

# Wildlife Policy for Prince Edward Island

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## ***1. THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE WILDLIFE POLICY***

### ***Wildlife and People***

The people of Prince Edward Island live in close relationship with the natural environment. It is made up of a diversity of wildlife and wildlife habitats. They are a common heritage of all Islanders.

The Island's natural environment has been greatly transformed by human activity. In the past 250 years most of the original forest has been replaced, resulting in a different mix of trees, covering about half the Island. The land has been cleared and farmed or built on, and most rivers and estuaries have received silt. The numbers and kinds of wildlife they support have changed. The result is PEI's present distinctive ecosystems, ecosystems made up of air, earth, water, wild plants and animals, humans, cultivated plants and domestic animals, and the ecological processes and energies which connect and sustain them all.

Wild animals and plants and their habitats have value in themselves, and perform essential ecological functions. In addition, people derive important economic, cultural, spiritual and social benefits from wildlife as resources. Ecologically, people and wildlife interact with each other in various ways - to mutual advantage, as competitors, as consumers, and as sources of food.

### ***Wildlife Management***

Through managing our interactions with wild species and their habitats, wildlife management works in two directions. First, it works to sustain, restore, and sometimes enhance the diversity and health of wild populations and ecosystems. Second, it works to enhance the values and benefits that people find in wildlife and derive from it; it resolves conflicts among wildlife-based activities and with other sectors; and it seeks equitable sharing of wildlife opportunities and benefits.

### ***The Purpose of the Wildlife Policy***

Throughout the world, the critical importance of protecting and enhancing wildlife and wildlife habitats is recognized. This is reflected in the international *World Conservation Strategy* and *Caring for the Earth*, in the national *Wildlife Policy for Canada* and *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy*, and in the province's *Stewardship and Sustainability* strategy, which calls for this *Wildlife Policy for Prince Edward Island*.

The purpose of the *Wildlife Policy* is to state the wildlife principles and goals that are publicly adopted as suited to PEI's environment and society. The provincial government is committed to the *Policy* as a framework and direction for public wildlife conservation and management by all government agencies in PEI. It is hoped that individual Islanders, non-government organizations and other governments will also find useful guidance in it.

## ***The Scope of the Wildlife Policy***

The scope of the *Wildlife Policy* includes all wild species and ecosystem types. This means all wild creatures: fish, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrate animals such as insects and molluscs, wild plants, fungi, microorganisms, and all their different habitats. It includes wildlife that is native or exotic to the Island.

It extends to all wildlife's values and uses, and the conservation and management issues affecting them. While efforts will focus on selected key species and habitats, and on key conservation and use issues, the *Wildlife Policy* provides a framework that has a place for all wildlife-related activities in Prince Edward Island.

The *Wildlife Policy* is province-wide in the organizations and people it refers to. All natural resource sectors of the economy interact with wild species and ecosystems. Many socio-economic sectors benefit from and affect wildlife conservation and uses. The policy is interdepartmental for the provincial government, notably related to agricultural, fisheries, forestry, highways, and tourism activities. Some matters require federal-provincial cooperation, particularly regarding the federal mandates in migratory birds, fisheries and international relations. It provides a framework of directions for government partnerships with non-government and private sector organizations.

## **2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The following principles for wildlife policy and management are founded in the nature of wildlife, and the nature of our relations with wildlife.

- . As an integral part of the environment in which we live, wildlife is a key indicator of the health of that environment.
- . Species and ecosystems native to Prince Edward Island have the primary place in its goals for wildlife conservation, use and enjoyment.
- . The maintenance of viable natural populations of wildlife and ecological functions always takes precedence over any human use of wildlife.
- . Wildlife and habitat management actions must be based on a combination of sound ecological principles, scientifically valid information, and local knowledge.
- . Prince Edward Island's wildlife and natural ecosystems have intrinsic value, which obliges us to know their particular nature, behaviour and requirements, and to respect these in the choices we make about using them, enjoying them, and letting them be.
- . Wildlife's resource values have to be measured in ecological and social terms, and in economic terms, to make sound resource management decisions. Decisions must also take into account

wildlife's cultural and spiritual value.

