



Aulavik National Park of Canada Management Plan Update 2010-11

Newsletter #2 May 2011

First Round of Consultations Completed

On December 3, 2010, Parks Canada began consulting with Canadians to update the management plan for Aulavik National Park on Banks Island, Northwest Territories. Inuvialuit, stakeholders and the general public were invited to share their views on the building blocks of an updated plan (i.e., the vision for Aulavik at its future best, challenges and opportunities faced, and the four key strategies for the park).

Inuvialuit and land claim organizations were fully briefed on this planning program during their quarterly meetings in December. Invitations to get involved were sent out by mail, email, web postings on other organizations' websites, featured in the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's beneficiary newsletter, and advertised in local and regional newspapers. Canadians were informed by our new Aulavik National Park Management Plan website (www.parkscanada.gc.ca/aulavikplan) and through the first issue of our Aulavik planning newsletter published in December. Community meetings were held in Inuvik and Sachs Harbour in late

January to provide the local public with the opportunity to talk with Parks Canada staff and contribute to planning for Aulavik's future. A new online comment form allowed the public the share their views with us directly from their computers. By the close of this first consultation period that ended January 31, 2011, we had heard from a broad range of interests including: Inuvialuit Elders, local leaders, hunters and business operators; park visitors; researchers; environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS); wilderness outfitting companies, expedition cruise ship lines; local municipalities; interested Canadians; Parks Canada staff; and other government departments.

Many thanks to everyone who shared their thoughts with us this fall and winter. Your input will be essential to preparing an updated plan for Aulavik. Comments provided are summarized in this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you and others when we begin consulting with Canadians on the draft management plan this summer.



Photo: L. Cary/PCA



Photo: J. Lucas/PCA



Photo: M. Kirk/PCA

How Your Comments Were Used

All the comments received during the fall & winter consultations have been gathered together, analyzed and summarized in a report for the Parks Canada planning team and the Aulavik Management Planning Working Group.

The Aulavik Management Planning Working Group is an informal group set up by Parks Canada to give the community of Sachs Harbour (Hunters & Trappers Committee, Community Corporation), Inuvialuit & cooperative management boards (e.g., Inuvialuit Game Council, Wildlife Management Advisory Council-NWT, Fisheries Joint Management Committee) and other government departments with an interest in Aulavik National Park and Banks

Island (Government of the Northwest Territories, Canadian Wildlife Service), the opportunity to work together and play a more direct role in the Aulavik management planning process.

In March 2011, Parks Canada and the Working Group met in Inuvik to begin work on the draft management plan. The Working Group spent a day and a half reviewing the comments received during the fall & winter consultation period, and used that information to start preparing the various sections of the draft of the new management plan for Aulavik National Park. Once completed, the draft plan will be presented to Inuvialuit, stakeholders and the general public for their review and comment this summer.



Photo: J.Lucas/PCA

Proposed New Management Elements – A Sneak Preview

A few notable management plan elements emerging from work in March, some of which have been influenced by what was heard from you during consultations, include:

- A vision that sees Aulavik as unspoiled wilderness - an escape for paddlers and hikers, a sanctuary for wildlife, and special place for Inuvialuit to help preserve their culture and traditional ways. It is shared by Inuvialuit with all Canadians to better protect, understand, enjoy and value the environment, history and culture of the western High Arctic;
- Improving the visitor offer in the park for paddlers, hikers and youth groups (e.g., the possibility of a trip staging camp at Green Cabin), while ensuring ecological integrity, cultural resources and the migratory bird sanctuary are not impaired by visitor use;
- Working with other organisations, pursue opportunities for Sachs Harbour to benefit more from Aulavik as a draw for visitors to Canada's western Arctic;
- Supporting research in the park, such as university field camps and citizen science programs; and
- Not having a separate area management approach for the Thomsen River, since the key strategies for the whole park provide the necessary direction for managing this river corridor.

More details on these proposed elements and others will be available for your review this summer. The draft plan will be posted on our website (www.parkscanada.gc.ca/aulavikplan).



