



Newfoundland Muskrat
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Newfoundland Mouse-ear Chickweed
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SSAC Annual Report

2024-2025

Prepared by the Species Status Advisory Committee



THE COMMITTEE

The Species Status Advisory Committee (SSAC) was established under the *Endangered Species Act*, which was passed on December 13, 2001. Its role is to review and recommend, to the responsible Minister, species status designations and re-designations based on the best scientific, traditional, and local ecological knowledge available for the species.

MEMBERSHIP

The *Act* allows for a committee of up to nine members. At the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Committee reached a full complement of nine members, with new member Dr. Michael Peers appointed to the committee on March 28, 2025.

Committee Members at the end of 2024-25:

Christine Campbell, PhD (Chair) – Aquatic invertebrates
Paul Marino, PhD – Mosses, terrestrial invertebrates
André Arsenault, PhD – Lichens, bryophytes, forest ecology
David Langor, PhD – Terrestrial arthropods, forest ecology
Darroch Whitaker, PhD – Birds
Jim Goudie – Labrador and Indigenous Knowledge, small mammals
Susan Meades – Vascular plants
Tom Knight, PhD – Terrestrial mammals, freshwater fish
Michael Peers, PhD – Terrestrial mammals, climate change, population ecology

The secretariat to the SSAC is provided by the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture. The role of the secretariat is to help organize meetings and keep minutes, arrange funding for status reports, and provide other necessary logistical support to the Committee. The secretariat is managed by:

Wildlife Division
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
P.O. Box 2007, 192 Wheeler's Road
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 7S1

THE MINISTER AND THE DEPARTMENT

At the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, responsibility for species at risk, the *Endangered Species Act* and the SSAC rested with Minister Gerry Byrne of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA). Previously the responsibility for the SSAC fell under Minister Elvis Loveless.

MEETINGS AND BUSINESS

The Committee met once (virtually) in the 2024-25 fiscal year, on December 2, 2024. The primary focus

of this meeting was to assess data availability for priority species under consideration for assessment. To his end, SSAC members provided overviews of their own field survey efforts over summer 2024. Key highlights included:

- An update on 2024 survey efforts completed under contribution agreements with FFA, namely 1) a ladybug survey along the south coast of Labrador, 2) continued searches for the potentially extirpated claybank tiger beetle (*Cicindela limalis*) in western Newfoundland, 3) invertebrate pitfall trapping on limestone barrens on the Great Northern Peninsula, and 4) completion of a scientific paper on the range of the whirligig beetle *Dineutus nigrior* in NL.
- An update on new surveys for *Cerastium terrae-novae* in Gros Morne National Park.
- An update on lichen field surveys conducted in partnership with Miawpukek First Nation, discovery of new species to the province, and progress in identifying specimens collected.

At this meeting, SSAC members also received a detailed Wildlife Division presentation on monitoring of muskrat (Newfoundland subspecies *Ondatra zibethicus obscurus*) and provincial population trends and then discussed the prioritization of the species for prompt assessment if a suitable author can be found.

Discussions on next steps for the above work occurred, and members discussed additions to and removals from taxonomic priority lists in light of new data. Many SSAC members plan to participate in a large upcoming provincial BioBlitz in July 2025 as an opportunity to increase data availability and biodiversity knowledge to support future assessments.

Outside the confines of the formal meeting, members spent additional time compiling species priority information, reviewing templates, reviewing activities and recommendations of the national Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), preparing reports as required under the *Endangered Species Act* and the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, and corresponding with the Minister. The committee operated under a 3-year activity plan for 2023-2026, which provides an overview of the duties and responsibilities of the SSAC along with objectives to be accomplished between 2023 and 2026.

PROCEDURES

While every effort is made to convene meetings only when all members can be present, a quorum of 50% + 1 of the membership will be the minimum required to hold a meeting.

Voting on procedural matters is on the basis of a simple majority of members present but, in the event of a status recommendation to the Minister, failing a consensus, a two thirds majority of all members, whether present or not, will be required.