- . Wildlife must be managed on an ecosystem basis, recognizing multi-species interactions, ecological succession, and management units defined by ecological domains, such as watersheds, wild animal populations' territories and ranges, and forest stands.
- . All Islanders have stewardship responsibility for Prince Edward Island's wildlife heritage, though governments are accountable for its conservation and management. Native wild animals are the property of the Crown.
- . Effective conservation and management of wildlife relies on a well-informed and actively involved public.
- . Wildlife conservation and uses have to be integrated and balanced in the landscape with agriculture, forestry, fishery, municipal, and other uses of resources.
- . Agencies with programs affecting wildlife must cooperate to maintain harmonious program goals and effective use of public resources.

These principles govern the actions taken to achieve the aims of ecological conservation, which are the following:

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### **The three aims of ecological conservation**

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**Maintaining and restoring ecological processes.** Ecological processes sustain the productivity of lands, water, air, and all life on earth, and their capacity for renewal and adaptation. They maintain the chemical balance of the planet, stabilize climate, recycle nutrients, break down pollutants and human waste, cleanse the air and waters, decompose and produce biomass, fertilize plants, control insect pests, protect watersheds, form soil, and supply food and habitat for all species, including the human species.

**Maintaining and restoring biological diversity.** Biodiversity means the variety of life in all its forms, distributed in geographic space and over time. It encompasses ecosystems (such as forests, fields and grasslands, wetlands, estuaries, and marine ecosystems), the variety and abundance of species, and genetic variation within species. Maintaining all these levels of diversity is needed for environmental health.

**Ensuring that all uses of species and ecosystems are sustainable.** Uses of wildlife and other resources should maintain the health and capacity for renewal of the wildlife populations and ecosystems concerned. Stewardship and sustainability also seek to enhance the values and benefits derived from wildlife, and to have them shared equitably.

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### **3 USES AND VALUES OF WILDLIFE**

#### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Wildlife has value in itself. In addition, wildlife provides a supporting biological environment for Islanders' activities. Sustainable use of all kinds of natural resources depends fundamentally on wild organisms functioning in healthy ecosystems.

The wildlife of Prince Edward Island also provides more directly felt benefits. It provides food. It provides recreation. It is the focus of social occasions. It is an important economic resource for the province. In 1991, according to a survey by Statistics Canada, participating Islanders spent \$13.1 million on wildlife-related activities, including about \$3.0 million on hunting and \$3.5 million on angling. Fishing and hunting attract large numbers of Islanders and visitors alike. Depending on market conditions, trapping provides additional economic opportunities. There is growing interest in non-consumptive wildlife activities. One of the fastest-growing segments of the tourism industry is "green tourism". The presence of diverse and healthy wildlife populations enhances recreational and educational activities and is a major factor in the attractiveness of the province.

Learning about wildlife and wildlife-related activities through education and interpretation in class and in the field is a valued experience in itself, and is a good basis for environmental stewardship.

In regulating and managing for wildlife uses, conservation of an appropriate diversity and abundance of wildlife comes first. One management priority is maintaining game populations in balance with each other, and with other species in an ecological context. Another is protecting and enhancing public opportunities to take part in a wide variety of wildlife activities.

There is increasing public belief that respect for wildlife can and should run through all uses and interactions with wildlife, as well as respect for other people involved with this common heritage. Respect for wildlife requires consideration for its nature and needs.

The most effective and efficient way of generating wildlife-related economic activity is to restore the Island's own natural ecosystems and native wildlife, and to ensure that people have access to them. This will enhance the attractiveness and appreciation of the Island's distinctive natural character, biodiversity and scenery.