Photo: J.F. Bisailon/PCA

What We Heard

MANAGEMENT PLAN BUILDING BLOCKS	A SUMMARY OF THE KEY THEMES EMERGING
The Vision For Aulavik 2021	<p>Aulavik 2021 is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A place that is healthy, intact, enduring, wild and protected for all times; • Supports long term research and monitoring to ensure it remains healthy and enduring; • A place where Inuvialuit are connected to place through stories, memories, a rich history and living from and travelling this land; • A beacon to both visitors and those who can't visit but can still connect; • A place that inspires, educates and involves youth to become stewards.
Strategy 1 – Maintaining And Enhancing Visitor Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take steps to make access to Aulavik more affordable and/or develop new access options as alternative to fly-in (e.g., cruise ship and small vessels, walk-in, traditional pack-dog and sled travel); • Expand current visitor service offer and activities for both the park and around neighbouring community of Sachs Harbour (e.g., all season use, new visitor activities such as hiking from base camp to encourage enjoyment of park beyond the Thomsen River corridor, and group activities like school exchanges and research camps). Some identified need to enhance existing cabins and/ or build new infrastructure to support this; • Develop strategy to help increase awareness and visitation to Aulavik and Sachs Harbour; • Need to manage visitor use to protect the park and support involvement of local Sachs economy should be fundamental.

MANAGEMENT PLAN BUILDING BLOCKS	A SUMMARY OF THE KEY THEMES EMERGING
Strategy 2 - Keeping Aulavik Healthy And Enduring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue and/or increase levels of support (dedicated funding, infrastructure) for research to help better understand the park and keep it healthy. Important areas of work identified included: climate change, cultural resources, Peary caribou, Thomsen watershed fishes, and Devonian reef fossils; • Monitoring the park's ecosystems and cultural resources must be a priority, especially if plans go ahead to increase park visitation. Few indicated need for change and/or refinement to existing programs including establishing thresholds and looking at monitoring health of other key species (waterfowl, fish).
Strategy 3 – Engaging Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) Communities Beyond Sachs Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth must be the priority group to target; • While Inuvialuit communities are the focus, consider expanding the scope of this strategy beyond the ISR to reach all northerners and others.
Strategy 4 – Bringing Canadians Closer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New media is the best tool to connect Canadians to Aulavik, including a reworked modernized Parks Canada web presence and social media like Face Book and Twitter; • There are many interesting stories to share. Stories of Inuvialuit Elders and legends could be the foundation or maybe build upon recent national and international profile generated from the discovery of the HMS Investigator and associated cultural sites at Mercy Bay as the jump off point to tell stories about what was and what is using a site where Inuvialuit and Western cultures and histories intersect; • An illustrated children's book series could be a good way to share Inuvialuit oral histories collected over the years for Banksland.
Area Management Approach For The Thomsen River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of ecological integrity must be first priority. Needs to be more comprehensive approach to managing human use of area by including visitors, outfitters, researchers, park staff and Inuvialuit. Monitoring the health of the watershed and supporting more research is key in areas such as anadromous fish biology and harvest, waterfowl biology, and archaeology; • Parks Canada needs to be more aware of and involved with proposed developments in the greater Thomsen watershed outside park boundaries such as mining interests along the park's south boundary; • Focus on management of the Banks Island No.2 Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS) located within the park included: clarifying jurisdictional controls between Parks Canada and Canadian Wildlife Service and developing specific guidelines for the MBS.



Where Are We Now In The Aulavik Planning Process?

STAGE	FOCUS	STATUS
STAGE 1 Fall 2010 - Winter 2011	Consultation on the building blocks for the new plan	COMPLETED January 31, 2011
STAGE 2 Winter - Summer 2011	Incorporate what we heard and draft the management plan. Consultation on the draft plan starting in summer 2011	
STAGE 3 Summer— Fall 2011	Incorporate what we heard and finalize management plan over the summer. Starting in the fall, the final plan will be submitted for recommendation by the Inuvialuit and Parks Canada's Chief Executive Officer. Then it will be sent to the Federal Minister of the Environment responsible for Parks Canada for approval prior to being tabled in Parliament.	

Your Next Opportunity To Shape Aulavik's Future Is Coming This Summer!

Starting this summer 2011, Parks Canada will be consulting with Canadians on the draft management plan for Aulavik. Your views will be gathered through public meetings to be held in Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok and Inuvik as well as in meetings with Inuvialuit leadership and stakeholder groups. Canadians will also be invited to provide comments by email, fax or mail. A comment form will be available on our website or by contacting our office. Newsletter #3 will be sent out at that time to notify you of this next stage in our consultations and where to obtain a copy of the draft plan.

For More Information

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WEBSITE

www.parksCanada.gc.ca/aulavikplan

Aussi disponible en français.

Photo: J. McCormick/PCA

Upcoming Community Meeting Dates (tentative)

INUVIK

Midnight Sun Recreation Complex

Thursday, June 16, 2011

7:00 - 9:00 PM

SACH HARBOUR

Community Complex

Monday, June 20, 2011

7:00 - 9:00 PM

ULUKHAKTOK

Community Centre

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

7:00 - 9:00 PM