

Also in February 27 1992, a land withdrawal to establish a national park on northern Baffin Island was completed. Minister Charest participated in the joint announcement made in Iqaluit last April, along with the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut (TFN) and the Department of Northern and Indian Affairs (DIAND).

As well, it is anticipated that agreement will be reached in 1992 or early 1993 for the establishment of a new national parks at Old Crow (Vuntut) in Yukon as part of settlement of the Council for Yukon Indians Land Claims process.

Currently there are several proposals at the feasibility stage (a fairly advanced step in the park establishment process). Feasibility studies are now underway for Bluenose and Wager Bay (NWT) and for the Churchill proposal in northern Manitoba. Three additional feasibility assessments will begin in 1992 for the Mealy and Torngat Mountains proposals in Labrador, and in the Manitoba Lowlands natural region. As well, discussions are also underway with British Columbia, which may soon lead to initiation of feasibility assessments for proposed park areas in that province as part of the province's Protected Areas Strategy. Finally, studies are underway which will result in the identification of a park proposal in each unrepresented natural region by the end of 1993.

Marine Park Initiatives

On the marine park front, studies necessary to decide on marine park boundaries for a marine park at South Moresby are nearly complete, and a fisheries management plan is being developed. The Canadian Parks Service is working with the Department of Justice on drafting appropriate federal legislation providing for the creation of Saguenay Marine Park. The initiation of public consultations on a proposal for a marine park in the West Isles area of New Brunswick is being considered. Finally, a range of studies elsewhere in Canada are underway to identify other marine park proposals.

Meeting the Green Plan Targets

According to the Canadian Parks Service officials the Green Plan targets for park establishment can be met for the 5 new national parks by 1996 and 6 new marine parks by 2000. Agreements for the additional 13 national parks are also considered to be attainable within the proscribed schedule, though new and flexible approaches will need to be employed given the economic and constitutional challenges facing the country.