




Lake Superior

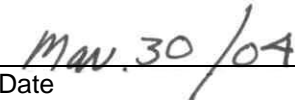
Terms of Reference

APPROVAL STATEMENT

I am pleased to approve these terms of reference for the review of the Lake Superior Provincial Park Management Plan (1995). These terms of reference will provide an agenda and timeline for the management plan review.



Barton Feilders
A/Managing Director
Ontario Parks



Date

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Lake Superior Provincial Park is located 130 kilometres northwest of Sault Ste. Marie and 15 kilometres south of Wawa (Figure 1). The majority of park visitors use the park as a stopover, while travelling across Canada or around Lake Superior. The main recreational activities are hiking, camping, fishing, canoeing and picnicking. The park includes a varied landscape of rugged shoreline, beaches, rolling hills and inland lakes. Lake Superior Provincial Park's 2.6 billion year geological history is one of intense volcanic activity, mountain building, faulting, rifting and glaciation. The park is located in a transition zone between the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Boreal Forests.

The park was established in 1944 by Order-in-Council to protect a significant area of Lake Superior's coastline between Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa. Lake Superior Provincial Park was initially regulated as a 155,647 hectare natural environment park and is located along the rugged eastern shore of Lake Superior (Figure 2). An addition (P292) to the park was identified in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999)*. This park addition encompasses 5,163 hectares and was regulated under the *Provincial Parks Act* in 2002. There are four components to this addition: The MacGregor Cove, Superior Headlands and Montreal Falls natural heritage areas and a group of Crown land parcels south of the Superior Headlands. The MacGregor Cove natural heritage area provides habitat for "arctic coastal" disjunct species. These plants are rare in Ontario representing past arctic climates amongst the now typical forests of red and white pine, sugar maple and yellow birch. The Superior Headlands and Montreal Falls natural heritage areas provide rugged landscapes with a variety of forest vegetation including sugar maple, red maple, white birch, yellow birch, white pine, white spruce and cedar. Lake Superior Provincial Park encompasses a total area of 160,810 hectares.

