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**COMMUNIQUÉ**  
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## **NEW CANADIAN BIOSPHERES JOIN UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BIOSHERE RESERVES**

Ottawa, September 20 , 2007 – Fundy (New Brunswick) and Manicouagan – Uapishka (Quebec) have been designated as Biosphere Reserves by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). A considerable expansion to the size of the existing Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (Ontario) was also approved.

The Fundy Biosphere Reserve is the first in New Brunswick. The designation was supported by a comprehensive participatory process, including the creation of the 'Fundy Biosphere Regional Network' stakeholder group, and long-term research. The designated area is distinctive for its spectacular high tidal range and a passage-place for billions of migratory birds annually. The area also includes the City of Moncton, two universities and benefits from the support of a wide variety of partners.

With this designation, Manicouagan – Uapishka (Quebec) becomes the largest Biosphere Reserve in Canada, extending from the St. Lawrence in the south to the Manicouagan crater in the north. In addition to its natural characteristics including the boreal forest and whale feeding grounds, important economic activities in the area include mining, industrial forestry and hydroelectric dams. Participation of the private sector and of the local Innu community, public education and consensus-building have been cornerstones of this sustainable development model area.

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (Ontario), designated by UNESCO in 2002, has guided the community to linking conservation organisations, economic and social development groups, as well as the educational and scientific communities located within the Frontenac Arch region. Its newly expanded boundaries now encompass all of the Township of South Frontenac, including the Frontenac Provincial Park.

David A. Walden, Secretary-General of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO stated that he is "confident that the three sites will make significant contributions to inspire others in their pursuit of sustainable development. They represent a promising direction for the evolution of modern Biosphere Reserves, where different groups voluntarily agree to collaborate based on their common vision and desire for the future of their region".

The announcement was made during the meeting of the International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere Programme of UNESCO, held in Paris from September 18 – 20, 2007. UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves now consists of 529 sites in 105 countries.

Biosphere Reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems which aim to promote solutions to reconcile biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use. They are internationally recognized and remain under sovereign jurisdiction of the states where they are located. They can also be defined as “living laboratories” where research, monitoring, public education, capacity-building, and local community involvement are encouraged to promote wise socio-economic development.

*The Canadian Commission for UNESCO operates under the aegis of the Canada Council for the Arts. Its role is to act as a forum for governments and civil society, and to mobilize the participation of Canadian organizations and committed individuals in UNESCO's mandated areas: education, natural and social sciences, culture and communication and information. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the only member of the United Nations System to have National Commissions performing this role in its Member States.*

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## **Background**

Fundy and Manicouagan - Uapishka join the 13 existing Biosphere Reserves in Canada (listed in order of designation): Mont Saint-Hilaire (Quebec), Waterton (Alberta), Long Point (Ontario), Riding Mountain (Manitoba), Charlevoix (Quebec), Niagara Escarpment (Ontario), Clayoquot Sound (British Columbia), Redberry Lake (Saskatchewan), Lac Saint-Pierre (Québec), Mount Arrowsmith (British Columbia), Southwest Nova (Nova Scotia), Frontenac Arch (Ontario), and Georgian Bay Littoral (Ontario).

Each Canadian Biosphere Reserve coordinates its activities through a community-based organization or committee. The Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association (CBRA), a non-profit association, provides support and networking relationships supporting Biosphere Reserves in Canada.

### **For more information:**

<http://www.unesco.org/mab/BRs.shtml>

<http://www.biosphere-canada.ca/home.asp>