LANDSCAPE REPRESENTATION: THE ENDANGERED SPACES PROGRAM

Within the Non-Government Organization sector, World Wildlife Fund Canada has fashioned a campaign to mobilize public support to achieve political action on pristine areas so as to achieve systems completion by the year 2000 AD. Named the Endangered Spaces Program, this WWF initiative has been developed upon the concept of achieving comprehensive and representative landscape pristine areas of all the Canadian biologic and landscape regions to the 12% minimum target level. In so doing, WWF has identified 340 regions which comprise the Canadian bio-geography. (These regions are a composite of those identified by the various federal, provincial and territorial governments.)

To date, 250 organizations and 500,000 individual citizens have rallied to support the Endangered Spaces Program by signing the campaign's centrepiece: The Canadian Wilderness Charter. (See Appendix 1) At the governmental level as of November 1992, the Federal Government and 10 of 12 Provincial and Territorial Governments had committed themselves to achieve the Endangered Spaces Goal of representative 12% pristine areas by the end of the century. (Only Alberta and Quebec have yet to formally commit to the Endangered Spaces Campaign.) Clearly, completion of the Canadian pristine areas system is seen to be a top priority by the public and senior governments alike.