2.0 BACKGROUND

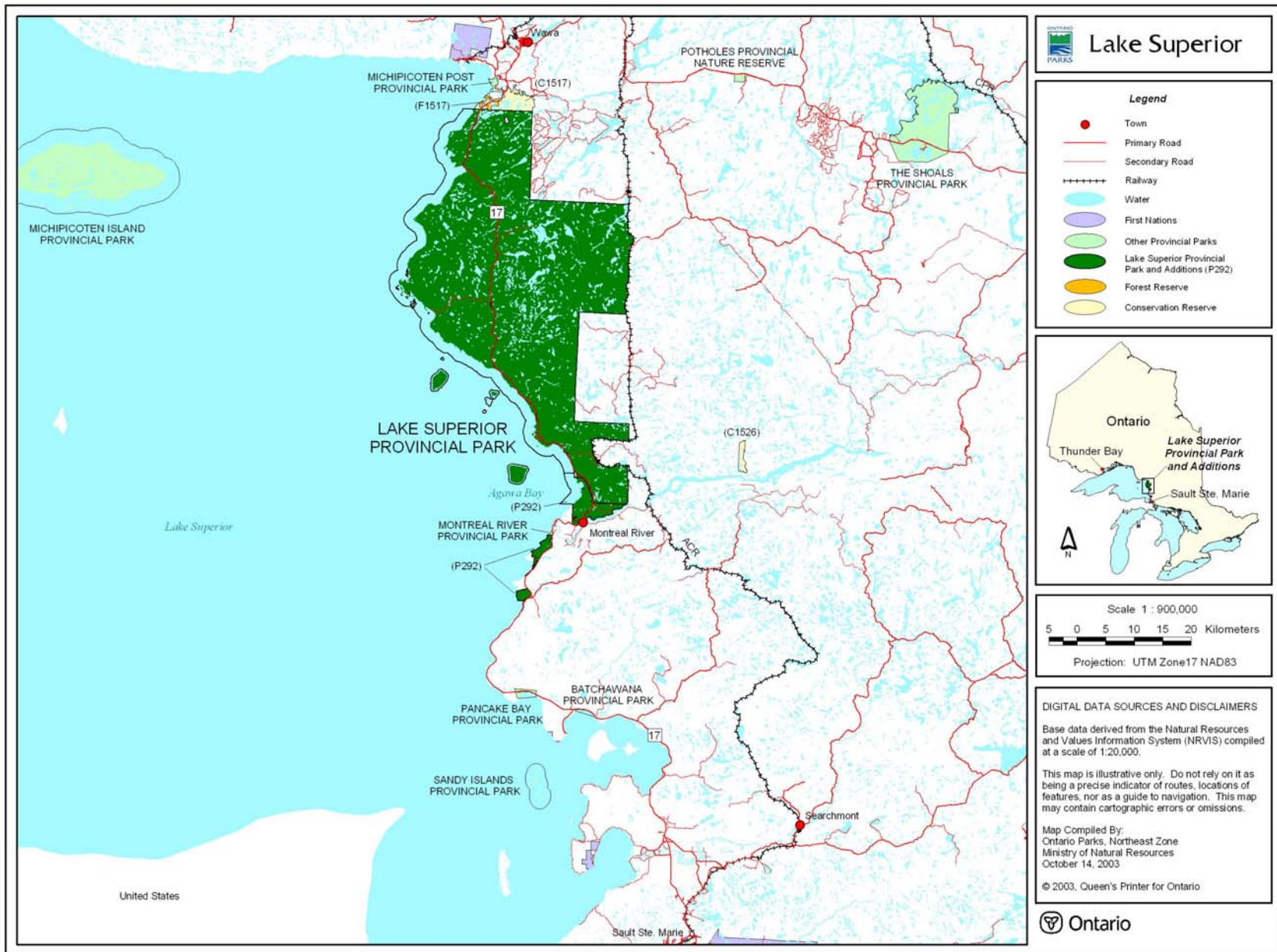
A park management plan provides direction for the protection of natural and cultural heritage resources while providing for appropriate recreational and educational opportunities. Park management plan reviews are carried out to reconfirm with the public that the park management and development policies reflect current resource and recreation needs and conditions and are consistent with goals and objectives for natural environment class parks. Plan reviews also provide an opportunity to report new information regarding park resources and development.

In 1979, the *Lake Superior Provincial Park Master Plan* was approved for the park. On April 1, 1988 a review of the 1979 Master Plan was initiated. The Lake Superior Provincial Park Plan Review involved four phases: background information and issues, issues and policy options, preliminary management plan and the approved park management plan. The result of that process was the *Lake Superior Provincial Park Management Plan (1995)*.

In 1999, *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* was approved and provided direction for the regulation of the Lake Superior Addition (P292) to Lake Superior Provincial Park. The park addition was regulated (O. Reg. 311/02) in 2002 and requires management direction. *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* also provides policy direction for provincial parks within the planning area. A review of the *Lake Superior Provincial Park Management Plan (1995)* will incorporate policy direction identified in the strategy.

This plan review will address park management related to policies identified in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999)*, consider management direction for the park and review existing management prescriptions. The result of this review will provide up-to-date management direction for Lake Superior Provincial Park. These terms of reference signify the start of the *Lake Superior Provincial Park Management Plan (1995)* review process.

FIGURE 1 REGIONAL CONTEXT



This document highlights general background information for the park and park addition, identifies the planning team and their responsibilities and the expected timeline for the review process.

3.0 PLAN AREA

Lake Superior Provincial Park is located in northeastern Ontario in the Wawa District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The park encompasses 160,810 hectares and contains the lands and waters as described under the *Provincial Parks Act* (Figure 2).

Development within the park includes two campgrounds (Rabbit Blanket Lake and Agawa Bay), group camping facilities at Crescent Lake, a visitor centre and amphitheatre at the Agawa Bay campground, and numerous trails, lookouts, parking lots and day use sites accessible from Highway 17 (refer to the *Lake Superior Provincial Park Management Plan, 1995*). The park office is located along Highway 17 at Red Rock Lake. The facility includes the park office, a maintenance workshop, and living quarters for seasonal staff.