#### **POLICY GOALS FOR USES AND VALUES OF WILDLIFE**

**3.1 Prince Edward Island will protect, maintain and enhance opportunities for people to enjoy and benefit from sustainable wildlife activities on and around the Island.** This includes angling, hunting, trapping, and gathering, as well as observation and learning and other non-consumptive activities. Planning, monitoring, communication, regulation and enforcement will be used to ensure that uses of wildlife do not impair the productivity of the wild populations.

**3.2 In regulating or allocating opportunities among different uses of wildlife, Prince Edward Island will recognize the diversity of uses and benefits, and seek an equitable balance among them.** This will be done with reference to aboriginal rights, and to benefits Islanders receive through their own direct wildlife activities, and through activities that serve visitors to the Island.

**3.3 Prince Edward Island will recognize the ecological, social, economic, and cultural benefits and values of wildlife, and will monitor them and include them fully in resource management decisions.**

**3.4 Prince Edward Island will support enhancement of the benefits from wildlife through increased quality, diversity, and accessibility of recreational experiences.** This includes attention to angler and hunter education, wilderness qualities, richness of understanding and interaction with wildlife, and accessibility for people of different abilities.

**3.5 Prince Edward Island will encourage uses and interactions with wildlife to be done with respect for the wildlife's intrinsic nature, potential and requirements, and with respect for the requirements of other wildlife in the area.** This fosters appreciation of ethical and sustainable hunting, angling and trapping as positive ecological and cultural activities.

#### **4. WILDLIFE HABITATS / ECOSYSTEMS**

##### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Prince Edward Island's natural habitats and ecosystems support a diversity of wildlife species and communities. There are natural ponds, woodlands in different stages of succession, streams and riparian zones, fresh water wetlands and bogs, salt marshes and estuaries, coastal sand dune complexes, beaches, cliffs, coastal waters, and offshore islands.

In addition, much of Prince Edward Island's present and potential habitat is land and shore that has been occupied and transformed for intensive natural resource management and land use (agriculture, forestry, municipalities, homesteads, recreational facilities and roads). These transformed habitats include fields, buildings and other structures, managed woodlots, ponds, hedgerows and shrubs, and the edges and corridors that connect them.

The total landbase, both natural and transformed, is mostly in private ownership. There is a small but significant amount of land in public ownership, some of which is held and managed for the wildlife it supports.

Good quality habitat for fish, birds, mammals and other wild species has been and can be further diminished and degraded by inappropriate activities. As well, public access to wildlife habitats has been declining.

##### **HABITAT POLICY GOALS**

**4.1 Prince Edward Island will maintain, rehabilitate and enhance a diversity of ample habitats/ ecosystems distributed throughout the Island,** to maintain viable populations of all native wild species currently in the wild, and to support population objectives for selected wildlife species. This will also serve to protect and preserve essential ecological processes.

**4.2 Prince Edward Island will protect, restore and manage a set of viable natural areas representing its diverse natural habitats/ecosystems,** both for their own sake and for the appreciation and understanding of the wildlife they support.

**4.3 Prince Edward Island will ensure that public and private development projects maintain or enhance existing valuable wildlife habitats / ecosystems,** such as streams and riparian zones, diverse woodlands, dunes, estuaries, wildlife corridors and wetlands. If habitat destruction is inevitable in some circumstance, offsetting habitat rehabilitation, gains or improvements will be encouraged.

**4.4 Prince Edward Island will protect the quality and ecological functions of habitat / ecosystems from impairment** by soil erosion, pollution or inappropriate thermal effects, exotic species or inappropriate human activities and practices.

**4.5 Prince Edward Island will provide enough publicly accessible wildlife habitats across the Island to achieve the potential social, cultural and economic benefits from wildlife-related activities.**

## **5. WILDLIFE POPULATIONS**

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Most wildlife populations in the wild around the province are species native to PEI: species that have evolved here or have come by natural population expansion from neighbouring areas; they tend to be adapted to each other in balance in the Island's ecosystems. These species are part of PEI's natural heritage. Some native animal species such as river otters and black bears have disappeared from the Island due to human activity, and the distribution of some native plant species such as white pine and red oak has become greatly reduced.