CRITERIA

The criteria for decisions on the level of risk for a species (Endangered, Threatened, Vulnerable, Extinct, or Extirpated) follow those of the federal Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which in turn are based on those of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

and Natural Resources (IUCN) with minor adjustments for local circumstances and conditions. Note that COSEWIC defines designatable units (e.g. *species*, *subspecies*, *variety*, *etc.*) as discrete and evolutionarily significant groups where “significant” means that the unit is important to the evolutionary legacy of the species as a whole and if lost would likely not be replaced through natural dispersion. A copy of the current COSEWIC criteria can be found in Appendix 1.

STATUS REPORTS AND PRIORITY LISTS

No new status reports were prepared in 2024-25. The SSAC finalized and submitted one status report at the end of 2023-24 (on vascular plant *Askellia pygmaea*: government response still outstanding), and spent the most recent last fiscal year focusing on conducting field surveys to increase data availability for species on the SSAC priority list, as a first step towards assessment.

Species priority lists for plants, mosses, birds, mammals and insects are continuously revised based on current best available information and were revised in 2024-25 based on new species data obtained during multiple field surveys in summer 2024. Muskrat was selected as a priority species for a 2025-26 status report (subject to budgetary availability), and the SSAC reached out to potential experts to gauge interest and availability for report preparation (see **The Future**). All updated SSAC priority lists will be made available online for public viewing.

Previous SSAC status reports are available on the SSAC website (see <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/publications/wildlife/#status>). Note that some sensitive data – mostly locational – has been omitted from this public resource where deemed to be in the best interest of species protection. The 2023-24 status report for Dwarf Hawksbeard as well as the previous two status review reports for Lindley’s Aster and Rock Dwelling Sedge have been posted to the SSAC website.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No status recommendations were made in 2024-25.

THE FUTURE

The SSAC expects to begin preparation of one or two new status reports in 2025-26, for Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus obscura*) and/or Newfoundland Mouse-ear Chickweed (*Cerastium terrae-novae*), subject to budget allocations and availability of qualified authors.

The Newfoundland Mouse-ear Chickweed is a rare perennial herb that is only found on serpentine barrens and scree slopes. In 2024-25 Parks Canada staff conducted a survey for this plant species in Gros Morne National Park, in response to a formal request from the SSAC Chair (via correspondence dated April 12, 2024). This survey yielded some new field data, but monitoring results were inconclusive due to lack of flowering during the survey period. Parks Canada is preparing a report on this survey and will share it with SSAC when available. Depending on the contents of the report and

whether additional field surveys can be conducted in 2025-26, it may be possible to prepare a status report for this species in 2025-26.

In 2025-26, the SSAC expects to obtain identifications of all the beetles collected in pitfall traps in summer 2024; identification of these specimens is ongoing at the end of 2024-25. Progress on identification of priority lichen species is also ongoing, as knowledge of provincial lichen taxonomy is advancing rapidly and is a very active field of study. The SSAC also expects to receive (and help gather) an influx of biodiversity data from the Great Northern Peninsula, resulting from a large BioBlitz (i.e. biological survey) scheduled for July 2025 that will bring up to 75 national and provincial species experts and naturalists to the area. These field studies will help address long-standing issues of data deficiency and are likely to lead to development of new status reports in the near future.

The SSAC may proceed with one species re-assessment in the 2024-25 fiscal year, subject to availability of new field data and prioritization of new assessments. Species under consideration for re-assessment in upcoming fiscal years, subject to resources, include:

- Feathery False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)
- Water Pygmyweed (*Crassula aquatica*)
- Oval-leaved Creeping Spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*)
- Sharpleaf Aster (*Oclemena acuminata*)
- Gmelin's Watercrowfoot (*Ranunculus gmelinii*)
- Tradescant's Aster (*Symphyotrichum tradescantii*)
- Vreeland's Striped Coralroot (*Corallorrhiza striata var. vreelandii*)

However, the SSAC will be exploring methods of simplifying the ten-year re-assessment process to reduce workload on species unlikely to change in status and to better direct its resources towards species at greatest risk of extirpation. On the national scale, COSEWIC is currently trialing a new 'review of classification' process and the outcomes of this trial are likely to be highly applicable and informative to the SSAC.