Highway 17 runs through the park in a north-south direction and is under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. The Highway is not within the park.

4.0 PLANNING TEAM AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Ontario Parks will guide the park management planning review process for Lake Superior Provincial Park through the planning team. The planning team consists of:

- Park Management Planner, Ontario Parks
- Resource Planner, MNR, Wawa District
- District Biologist, MNR, Wawa District
- Park Superintendent, Lake Superior Provincial Park, Ontario Parks
- Zone Ecologist / Project Biologist, Ontario Parks
- First Nations Liaison, MNR

The responsibilities of the planning team are to:

- Prepare and review drafts of planning documents;
- Organize and deliver public and First Nation consultation, and;
- Address planning questions raised through consultation.

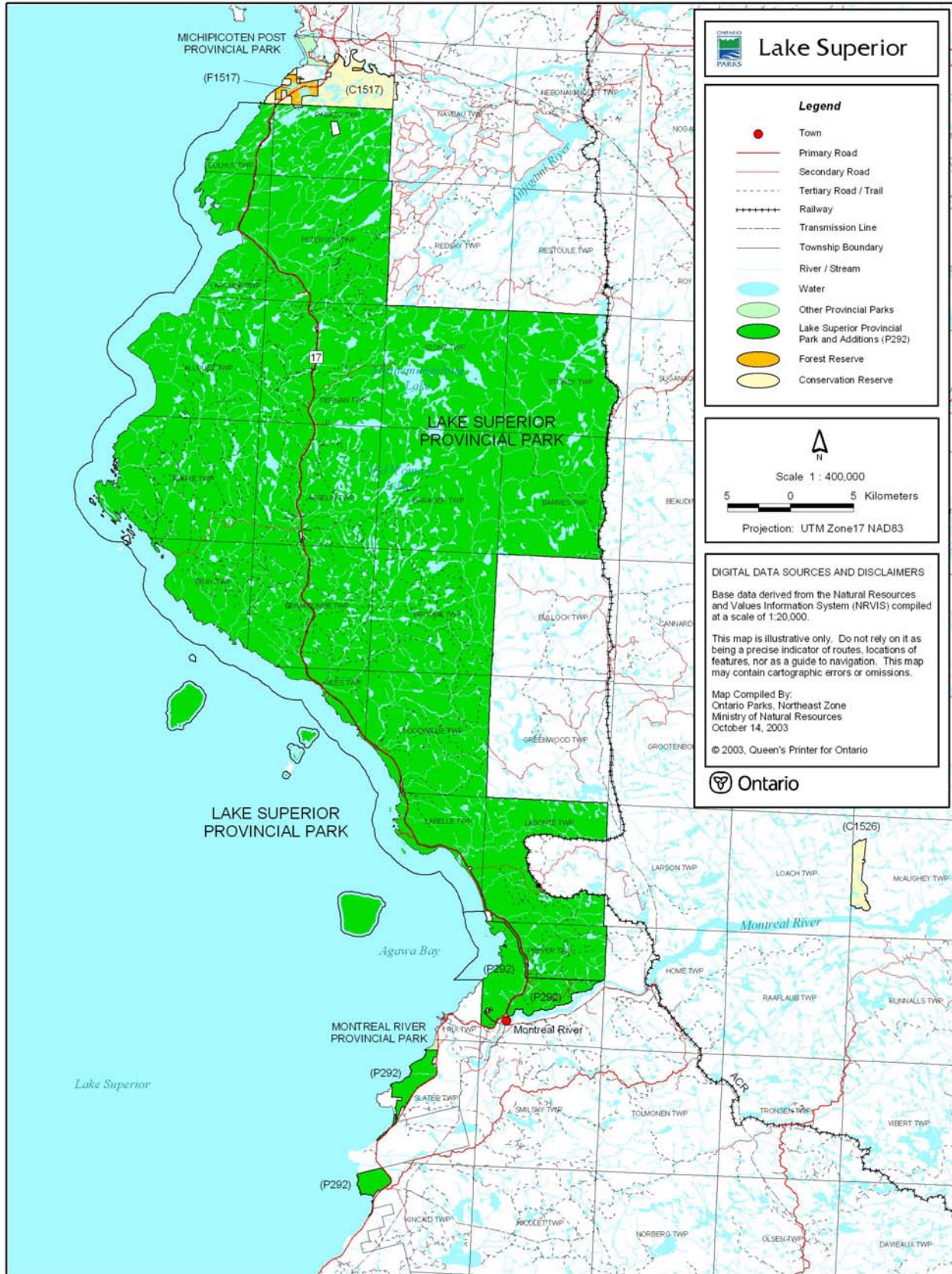
The park management planner will coordinate the management planning process. Planning team members will provide background information, review planning documents and assist in public consultation. Advisors may be approached from time to time to provide additional information and expertise for the project (e.g. life science biologist, district staff).