There are also exotic species in the wild in Prince Edward Island: species of fish, furbearers, game birds, and plants from elsewhere which have been introduced purposely or have accidentally escaped, and have established self-sustaining populations. Some of these are compatible, benign and useful. Others such as purple loosestrife pose serious ecological threats by taking over and degrading native habitats. Problems are also created through competition or interbreeding with native species. Such threats are difficult to predict, but they can be very damaging.

Ecological health calls for maintaining and rehabilitating the Island's native biological diversity, and being very cautious about introducing exotic species.

For a long time the populations of certain terrestrial, freshwater and marine wild species have been conserved and managed as recreational and commercial resources. This interest continues. It is increasingly matched by ecological and naturalist interest in the diversity and abundance of all species' populations together, as well as an interest in conserving rare populations and species at risk.

### **WILDLIFE POPULATION POLICY GOALS**

**5.1 Prince Edward Island will monitor and maintain the diversity of its native wild species distributed throughout their natural ranges on the Island, at population levels that are naturally viable, and that meet management objectives.**

**5.2 Prince Edward Island will monitor and maintain populations of selected key species at broad target levels of abundance and distributions.** The levels will take account of natural population fluctuations; they may be set in terms of numbers, densities, or observational results, as is most feasible and effective. Key species may be selected as indicators of the health of communities of species, as species whose populations are endangered or of conservation concern, or as species of particular value as resources.

**5.3 Prince Edward Island will protect wildlife native to PEI from harmful introductions of exotic or genetically-engineered species of plants and animals, and from introductions of harmful diseases or parasites.**

**5.4 Prince Edward Island will reintroduce former native species to Island ecosystems where it is ecologically, socially and economically feasible to do so.**

**5.5 Prince Edward Island will prevent, resolve or minimize conflicts between people and native wildlife where possible.** Where required for human safety or other key interests, control of particular wild animals is allowed under permit, preferably by scaring or deterrence, but by killing if necessary. If an animal such as a predator poses a clear and immediate danger to persons or property, and cannot be effectively controlled otherwise, it may be killed and then reported.

**5.6 Prince Edward Island will participate in Canadian and international management of wildlife populations** through cooperative conservation of shared wild populations, and regulation of transport of wildlife.

## **6. PUBLIC ACCESS TO WILDLIFE**

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Maintaining and enhancing public opportunities for wildlife-based activities has important and irreplaceable social, cultural and economic benefits. The provincial government has a responsibility to ensure that people have opportunities to use, enjoy and benefit from wildlife. Public access to wildlife - a common heritage and public resource - is a recognized public privilege.

Prince Edward Island has a very small proportion of public land - the smallest of any province. Private land owners have traditionally allowed respectful public access for wildlife-based activities. For both Crown and private land, general public access is partially provided for now under the Trespass Act, and by having public access for angling a condition of public investment in dams.

Recent trends are reducing or excluding general public access or through private lands. New land uses can conflict with continued access, and landowner practices, such as licensing or leasing access or resource use rights, are limiting or restricting public access to private lands. At the same time, people are expected to be respectful of landowner's interests when exercising their privilege to access wildlife.

Continuing provision of public access for wildlife-related activities requires dedication of some Crown lands and careful attention to shared uses on others. To achieve this, lands may be zoned for different wildlife-related activities. Where wildlife is on private land or only accessible through it, good user behaviour is required, and effective mechanisms are needed for landowners to provide mutually satisfactory access.

### **PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY GOALS**

**6.1 Prince Edward Island will protect and enhance opportunities for the general public to enjoy and use wildlife resources sustainably on Crown lands and on waters under public management.** In general, public access is provided for wildlife activities that are compatible with the primary use of the land. This includes hunting, angling, trapping, gathering renewable wild "fruits of the land", hiking, skiing, boating and other recreation that doesn't harm wildlife habitat. Particularly significant areas and corridors for wildlife and for public access may be designated within these lands.