The SSAC is continuing its search for suitable authors for status reports and status reviews. The SSAC continues to seek to identify ways to optimize funds available for assessments and to coordinate multi-species field data collections where possible.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. COSEWIC criteria.

Appendix 2. Chronology of assessments completed by the Species Status Advisory Committee

Appendix 1. COSEWIC Criteria (November 2021 version)

A. Decline in Total Number of Mature Individuals

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
A1. An observed, estimated, inferred or suspected reduction in total number of mature individuals in the last 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is the longer, where the causes of the reduction are: clearly reversible and understood and ceased, based on (and specifying) any of the following*: (a) direct observation (b) an index of abundance appropriate to the taxon (c) a decline in index of area of occupancy, extent of occurrence and/or quality of habitat (d) actual or potential levels of exploitation (e) the effects of introduced taxa, hybridization, pathogens, pollutants, competitors or parasites.	Reduction of $\geq 70\%$	Reduction of $\geq 50\%$
A2. An observed, estimated, inferred or suspected reduction in total number of mature individuals over the last 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is the longer, where the reduction or its causes may not have ceased or may not be understood or may not be reversible, based on (and specifying) any of (a) to (e) under A1.	Reduction of $\geq 50\%$	Reduction of $\geq 30\%$
A3. A reduction in total number of mature individuals projected or suspected to be met within the next 10 years or 3 generations in the future, whichever is longer (up to a maximum of 100 years), based on (and specifying) any of (b) to (e) under A1.	Reduction of $\geq 50\%$	Reduction of $\geq 30\%$
A4. An observed, estimated, inferred, projected or suspected reduction in total number of mature individuals in any 10 year or 3 generation period, whichever is longer (up to a maximum of 100 years in the future), where the time period must include both the past and the future, and where the reduction or its causes may not have ceased or may not be understood or may not be reversible, based on (and specifying) any of (a) to (e) under A1.	Reduction of $\geq 50\%$	Reduction of $\geq 30\%$

*Whereas (a) and (b) are methods to determine the decline in number of mature individuals and (d) and (e) are potential causes, all of (a) through (e) that indicate and/or contribute to the reduction should be stated. In addition, to use (c), there must be a reason to infer or suspect that a decline in IAO, EOO, or quality of habitat will lead to a decline in number of mature individuals that is in excess of the thresholds.

B. Small Distribution Range and Decline or Fluctuation

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
B1. Extent of occurrence estimated to be and/or	$< 5,000 \text{ km}^2$	$< 20,000 \text{ km}^2$
B2. Index of area of occupancy estimated to be and (for either B1 or B2) estimates indicating at least two of a-c:	$< 500 \text{ km}^2$	$< 2,000 \text{ km}^2$
a. Severely fragmented or known to exist at:	≤ 5 locations	≤ 10 locations
b. Continuing decline, observed, inferred or projected, in any of (i) extent of occurrence, (ii) index of area of occupancy, (iii) area,		

extent and/or quality of habitat, (iv) number of locations or subpopulations, (v) number of mature individuals.		
c. Extreme fluctuations in any of (i) extent of occurrence, (ii) index of area of occupancy, (iii) number of locations or subpopulations, (iv) number of mature individuals.		

C. Small and Declining Number of Mature Individuals

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
C. Total number of mature individuals estimated to be:	<250	<2,500
AND at least one of C1 or C2:		
C1. An observed, estimated, or projected continuing decline in total number of mature individuals of at least:	25% in 3 years or one generation, whichever is longer, up to a maximum of 100 years in the future	20% in 5 years or two generations, whichever is longer, up to a maximum of 100 years in the future
or		
C2. A continuing decline observed, estimated, projected, or inferred, in numbers of mature individuals AND at least one of the following three conditions:		
a.(i) No subpopulation estimated to contain:	>50 mature individuals	>250 mature individuals
or		>1000 mature individuals
a.(ii) one subpopulation has:	90-100% of all mature individuals	95-100% of all mature individuals
or		100% of all mature individuals
b. There are extreme fluctuations in number of mature individuals.		