The park superintendent will be the key contact responsible for answering all inquiries. The park planner will take questions to the planning team for their input and write the planning documents.

The resource planner will be the contact person for the Wawa District MNR offices and the liaison for the local and surrounding First Nation communities.

Ontario Parks will have final approval of the official documents relating to the management planning process.

FIGURE 2 PARK BOUNDARY



5.0 PLANNING PROCESS

A management plan is the final product of the park management plan review process. This process consists of 4 stages:

1. *Terms of Reference*

The approval of these terms of reference will begin the management planning process. This stage involves inviting public participation in the process.

2. *Background Information & Management Options*

This stage involves the inventory, analysis and description of information that will aid in the development of ideas for the next stages of park planning. Management planning options, including alternatives for zoning, protection and enhancement of the natural, cultural and recreational values for the park will be developed and made available for public review and comment.

3. *Preliminary Park Management Plan*

The preliminary management plan contains the proposed policies and direction for the management of the park. The preliminary park management plan is the Ministry's preferred management direction for the park and will be subject to public and First Nation review and comment.

4. *Park Management Plan*

Following analysis and consideration of public and First Nation comments on the preliminary management plan, the planning team will finalize the management plan for approval.

6.0 PLANNING SCHEDULE & BUDGET

The following schedule forecasts the planning stages to complete a management plan as per the *Provincial Parks Management Planning Manual (1994)*. Planning costs will include translation, printing and distribution of approved documents, advertising the availability of and review periods for each document, and miscellaneous expenses including travel costs and equipment.

Stage of Planning Process	Requirements	Dates	Consultation	Budget
Terms of Reference & Invitation to Participate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval by Ontario Parks Managing Director Notice after approval providing public and FN opportunity to comment on management planning Translation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval by March 2004 Public notice Comment deadline summer 2004 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Proposal Notice Newspaper notice Mailing list Meetings as requested 	\$ 3,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notices Translation Printing / Copying
Background Information & Management Options Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of existing and new background information Notice that background information & management options are available for a 45 day review period Translation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval in autumn 2004 Public notice Comment Deadline winter 2004/2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspaper notice Local meetings and/or presentations as required Requirements as defined by the Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual EBR Proposal update 	\$ 6,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notices Translation Printing / Copying
Preliminary Park Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First proposals of policies to direct park management Opportunity to review for 45 days Translation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval in Spring 2005 Public notice Comment deadline spring 2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Proposal Notice update Newspaper notice Mailing list Meetings as requested 	\$ 8,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notices Translation Printing
Park Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of public and FN comments on preliminary plan Internal reviews & refinements, approval, plan production Translation Public and FN opportunity to inspect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval in summer 2005 Public notice Comment deadline autumn 2005 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBR Decision Notice Newspaper notice Mail notice Distribution of approved management plans 	\$ 8,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notices Translation Printing

* Summer: June 21-September 20; Autumn: September 21 – December 20; Winter: December 21 – March 19; Spring: March 20 – June 20

7.0 PUBLIC AND FIRST NATION CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION METHODS

Individuals representing government agencies (e.g. MNM and other ministries), local First Nation communities, local municipalities as well as those representing public and private sector interests will be consulted to provide additional information and expertise for the project.

