

## RESTIGOUCHE WILDERNESS WATERWAY PUBLIC RESPONSE REPORT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***Q. What is the Restigouche Wilderness Waterway Public Response Report?***

**A.** The Restigouche Wilderness Waterway Public Response Report summarizes public input on the management of the Restigouche river system. Over the years, a growing consensus has emerged that stronger conservation measures are required for the area.

### ***Q. How was the public consulted?***

**A.** The public consultation process included two stakeholder roundtable sessions with the Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, four open houses conducted by department officials, and an online survey. The consultation process was built around questions related to the tourism experience, conservation and management of the area.

The department has initiated preliminary discussions with New Brunswick Indigenous peoples, as well as Listuguj First Nation, situated in Quebec. We will continue to work closely with all Indigenous peoples and are committed to a formal consultation process moving forward.

The public will continue to have opportunities to provide input on the wilderness area through the department's website, surveys conducted by the department, the Environmental Impact Assessment process, and by writing directly to the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture. This process will be undertaken before any final decisions are made.

### ***Q. What was learned through consultations?***

**A.** Consultations revealed an overwhelming support for any future plans to include a wilderness experience; to provide recreational opportunities such as canoeing, hiking, fishing, snowmobiling, viewing wildlife, and camping; and ensuring the watershed is protected.

### ***Q. When will development begin?***

**A.** Government will be taking feedback into consideration and determining next steps to ensure the preservation of the Restigouche river system in a manner that is affordable and sustainable for future generations.

### ***Q. Will an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be required before proceeding with any development?***

**A.** Preliminary work has been completed. An Environmental Impact Assessment will be registered with the Department of Environment and Local Government once approvals of the initiative in-part or whole are given by government.