ORDER ON CAMPING AND LIGHTING OF FIRES IN DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS ISSUED BY THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND LABOUR

WHEREAS Section 23(1) of the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* provides that tenting, camping, lighting a fire, or maintaining a fire are permitted within a Wilderness Area only at sites designated by the Minister, or where no sites are designated, pursuant to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by a licence or order issued by the Minister;

AND WHEREAS Section 28(1) of the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* provides that a person who fails to comply with the terms and conditions of an order or licence issued pursuant to this Act or the Regulations is guilty of an offence;

By the authority vested in me pursuant to Section 23(1) of the Wilderness Areas Protection Act;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That pursuant to Section 23(1) of the *Wilderness Areas Protection Act*, no tenting, camping, lighting a fire or maintaining a fire is permitted within a Wilderness Area except at a site designated by the Minister, or where no site is designated, as prescribed by the following terms and conditions:

A. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR CAMPSITES

- (1) Cutting and removal of vegetation, clearing of brush, and leveling of ground is prohibited. New camp sites that require cutting, clearing, or leveling, may only be established after written authorization has been obtained from the Protected Areas Division of the Department of Environment and Labour.
- (2) All refuse and litter must be "packed out" by tenters and campers. "No trace" camping must be practiced. Campsites must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition at all times.
- (3) To dispose of human waste, a latrine hole must be dug 15-25 cm deep and at least 50 metres away from any trail, or water source. Soiled toilet paper must be buried with the waste, or packed out.
- (4) No more than nine people are permitted at a campsite at any one time.
- (5) Camping is prohibited where indicated by posted notices.

B. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR CAMPFIRES

- Campfires are only permitted in existing campfire rings which have been built on mineral soil or bare rock, or in a fire box or pan supplied by the user. Cutting or removal of vegetation, and disturbance of organic soils are prohibited. Campfire rings must be less than 0.6 metres (2 feet) in diameter, they must have a minimum clearance of 2 metres (6.5 feet) from any flammable materials, and fires must be kept completely contained within the campfire ring. These campfires must be drowned thoroughly, and the ashes stirred repeatedly to ensure that the campfire is completely extinguished.
- All vegetation is protected in Wilderness Areas. Firewood may be collected only from fallen dead wood.
- Campfires are prohibited where indicated by posted notices.

AND TAKE NOTICE

That any notices issued by the Department of Natural Resources respecting closure of woods travel, or bans on open fires, apply to Wilderness Areas.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE

That any person entering a Wilderness Area does so at their own risk. The Province of Nova Scotia shall not be liable for any injury or damage, including death, to any person while in a Wilderness Area.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE

That any inquiries respecting the terms and conditions of this Order may be directed to the local district office of the Department of Natural Resources, or the Department of Environment and Labour, R.R.#1, Belmont, Nova Scotia, B0M 1C0.

Minister, Department of Environment and Labour

Dated at Halifax, Halifax Regional Municipality, Province of Nova Scotia, this day of , 2001.

The Honourable David Morse