

**REGISTRATION
PURSUANT TO SECTION 6 OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT**

NAME OF UNDERTAKING:

International Appalachian Trail Newfoundland & Labrador (IATNL)

PROPOSER:

International Appalachian Trail Newfoundland & Labrador Chapter Inc.

Address:

117 Riverside Drive,
Corner Brook, NL
A2H 7S1

Chief Executive Officer:

Dr. Greg Wood
Chairperson
25 George Aaron Drive
Deer Lake, NL,
A8A 3H4
Ph. 709-635-5800

Contact Person:

Paul Wylezol
Sectional Committee Coordinator
302-14 Beothuck Crescent
Corner Brook, NL,
A2H 6A6
Ph. 709-634-7407

THE UNDERTAKING:

- (1) To develop a series of non-contiguous walking/hiking trails totaling approximately 550 kilometers in length and linked by existing trails and roads that together will form the International Appalachian Trail Newfoundland and Labrador (IATNL) extending from Port aux Basques in the south to Belle Isle in the north.
- (2) The trail will be an extension of the International Appalachian Trail (IAT) which runs from Mount Katahdin in Maine through New Brunswick to the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec. The IAT is itself an extension of the 68 year old US Appalachian Trail which runs from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Mount Katahdin. Both trails are highly regarded walking/hiking trails which promote a healthy active lifestyle, as well as the tourism and adventure tourism industries.

DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING:

(1) Geographic Location

(a) The objective of the IATNL is to develop a walking/hiking trail along the 250 million year old Appalachian mountain range (Long Range Mountains) of western Newfoundland from Port aux Basques in southwestern Newfoundland to Belle Isle in the north. The proposed route will take the trail across some of Newfoundland's (and the Appalachian mountains') most scenic and geologically interesting terrain, from glacier carved fiords and pristine river valleys to coastal mountains with views of islands and icebergs. It will also traverse the highest point on the island of Newfoundland at Big Level, Lewis Hills.

(b) The proposed IATNL will total approximately 550 kilometers of new non-contiguous walking/hiking trail connected by existing trails and roads. The nineteen new sections of trail range in length from 1km to 90kms, much of it over barren terrain requiring only rock cairns to mark the route.

The proposed new sections of trail are as follows:

- 1.) Starlight Trail: 18km. Located east of the TCH between Port aux Basques and Codroy Valley (See Map 1)
- 2.) Cormack Trail: 30km. Located along the coast between Cape Anguile and Highlands (See Map 2)
- 3.) Indian Head Trail: 7km. Located between Stephenville Crossing and Stephenville (See Map 3)
- 4.) Table Mountain Trail: 13km. Located west of Stephenville and north of the community of Romaines (See Map 4)
- 5.) Lewis Hills – Blomidon Mountains Trail: 55km. Located between Bay St. George and the Bay of Islands (See Maps 5A, 5B, 6)
- 6.) Corner Brook Tower Road Connecting Trail: 1km. Located south of Corner Brook and within Corner Brook City Limits (See Map 6)
- 7.) Lower Humber Trail: 28km. Located on the north side of the Lower Humber River between Corner Brook and Humber Valley Resort (See Map 7)
- 8.) White Bay Trail: 20km. Located on the eastern side of the Northern Peninsula between Hampden and Pollards Point (See Map 9)
- 9.) Main River Woods Road Connecting Trail: 5km. Located between and connecting two woods roads in the Lower Main River watershed on the Northern Peninsula (See Map 10)
- 10.) Four Ponds – Flat Hills Traverse: 60km. Located east of Parsons Pond and between Four Ponds on the Main River and the Flat Hills (See Maps 11A, 11B)
- 11.) Arches – Portland Head Trail: 7km. Located on the Northern Peninsula between Five Mile road just south of Arches Provincial Park and Portland Head. Also includes the section of trail from Portland Creek cove to just south of Daniel's Harbour (See Map 13)