Certain Crown lands and waters, representing a range of habitat types, are held primarily to support wildlife and provide public access to wildlife. These areas are to be accessible by public routes from public highways. On these wildlife lands, public access may be subject to guidelines or regulations for conservation, safety, or sharing. Certain species or areas may be protected through regulated hunting, angling and trapping seasons; Natural Area management plans; or designation of species that are rare or at risk. On Crown lands and waters held primarily for other purposes such as

agriculture, buildings and roads, intensive recreation or aquaculture, public access to wildlife may be further restricted if it is necessary to the primary use of the land.

**6.2 Prince Edward Island encourages provision of opportunities for the public to enjoy wildlife activities through respectful access to private lands.** Resident and non-resident owners are encouraged to provide general public access to wildlife opportunities on or through their lands. People who exercise this privilege are encouraged to show proper and respectful land use manners and ethics. Covenants on public and private land to conserve wildlife habitat and ensure public access are also encouraged. In some circumstances, public investment in wildlife and habitat improvements will entail public access to the resource.

## **7. WILD ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY**

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Wild animals have their full intrinsic value only in their native environments. In their native environments they are free to interact naturally with others of their own species, with other species and with their surroundings. There they fulfil their ecological roles. Generally, wild animals belong in the wild, not in captivity.

Nonetheless, there are exceptions. For some purposes - such as professional education, commercial activities such as game and fur farms, and some time-honoured practices with benign species - captivity of certain species is considered worthwhile, warranted, and appropriate to Prince Edward Island.

In these cases, the activity may be regulated to ensure that management needs and concerns are met. These concerns include conservation of the wild populations the animals come from; protection of Prince Edward Island's wildlife and ecosystems from harmful wildlife or disease; public convenience and safety; and wildlife ethics. There are also management concerns about the potential cumulative effects of permitting any given kind of wildlife captivity, and whether public resources are available for managing or regulating such activities.

Some of these issues require federal-provincial and international cooperation. Migratory birds can be kept captive only with a federal permit; and international trade in wildlife is managed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

### **POLICY ON WILD ANIMALS IN CAPTIVITY**

**7.1 Generally, wild animals are not to be kept in captivity on Prince Edward Island.**

**7.2 Prince Edward Island does not permit private individual keeping in captivity of exotic animals that are large and potentially dangerous, or for which the captivity imposes severe restrictions on their natural behaviour, such as large predators, or that impose significant ongoing management requirements.**

**7.3 The following purposes, circumstances and species are the only ones deemed appropriate for keeping wild animals in captivity on Prince Edward Island, as exceptions to the general rule:**

**Educational, scientific and conservation institutions.** For educational instruction or research on native or exotic wildlife, post-secondary educational institutions may be licensed to keep captive wild birds or mammals, and other wild species for which a permit is required. An institution may keep endangered wildlife captive under this kind of licence as a contributing part of a Species

Survival Plan, or an official Recovery Plan. Licensees must comply with the "Canadian Council on Animal Care Guidelines", and with other standards or guidelines for safety, prevention of escape, and proper treatment and care that are adopted from time to time.

To encourage curiosity, understanding, and appreciation of wildlife, particularly by children, certain species of small wild animals native to Prince Edward Island and not protected by regulation may be kept captive temporarily. Some examples include native frogs, non-game fish, insects, worms and other invertebrates. They may be returned after a short period to their native habitats. Species not protected by regulation may also be used as bait.

Wild animals that are suspected of being orphaned or abandoned should be left alone. However, wild animals that are obviously sick or injured may be reported to the Fish & Wildlife Division, or to the Atlantic Veterinary College. Any that are collected will either be placed with the Atlantic Veterinary College for educational and scientific purposes or rehabilitation for release to the wild, or be humanely destroyed.