First Nations will be invited to participate by reviewing planning documents and offering their ideas in the planning process. In this way, the First Nation community perspective will be actively reflected in the project.

Lake Superior Provincial Park is within a designated bilingual area. The management planning process will adhere to the *French Language Services Act*.

Throughout the park management planning process, several methods of consultation will be used, as specified below:

Mailing Lists

- Mandatory Mailing List as per provincial park policy (PM 11.02.02);
- First Nation Communities (Michipicoten First Nation, Batchawana First Nation)
- Local municipalities of Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa.
- Area residents and businesses showing interest in the project.
- Property owners and Land Use Permit holders within or immediately adjacent to properties.
- Tourism interests
- Fur Harvesters, BMA license holders, Baitfish operators
- Other individuals who request to be on the mailing list.

Newspaper Notices

- Newspaper notices will appear in the following local newspapers: Algoma News Review, The Sault Star, Sault Ste. Marie This Week, Chapleau Express.

Meetings

- Meetings will be held on request or as the planning team deems necessary over the duration of the project.

Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry

A registry proposal file will be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights registry during all plan stages (i.e. terms of reference, background information and management options, preliminary park management plan, approved plan). Public comments will be accepted for 45 days following each posting. A registry decision file will be posted for 45 days once the plan has been approved.

http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/ebr/english/index.htm

Comment Sheet

A comment sheet will be available at each stage for public and First Nation input and submissions will be directed to the planning team. Copies of all documents will be available. Public and First Nation comments will be summarized for each stage and will be a source of input for subsequent stages.

Ontario Government

Ontario Parks/local MNR offices (e.g. Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa) will make available all Lake Superior park planning documents.

E-mail message/notice will be issued to Ontario Parks, MPs & MPPs, MNR District Managers and front-line staff 2 to 3 days prior to public release of planning documents.

Relevant planning documents will be circulated to MNR and NE Zone staff, Ontario Parks main office staff and the Communications Services Branch. Park planning documents will be available to view online at <http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/invit.html>

All comments received will be considered during the completion of each stage of the process to develop the Lake Superior Provincial Park Management Plan.

8.0 INTEGRATION

Integration of the various resource management and stewardship interests will be addressed at appropriate stages of the management planning process.

Internal Integration:

Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999), Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Planning Policies (1992) and the Ontario Provincial Parks Management Planning Manual (1994) will guide this management planning process.

The terms of reference, combined background information/management options, preliminary management plan and the recommended management plan will be circulated for review to Ontario Parks and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources district offices in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa.

Ontario Parks and the planning team will identify significant resource values within the park environment, and suggest management options that would be considered within the existing provincial park policy framework.

Staff from other ministry programs may be asked to serve as resource contacts during the public and First Nation consultation phase of the park management planning process.

Advance copies of all communications products will be shared with the Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa Districts of the OMNR.

External Integration:

The park superintendent will liaise with First Nations, tourist operators, resource users and land use permit holders.

Meetings may be held with key stakeholders to discuss the park management planning process, issues, options, etc.

Existing technical reports and documents pertaining to Lake Superior Provincial Park will be reviewed and incorporated, as appropriate, into the park management planning process.

9.0 SELECTED REFERENCES

OMNR, 1986. *Lake Superior Provincial Park, Draft Preliminary Management Plan.*

OMNR, 1992. *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies.*

OMNR, 1994. *Ontario Provincial Park Management Planning Manual.*

OMNR, 1995. *Lake Superior Provincial Park Management Plan.*

OMNR, 1999. *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy.*

OMNR, 2000. *Ontario Provincial Park Policy as Amended by the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy.*

OMNR, 2003. *Crown Land Use Policy Atlas – Policy Reports. Lake Superior & Lake Superior Addition, P292.*