- 12.) Blue Mountain Trek: 70km. Located on the Long Range Mountains east of Brian's Pond to woods road east of Eastern Blue Pond (See Maps 14A, 14B)
- 13.) Highlands of St. John – Cloud River Trail: 90km. Originating at Route 430 just north of Hawke's Bay, crossing the Highlands of St. John and extending down the Cloud River valley to Horse Chops hill west of Roddickton (See Maps 15A, 15B, 15C)
- 14.) Hawke's Bay – Roddickton Trail: 75km. Alternative route around Highlands of St. John and Cloud River. (See Maps 15/I, 15/II, 15/III)
- 15.) Englee – Croque Coastal Trail: 60km. Located along the Atlantic coast between Englee and Croque on the eastern side of the Northern Peninsula (See Maps 16A, 16B)
- 16.) White Hills Trail: 35km. Originating at Route 430 near St. Anthony airport and extending eastward across the White Hills to St. Anthony (See Maps 17A, 17B)
- 17.) St. Anthony North Trail: 20 km. Extending eastward along the coast from St. Anthony Bight via St. Carols to Great Brehat, then north across country to Route 436 near St. Lunaire - Griquet (See Map 18)
- 18.) St. Lunaire – Griquet Trail: 4km. Extending around the western side of Southwest Bay near Griquet (See Map 19)
- 19.) Belle Isle Trail: 20km. Extending from the southern to the northern end of Belle Isle (See Map 19, inset)

(2) Physical Features

- (a) The proposed IATNL will be approximately one meter wide with no bridges or board walks and developed in such a way as to reduce the possibility of ATV access. The only footprint created will be a narrow path over original natural ground.
- (b) The proposed IATNL will traverse terra firma, avoiding bogs, marshes and wetlands. Much of the new trail will be through a mix of forested terrain, with the remainder over barrens and scrub, particularly at higher elevations.

(c) With few exceptions the proposed IATNL will be routed around municipal watersheds. At Portland Creek and Conche the IATNL has been granted permission to traverse a corner of the community watershed.

(3) Construction

(a) Development of the proposed IATNL will be phased in over five years. The first phase is planned to begin in June, 2005 and continue until September, 2005. It will include developing all, or parts, of Sections 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15 above (See 1b).

(b) As a result of the low impact, environmentally friendly nature of the proposed trail development, no resource conflicts are foreseen during or after trail development. On the contrary, the IATNL will promote sustainable and environmentally friendly tourism development across much of western Newfoundland.

(4) Operation

Once complete the proposed IATNL will be maintained as a low impact, environmentally friendly walking/hiking trail that promotes safe and reliable access to Newfoundland's great outdoors along its Appalachian mountain range. It is expected that the highest use of the trail will take place between the months of May and October of each year, with hikers being discouraged to enter remote back country areas near outfitters' hunting operations during the fall hunting season. As colder nights and shorter days are not conducive to back country hiking, it is expected that few hikers would be interested in such an adventure that time of the year.

(5) Occupations

Sections of the proposed IATNL will be developed and maintained by work crews of 3 to 6 individuals utilizing chainsaws, brush cutters and axes. Safe operating procedures will be followed and no environmentally hazardous materials will be involved, with the exception of small amounts of gasoline and chain oil.

All fire safety regulations will be strictly adhered to and enforced.

(6) Project Related Documents

1. Municipal Recommendation Forms (required by Crown Lands) from

communities along the proposed IATNL route where trail cutting is required.

APPROVAL OF THE UNDERTAKING

Required Approvals:

1. Approval from municipalities whose town limits the IATNL will enter.
2. Approval from municipalities whose watershed the IATNL will enter.
3. Approval from Water Resource Management Division of provincial government.
4. Permit from Crown Lands Division of provincial department of Environment and Conservation to occupy crown lands on IATNL route.

SCHEDULE

The first phase of project development is scheduled to commence mid June, 2005 and continue until late September, 2005. Given the nature of walking/hiking trail development, weather conditions in Newfoundland leave only this short window of opportunity for trail development.

In addition, an application has been submitted to the Dept. of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRDSC) for funding Sections 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 15.

Later phases of development will extend from June to September, 2006-2009.

FUNDING

An application for Job Creation Partnership (JCP) funding in the amount of \$222,670 has been submitted to the Dept. of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

Also, JCP funding has been approved by HRSDC for the position of IATNL Coordinator to help coordinate IATNL activities and fund raising.

Apart from paid trail cutters, volunteers account for a significant percentage of all IATNL operations, from executive committees to trail development.