

December, 1997

Newfoundland & Labrador Inland Fish &  
Wildlife Advisory Council  
P.O. Box 21352  
St. John's, NF  
AIA 506

ATTENTION: Joanne Smyth

As the hunting season comes to a close. I can't help but feel a sense of urgency, pertaining to the rapid development of our prime wildlife areas. Certain groups of people believe that it is okay to build cabins and roads in every environmentally sensitive area, destroying prime moose, caribou and bird habitats. Do we really need to turn every wilderness area into a new subdivision that expropriates future generations right to safe water and a natural setting?

I believe that it is crucial for the health of us all to feel this sense of connection and freedom. For when this kind of development takes place another piece of our natural heritage is gone forever, giving us little more to look forward to than a concrete jungle.

I am a resident of Western Bay and know the back country area like the back of my hand. I do a fair bit of hiking, fishing & hunting in and around cliffy pond. This area is now untouched by any development. Making it one of the few places left around that wildlife can flourish and people can enjoy a natural setting.

However, just over in Western Bay Line, like other once upon a time wilderness areas is bursting at the seams with cabin development squeezing out wildlife and nature enthusiasts alike. You can't boil the kettle without fear of stepping on someone's property.

I believe *this* is a cardinal sin in a place that had some of the nicest country and peaceful settings anywhere. My little girl will never know what it is like to walk, trout or camp in this once virgin country.

I asked the question, "Can we keep places like cliffy pond area **FREE FOR ALL, NATURAL FOR ALL**", or will we have to pack up the truck and drive six hours to some remote area. I certainly hope it don't come down to that. The pressure to develop is awesome and must be stopped in wilderness areas. Wildlife and plant alike cannot survive without our help.

I hope through this letter that cliffy pond and other wilderness areas like it will not become another Western Bay Line and that our children will continue to enjoy the natural environment they deserve.

Sincerely

Anthony O'Leary  
Western Bay, NF