



Alternative Transportation in Fundy National Park

A comprehensive analysis of Fundy National Park with an eye to shifting transportation behaviour

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Parks Canada has set two ambitious goals for its national parks:

- to protect representative natural areas
- to encourage public enjoyment of its parks

Given what we now know about the impacts of particular human uses on natural systems, finding a balance between these two ideals is not an easy task. Our national parks have traditionally been designed to serve people in cars and other personal vehicles; a system that has taken its toll on the environment on both local and global scales. While we would not know our parks in the way that we do today if it were not for the proliferation of the personal vehicle, Parks Canada would be better equipped to fulfill its mandate by shifting to more sustainable behavior in some of the country's most culturally valued natural areas.

The purpose of my study was to lay the groundwork for aligning the transportation network and travel behaviour at Fundy National Park, with Parks Canada's goals. After an extensive review of strategies used in other North American parks, I performed a preliminary evaluation of their applicability in the Fundy context. I present the following actions:

Suggested actions to align the transportation network and behaviour with Parks Canada's goals

- Improve information about how, when, where and why to choose alternative travel
- Develop pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure in the headquarters area of the park
- Extend trails to connect popular destinations
- Execute further research into the feasibility of a public transit service in the park

Parks Canada is in a unique position to promote more sustainable transportation because a national park's aesthetic setting creates a perfect stage for inspiring change and engaging visitors in supporting conservation values. By enhancing options for alternative travel, Parks Canada will foster more "up close and personal" park experiences while helping to create an atmosphere of shared environmental stewardship.