**Game farming.** Animals of certain exotic wild species may be kept in captivity for food or other products under a game farm licence. Eligible species and animals are those for which this activity does not compromise conservation of their populations in the wild or whose presence or escape would not compromise native wildlife or the integrity of ecosystems on the Island. Consideration is also given to the management of potential adverse effects on health and safety of people or domestic livestock. Captivity must not require inhumane restriction. The eligible list includes certain species of the deer, bison, ostrich and emu families which meet these criteria. Game farming does not include recreational shooting of the farmed animals.

Regulations will be reviewed from time to time to ensure that they are tailored suitably to different species, and that they meet management needs with minimum administrative burden. The regulations are administered cooperatively by agriculture and wildlife agencies. Exemplary standards and guidelines for health and care of the animals will apply.

**Fur farming.** Animals of wild furbearing species, including fox, mink, chinchilla, and certain other species, may be kept in captivity under a fur farm licence. As above, regulations, standards and guidelines are applied, and will be developed as required, to meet the management needs and concerns described above with minimum administrative burden.

**Aquaculture.** Specified native and exotic fish and other aquatic species may be kept in captivity for commercial production or for later introduction to the wild under a combination of federal and/or provincial permits that ensure the management needs and concerns described above are met.

**Pet stores.** Wild animals native to Prince Edward Island are not to be sold or kept in captivity as pets. Certain species of exotic wild animals may be imported by licensed pet stores for sale to the public as pets. Eligible species are those that by their conservation status in their native ecosystems, and by their nature, do not raise any of the ongoing management concerns described above, and so for which a license to purchase is not required. A list of eligible species will be developed and

maintained in consultation with pet store operators. Pet stores should provide buyers with information on the nature and requirements of these animals, and guidelines for their proper care.

**Travelling exhibits.** Travelling exhibits may import exotic wild animals temporarily to Prince Edward Island, under permits that specify conditions to ensure compliance with conservation requirements, health, safety, humane and appropriate care, adequate insurance, and secure keeping and removal of all animals at the end of the permitted time.

**Falconry, and migratory game bird aviculture.** A license may be obtained to keep raptorial birds such as hawks or falcons in captivity as hunting animals. Applicable regulations, standards and guidelines governing acquisition, health and care of raptors, must be followed, as must applicable hunting regulations.

Policy and regulations will be developed with the federal government to ensure that management concerns are met with respect to any captivity of migratory game birds under federal permit.

**Quasi-domesticated wildlife.** Animals of a small number of wild species can be so close to being domesticated, and so free of conservation and management needs and concerns, that they can be kept in captivity without a permit. Eligible species are to be listed for regulatory purposes. They could include, for example, Rock Dove, Peafowl, and certain quail and pheasant species; and House Mouse and Norway Rat as laboratory animals.

## ***8. IMPROVING PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY***

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Wildlife conservation and management increasingly requires better knowledge of how things are related ecologically and how to achieve management goals. Equally basic is the need for better knowledge of what species are where, and what their population trends are over time.

Public and private stewardship requires numbers of people to have sufficient knowledge and skills to observe intelligently, discuss options meaningfully, and act effectively. There is increasing interest in the Island's natural environment. The need is to find ways to provide real training and experience, and to support related employment and volunteer activity.

The challenge is to achieve wildlife management and conservation objectives with limited public resources.

### **POLICY GOALS FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY**

**8.1 To improve the knowledge base for wildlife management, Prince Edward Island supports the development and use of inventories of wildlife, habitats and other ecological features, with ongoing monitoring and reporting.** PEI also supports research to develop practical knowledge of ecological relationships and tolerances, knowledge of effective management actions, and knowledge of the benefits sustainably derived from wildlife.