D. Very Small or Restricted Total Canadian Population

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
D. Total number of mature individuals very small or restricted in the form of either of the following:		
D1. Population estimated to have	<250 mature individuals	<1000 mature individuals
or		
D2. For threatened only: Canadian population with a very restricted index of area of occupancy (typically < 20 km ²) or number of locations (typically ≤ 5) such that it is prone to the effects of human activities or stochastic events within a very short time period (1-2 generations) in an uncertain future, and is thus capable of becoming extinct, extirpated or critically* endangered in a very short period of time.	Does not apply	Index of area of occupancy typically <20 km ² or Number of locations typically ≤ 5

E. Quantitative Analysis

Indicator	Endangered	Threatened
E. Quantitative analysis (population projections) showing the probability of extinction or extirpation in the wild is at least	20% within 20 years or 5 generations, whichever is longer, up to a maximum of 100 years	10% within 100 years

***critically endangered (used only to inform application of D2)**

COSEWIC procedures do not allow for a possible status of Critically Endangered; however, these criteria are useful in understanding whether or not a taxon is facing the extremely high risk of extinction in the wild required by D2. Criteria thresholds for Critically Endangered are defined in IUCN (2014). Threshold changes from Endangered are as follows:

A Criterion:

- A1, $\geq 90\%$ population reduction.
- A2, A3 or A4, $\geq 80\%$ population reduction

B Criterion:

- B1, EOO $< 100 \text{ km}^2$
- B2, IAO $< 10 \text{ km}^2$
 - a) Severely fragmented or Number of locations is changed to = 1

C Criterion: Number of mature individuals < 250

- C1, an estimated continuing decline in total number of mature individuals of at least 25% in 3 years or 1 generation, whichever is longer
- C2, a continuing decline, observed, projected, or inferred, in numbers of mature individuals and at least one of the following:
 - (i) No subpopulation estimated to contain more than 50 mature individuals, or
 - (ii) at least 90% of mature individuals in one subpopulation

D1 Criterion: Population estimated to have < 50 mature individuals

E Criterion: Quantitative analysis (population projections) showing the probability of extinction or extirpation in the wild is at least 50% within 10 years or 3 generations, whichever is longer, up to a maximum of 100 years.

Special Concern:

Those wildlife species that are particularly sensitive to human activities or natural events but are not endangered or threatened wildlife species.

Wildlife species may be classified as being of Special Concern if:

- a. the wildlife species has declined to a level of abundance at which its persistence is increasingly threatened by genetic, demographic or environmental stochasticity, but the decline is not sufficient to qualify the wildlife species as Threatened; or
- b. the wildlife species may become Threatened if factors suspected of negatively influencing the persistence of the wildlife species are neither reversed nor managed with demonstrable effectiveness; or
- c. the wildlife species is near to qualifying, under any criterion, for Threatened status; or

- d. the wildlife species qualifies for Threatened status but there is clear indication of rescue effect from extra-limital subpopulations.

Examples of reasons why a wildlife species may qualify for "Special Concern":

- a wildlife species that is particularly susceptible to a catastrophic event (e.g., a seabird population near an oil tanker route); or
- a wildlife species with very restricted habitat or food requirements for which a threat to that habitat or food supply has been identified (e.g., a bird that forages primarily in old-growth forest, a plant that grows primarily on undisturbed sand dunes, a fish that spawns primarily in estuaries, a snake that feeds primarily on a crayfish whose habitat is threatened by siltation); or
- a recovering wildlife species no longer considered to be Threatened or Endangered but not yet clearly secure.

Examples of reasons why a wildlife species may not qualify for "Special Concern":

- a wildlife species existing at low density in the absence of recognized threat (e.g., a large predatory animal defending a large home range or territory); or
- a wildlife species existing at low density that does not qualify for Threatened status for which there is a clear indication of rescue effect.

Guidelines for use of Extinct or Extirpated

A wildlife species may be assessed as extinct or extirpated from Canada if:

- there exists no remaining habitat for the wildlife species and there have been no records of the wildlife species despite recent surveys; or
- 50 years have passed since the last credible record of the wildlife species, despite surveys in the interim; or
- there is sufficient information to document that no individuals of the wildlife species remain alive.

