING REMARKS

11. FISHING

Will visitors be permitted to fish in Pukaskwa?
Wish to continue spring fishing at the mouth of the White River.

Parks Canada recognizes that fishing is an experience enjoyed by many visitors and it is an accepted activity in national parks. A Parks Canada fishing licence is required by visitors wishing to fish within national parks. Visitors wishing to fish only in Lake Superior or at the mouths of rivers flowing into Lake Superior will not require a Parks Canada licence.

12. HUNTING

Will the park wildlife be protected from hunters?
Can anyone hunt in the park?

PARKS CANADA POLICY

2.1.2 Parks Canada will encourage those recreation activities which are dependent upon a park's natural resources and require a minimum of man-made facilities.

3.2.9 Extraction of natural resources in a national park will not be permitted except for:

- i) certain existing extractive activities being phased out during the establishment of a new national park; and
- ii) traditional subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping by local native people as agreed at the time of establishment of certain parks; and
- iii) selected activities which are of cultural value in portraying a traditional relationship between man and the land in the park area as part of the park experience; and
- iv) sport fishing;

in any case, such activities must not destroy the natural values for which the park was established.

3.2.9 Same as above

PARKS CANADA RESPONSE

Fishing will be a visitor activity in Pukaskwa National Park. Spring fishing at the mouth of the White River will continue.

Opportunities for hunting and trapping within the park will only be available to the Robinson-Superior Treaty Group, to the extent that they were enjoyed prior to the establishment of the park.

PUBLIC'S COMMENTS

CLARIFYING REMARKS

13. INSECT CONTROL IN CAMPGROUNDS

Campgrounds should be fogged for insects.
No insect spraying should take place.
Blackflies are part of the northern wilderness experience.

When insects seriously affect visitors' park experience in the Hattie Cove area, the campground may be fogged. Other areas will not be fogged. Parks Canada encourages visitors to bring their own insect repellent.

14. FOREST INSECT PESTS

There should be no spraying for spruce budworm within the park.
Concern that insect spraying within the park will pollute streams.

Forest protection agreements signed with the Province of Ontario as part of the transfer of land for Pukaskwa require that Parks Canada's actions on forest pest control be guided by what happens outside the park boundaries. These agreements come up for review at five year intervals.

Within the park, Parks Canada is advised by the Department of the Environment.

PARKS CANADA POLICY

- 3.1 Natural resources within national parks will be given the highest degree of protection to ensure the perpetuation of a natural environment essentially unaltered by human activity.
- 3.2.1 Natural resources within national parks will be protected and managed with minimum interference to natural processes to ensure the perpetuation of naturally evolving land and water environments and their associated species.
- 3.2.2 Manipulation of natural processes e.g. fire, insects, disease, may take place after monitoring has shown that:
- i) there may be serious adverse effects on neighbouring lands; or
 - ii) public health or safety is threatened; or
 - iii) major park facilities are threatened; or
 - iv) natural processes have been altered by man and manipulation is required to restore the natural balance; or
 - v) a major natural control is absent from the park; or
 - vi) the continued existence of a plant or animal species, which is rare or endangered or which is critical to representation of the natural region, is threatened by a natural cause such as insects or disease; or
 - vii) the population of an animal species or stage of plant succession which has been prescribed in the objectives for a park, cannot be maintained by natural forces.

PARKS CANADA RESPONSE

Parks Canada may fog for insects only in Hattie Cove campground, should it be required.

If an infestation of spruce budworm affecting timber outside the park becomes a serious threat, and failure to spray some park land would result in major economic loss, Parks Canada will review the possibility of spraying with the Province of Ontario.

Sand beach near White Gravel River



Une version française de ce document
est disponible sur demande à l'adresse
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