**8.2 To develop and maintain qualified human resources for wildlife management, Prince Edward Island supports programs for professional, technical and volunteer education and training in wildlife sciences and management.**

**8.3 To improve the financial base for wildlife management, Prince Edward Island supports having the value of benefits derived from wildlife as a natural resource reflected in the conservation and management of the wildlife resource base.** Prince Edward Island also supports having the beneficiaries of more intensive wildlife management share in carrying its costs.

## ***9. PARTNERS IN STEWARDSHIP***

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Wildlife interests and concerns are closely related to other resource, community, and ownership interests in any given area. Durable objectives and workable solutions have to involve all related interests.

Wildlife management issues increasingly require a mix of mandates, knowledge and expertise, and human and financial resources that are more than single agencies can provide. There is a very practical need to form partnerships. This is especially true in Prince Edward Island, with its densely occupied multi-use landscapes and waterscapes.

Fortunately, people appreciate and identify strongly with the natural environment. People with both consumptive and non-consumptive interests in wildlife want to participate in its management and conservation.

Some strong multi-partner arrangements are already in place, such as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The need for partnerships poses further creative challenges to traditional single sector organizations and approaches. It also challenges traditional institutional patterns that are oriented more to clarifying lines of authority and accountability than to finding shared objectives and seeking to share responsibilities. Effective communication among all partners is essential, and requires considerable attention..

As the application of aboriginal rights on Prince Edward Island is clarified, new partnerships in wildlife management will be worked out with aboriginal people recognizing the constitutional authority of their rights.

### **WILDLIFE PARTNERSHIP POLICY GOALS**

**9.1 Prince Edward Island will support participation and cooperation in sound wildlife management among communities, schools, municipalities, cooperatives, landowners, aboriginal organizations, universities and colleges, non-government organizations, private corporations, and provincial and federal resource management and wildlife conservation agencies.**

**9.2 To address significant wildlife management issues, partners will be enlisted who represent the key interests, management capabilities and authorities, knowledge, and human and financial resources related to the issue.** Partnerships and multi-interest management plans may be drawn together, for example, around particular geographic ecosystems such as watersheds, particular wildlife species and the benefits they provide, or particular conservation themes and resource conflict resolutions.

**9.3 Prince Edward Island will endeavour to meet wildlife goals in its other social and economic programs. PEI will also endeavour to meet other social and economic goals in its wildlife programs.** Health, community development and recreation, sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries, education, municipalities, employment and tourism are promising partnership areas.

## **10. IMPLEMENTING THE WILDLIFE POLICY**

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

This policy is a comprehensive statement of overall directions to achieve healthy wildlife populations in sustained ecosystems, so that people can realize sustained benefits from them.

The *Wildlife Policy for Prince Edward Island* will be implemented through different avenues over time, applying to many different situations. In some cases specific policies, programs and actions will need to be developed to supplement the *Wildlife Policy*.

The policy does not set schedules or priorities among the many different activities it applies to and that are needed to realize the goals. That is done, as always, by those who manage the activities, in light of current issues, needs, and available resources.

The *Policy* is government-wide and province-wide. In most cases it is clear which agency has the lead for implementing government actions under the *Policy*. Some tasks and responsibilities will be assigned in consultation among government agencies, and with non-government organizations.

Those responsible for implementing the *Policy* will account for it in regular public reports coordinated by the Department of Environmental Resources. The *Wildlife Policy* itself should be reviewed and updated 5 years from when it is adopted.

### **POLICY IMPLEMENTATION GOALS**

**10.1 Prince Edward Island will focus its wildlife management programs and resources on the priorities that will most effectively achieve the goals of the *Wildlife Policy* in the long term and in response to current issues and needs.**

**10.2 Prince Edward Island will keep government laws and regulations effective in support of the policy.**

**10.3 Prince Edward Island's programs and directions affecting wildlife management will be kept coherent and mutually supportive in light of this policy.**

**10.4 Prince Edward Island will report annually on progress in achieving and maintaining the goals of this policy.**