

# Celebrate Dal's environment week!

## This Protects Canadians



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You wouldn't think of giving up your rights and freedoms as a Canadian.

But unless concerned Canadians speak up now, we're all in danger of giving up something just as fundamental — our rights to a land of extraordinary beauty, rare diversity and critical ecological importance.

Today, only 2.6 per cent of Canada is protected as true wilderness.

Each day, a few hundred more acres of Canada's natural heritage are lost to you and your children forever. Help win the race for Canada's Endangered Spaces by supporting the cooperative efforts of more than 50 conservation organizations across Canada. It's your country, your future, your right.

So add your signature to The Canadian Wilderness Charter right now. It will make a difference.

**1) Whereas** humankind is but one of millions of species sharing planet Earth and whereas the future of the Earth is severely threatened by the activities of this single species,

**2) Whereas** our planet has already lost much of its former wilderness character, thereby endangering many species and ecosystems

**3) Whereas** Canadians still have the opportunity to complete a network of protected areas representing the biological diversity of our country,

**4) Whereas** Canada's remaining wild places, be they land or water, merit protection for their inherent value,

**5) Whereas** the protection of wilderness also meets an intrinsic human need

for spiritual rekindling and artistic inspiration,

**6) Whereas** Canada's once vast wilderness has deeply shaped the national identity and continues to profoundly influence how we view ourselves as Canadians,

**7) Whereas** Canada's aboriginal peoples hold deep and direct ties to wilderness areas throughout Canada and seek to maintain options for traditional wilderness use,

**9) Whereas** the opportunity to complete a national network of protected areas must be grasped and acted upon during the next ten years, or be lost,

**1) We agree and urge:**

**That** governments, industries, environmental groups and individual Canadians commit themselves to a national effort to establish at least one representative protected area in each of the natural regions of Canada by the year 2000.



**IT'S MY COUNTRY, MY FUTURE, MY RIGHT.**

I want to help win the race for Canada's endangered spaces. Please add my signature to the Canadian Wilderness Charter.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Endangered Spaces Campaign  
c/o Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
Suite 1150, 160 Bloor Street East  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4W 1B9

**8) Whereas** protected areas can serve a variety of purposes including:

a) preserving a genetic reservoir of wild plants and animals for future use and appreciation by citizens of Canada and the world,

b) producing economic benefits from environmentally sensitive tourism,

c) offering opportunities for research and environmental education,

**2) That** the total area thereby protected comprise at least 12 per cent of the lands and waters of Canada as recommended in the World Commission on Environment and Development's report, *Our Common Future*,

**3) That** public and private agencies at international, national, provincial, territorial and local levels rigorously monitor progress toward meeting these goals in Canada and ensure that they are fully achieved, and

**4) That** federal, provincial and territorial government conservation agencies on behalf of all Canadians develop action plans by 1990 for achieving these goals by the year 2000.

# Only ten years left to go

by Karen Soltan

**Endangered Spaces: The Future for Canada's Wilderness**  
Monte Hummel, ed.  
(Key Porter, 1989)

"This book places a fundamental question before all Canadians: How important is wilderness to the future of our country?"

So begins the introduction to *Endangered Spaces: The Future for Canada's Wilderness*. By the end of the book, the reader has enough background information to answer that question.

Monte Hummel, President of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in Canada is the general editor of this collection of short chapters written by 21 Canadian conservationists, among them Pierre Taschereau of Dalhousie.

The publishing of *Endangered Spaces* in 1989 kicked off a ten-year campaign, led by the WWF, to complete a wilderness network in Canada.

According to the World Commission on Environment and Development's report *Our Common Future*, countries should plan to save at least 12 per cent of their landscape in legally protected areas. At present, only 6.3 per cent of Canada is protected. The authors of *Endangered Spaces* believe we have only ten years to achieve this goal.

The book consists of four parts: "Learning from the Past," "Current Issues and Perspectives," "The State of Wilderness Across Canada Today" and "Strategies for the Future."

The first part provides a brief history of humans in the Canadian wilderness. Included are thoughts on "wilderness and the Canadian psyche" and the differing attitudes of the First People (wilderness as home) and the European colonizers (wilderness as frontier).

The second part considers current issues and perspectives and opens with a sensitive account by John Broadhead of the campaign to save South Moresby as a natural, cultural and spiritual heritage site.

One chapter, entitled "Political Realities," is by Elizabeth May, environmental activist, lawyer, and former Senior Policy Advisor to the federal Minister of the Environment. May's description of power and politics is enlightening and her belief that real people can harness the power trapped in the "amoebic" federal bureaucracy with perseverance, consideration, sharing and not a few miracles, is inspirational. "Letter writing campaigns are effective," she asserts.

"A Native Viewpoint," presented by Georges Erasmus, reminds us of the inherent interest Canada's indigenous people have in conserving wilderness. Erasmus is a Dene Indian from the Northwest Territories and is National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. As Canada's first people, Erasmus says, natives have a right to constitutional recognition and control over the conservation and management of wild spaces.

The third part of the book consists of a region by region discussion of the history of conservation in that region as well as current policies and future strategies for conservation.

In the final part, John A. Livingston of York University outlines the need for a change from the dominant, anthropocentric worldview. In its lack of respect for the rest of nature, this paradigm is ultimately self-destructive. Livingston discusses the obstacles to change and provides an alternate worldview. The importance of the protection of wilderness on an ecosystem level and the crisis facing most of Canada's predatory species are discussed.

Hummel believes that to achieve the goal of protecting 12 per cent of Canada's wilderness by the year 2000, considerably more political vision is required than currently exists in this country. In order to achieve this vision, it must be supported by public opinion. The challenge to conservation groups is to capture the national imagination so that people come to "feel the wilderness in their bones" and become inspired to act to make the popular vision a political reality.

Action can be as simple as writing the WWF in support of the proposed Wilderness Charter or becoming involved in the conservation organizations listed in the book.

*Endangered Spaces* is not only, in the words of one author, "a collection of unembarrassed pleas from the heart" interspersed with spectacular photographs from across the land. It can also be a stepping stone to action for people concerned about the future of wild spaces in Canada. By buying the book you contribute to the WWF and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS). All royalties go toward their efforts in conserving endangered spaces in Canada.

