



The Honorable Danny Williams
Confederation Building, East Block
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

June 18, 2010

Dear Premier Williams,

As you are acutely aware, the future of the Newfoundland marten is directly connected to forest management practices in Newfoundland. This species of marten is endemic to your province, and as such you have a responsibility to protect its habitat, to protect it from trappers, and to remove it from Canada's threatened species list.

The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement was a huge step toward preserving old growth forest in Canada. I urge you to make similar agreements in Newfoundland towards protecting at least 50% of the old growth forest in the province. Protecting these forests is not only for the benefit of the marten, it is also to the benefit of the people of Newfoundland. Old growth forests act as carbon sinks and therefore help slow the effects of climate change, a benefit to people across Canada and the world. Furthermore, Newfoundland's wilderness is a tourist attraction and can also benefit Newfoundlander's through the creation of jobs.

Trapping was one of the major causes for the drop in population of the Newfoundland marten, and although it is now illegal to trap or hunt the Newfoundland marten, it is often caught by snares meant for other animals. Making live traps more affordable and providing accessible educational workshops on the proper use of these traps could go a long way towards increasing the population of the Newfoundland marten.

I know that this is one of many issues you deal with daily. However, I know that you care about the people of your province, and the wildlife and wilderness that make Newfoundland a wonderful place to live. Please protect Newfoundland's old growth forest and help rejuvenate the Newfoundland marten population.

Sincerely,

The Roots & Shoots Team