Guidelines for use of Data Deficient

Data Deficient should be used for cases where the status report has fully investigated all best available information yet that information is insufficient to: a) satisfy any criteria or assign any status, or b) resolve the wildlife species' eligibility for assessment.

Examples:

- Records of occurrence are too infrequent or too widespread to make any conclusions about extent of occurrence, population size, threats, or trends.
- Surveys to verify occurrences, when undertaken, have not been sufficiently intensive or extensive or have not been conducted at the appropriate time of the year or under suitable conditions to ensure the reliability of the conclusions drawn from the data gathered.
- The wildlife species' occurrence in Canada cannot be confirmed or denied with assurance.

Data Deficient should **not** be used if: a) the choice between two status designations is difficult to resolve by COSEWIC, or b) the status report is inadequate and has not fully investigated all best available information (in which case the report should be rejected), or c) the information available is minimally sufficient to assign status but inadequate for recovery planning or other such use.

Appendix 2. Chronology of Assessments by the Species Status Advisory Committee

Common Name	Scientific Name	SSAC Assessment	Date of Recommendation:	Designated Status or Reason Not Designated:
Low Northern Rockcress <i>(original assessment)</i>	<i>Braya humilis</i> (formerly <i>Neotorularia humilis</i>)	Endangered	6-Oct-04	Endangered
Gray-cheeked Thrush Reassessed June 21, 2010	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Vulnerable	4-Nov-05	Vulnerable
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe leucorhoa</i>	Not at Risk	No recommendation required.	
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Not at Risk	No recommendation required.	
Redwine Caribou Herd	<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i> (Redwine Population)		SSAC has decided not to assess populations but species as a whole.	
Blowout Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela limbata labradorensis</i>	Data Deficient	Status report being revised due to new information.	
MacKenzie's Sweetvetch <i>(original assessment)</i>	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i> subsp. <i>mackenzii</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06	Endangered
Rattlesnakeroot <i>(original assessment)</i>	<i>Prenanthes racemosa</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06	Endangered
Northern Bog Aster <i>(original assessment)</i>	<i>Symphyotrichum boreale</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06	Endangered
Crowded Wormseed Mustard <i>(original assessment)</i>	<i>Erysimum inconspicuum</i> var. <i>coarctatum</i>	Endangered	21-Oct-06	Endangered
Mountain Fern <i>(original assessment)</i>	<i>Thelypteris quelpaertensis</i>	Vulnerable	21-Oct-06	Vulnerable
Graceful Felt Lichen	<i>Erioderma mollissimum</i>	Endangered	8-May-08	Endangered
Bodin's Milkvetch <i>(original assessment)</i>	<i>Astragalus bodinii</i>	Threatened	29-May-08	Threatened
Shaved Sedge	<i>Carex tonsa</i> var. <i>tonsa</i>	Threatened	29-May-08	Returned to SSAC for re-assessment (new data)
Cutleaf Fleabane <i>(original assessment)</i>	<i>Erigeron compositus</i>	Endangered	29-May-08	Endangered
Feathery False Solomon's Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> subsp. <i>racemosum</i>	Endangered	29-May-08	Endangered
Sharpleaf Aster	<i>Ocelmena acuminata</i>	Threatened	29-May-08	Threatened
Alaska Rein Orchid <i>(original assessment)</i>	<i>Platanthera foetida</i>	Endangered	29-May-08	Endangered
Gmelin's Watercrowfoot	<i>Ranunculus gmelinii</i>	Endangered	29-May-08	Endangered
Tradescant's Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum tradescantii</i>	Threatened	29-May-08	Threatened
Water Pygmyweed	<i>Tillaea aquatica</i>	Vulnerable	29-May-08	Vulnerable

Appendix 3: Chronology of Assessments by the Species Status Advisory Committee (continued, page 2 of 3)

Common Name	Scientific Name	SSAC Assessment	Date of Recommendation:	Designated Status or Reason Not Designated:
Rock Dwelling Sedge	<i>Carex petricosa</i> var. <i>misandroides</i>	Endangered	29-May-08	Endangered
Oval-leaved Creeping Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> var. <i>ovalis</i>	Endangered	29-May-08	Endangered
Lindley's Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum ciliolatum</i>	Endangered	07-Oct-10	Endangered
Arctic Hare	<i>Lepus arcticus</i>	Data Deficient	<i>No recommendation required</i>	
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Vulnerable	07-Oct-10	Vulnerable
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Not at Risk	<i>No recommendation required</i>	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Data Deficient	<i>No recommendation required</i>	
Vreeland's Striped Coralroot	<i>Corallorrhiza striata</i> var. <i>vreelandii</i>	Endangered	07-Oct-10	Endangered
Gray-cheeked Thrush (Newfoundland subspecies)	<i>Catharus minimus</i> <i>minimus</i>	Threatened	07-Oct-10	Threatened
Gray-cheeked Thrush (Northern subspecies)	<i>Catharus minimus</i> <i>aliciae</i>	Not at Risk	<i>No recommendation required</i>	
Wooly Arnica	<i>Arnica angustifolia</i> subsp. <i>tomentosa</i>	Endangered	22-Oct-12	Endangered
Griscom's Arnica	<i>Arnica griscomii</i> subsp. <i>griscomii</i>	Endangered	22-Oct-12	Endangered
Northern Twayblade	<i>Listera borealis</i>	Endangered	25-Sep-13	Endangered
Mountain Bladder Fern (Newfoundland Designatable Unit)	<i>Cystopteris montana</i>	Endangered	25-Sep-13	Endangered
Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Threatened	6-Oct-16	Threatened
Mummichog	<i>Fundulus heteroclitus</i> <i>macrolepidotus</i>	Vulnerable	6-Oct-16	Vulnerable
Low Northern Rockcress (re-assessment)	<i>Braya humilis</i> (formerly <i>Neotorularia humilis</i>)	Confirmed Endangered	Oct-16	Endangered status confirmed
Bank Swallow (review of COSEWIC report)	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Support COSEWIC recommendation of Threatened	15-July-2019	Threatened
Northern Bog Aster (re-assessment)	<i>Symphyotrichum boreale</i>	Confirmed Endangered	16-January-2020	Endangered status confirmed
Rattlesnakeroot (re-assessment)	<i>Prenanthes racemosa</i>	Confirmed Endangered	16-January-2020	Endangered status confirmed
Crowded Wormseed Mustard (re-assessment)	<i>Erysimum inconspicuum</i> var. <i>coarctatum</i>	Confirmed Endangered	16-January-2020	Endangered status confirmed

Appendix 3: Chronology of Assessments by the Species Status Advisory Committee (continued, page 3 of 3)

Common Name	Scientific Name	SSAC Assessment	Date of Recommendation:	Designated Status or Reason Not Designated:
Bodin's Milkvetch (re-assessment)	<i>Astragalus bodinii</i>	Confirmed Threatened	16-January-2020	Threatened status confirmed
Cutleaf Fleabane (re-assessment)	<i>Erigeron compositus</i>	Confirmed Endangered	16-January-2020 ⁺	Endangered status confirmed
MacKenzie's Sweetvetch (re-assessment)	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i> subsp. <i>mackenzii</i>	Threatened	16-January-2020	Threatened
Mountain Fern (re-assessment)	<i>Thelypteris quelpaertensis</i>	Vulnerable	16-January-2020 ⁺	Vulnerable status confirmed
Alaska Rein Orchid (re-assessment)	<i>Platanthera foetida</i>	Endangered	16-January-2020	Endangered status confirmed
Rock Dwelling Sedge (re-assessment)	<i>Carex petricosa</i> var. <i>misandroides</i>	Endangered	10-March-2023	Endangered status confirmed
Lindley's Aster (re-assessment)	<i>Symphyotrichum ciliolatum</i>	Endangered	10-March-2023	Endangered status confirmed
Dwarf Hawksbeard	<i>Askellia pygmaea</i>	Threatened	29-March-2024	Under consideration for listing

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall within 90 days of the minister receiving a written recommendation from SSAC to designate a species, give the minister approval to do one of the following: (a) designate the species under section 7 in the recommended or an equivalent category; (b) designate the species under section 7 in a different category and release to the public the reason for using a different category; or (c) make no designation and release to the public the reason there will be no designation. Section 8 of the *Endangered Species Act*.