

# Peninsula plant added to endangered species

A Northern Peninsula plant is about to be listed as threatened under the province's Endangered Species Act.

Porsild's Bryum is a tiny moss with only six known locations in the province on the tip of the Northern Peninsula. The majority of its Canadian population occurs in Newfoundland.

Environment and Conservation Minister Tom Osborne said the species will be added to the endangered species list following assessments by the Species Status Advisory Committee (SSAC) and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

Also being added to the list are the endangered Red Crossbill, a small bird found in forested areas across Newfoundland, and the Low Northern Rockcress, a perennial herbaceous plant in the mustard family.

"We will continue to take the necessary action to protect species which are in danger of becoming extinct," said Mr. Osborne, noting the residences of the species will also be protected under the Act.

"Listing these species is a formal and legal recognition of their plight and that these species need extra protection offered by the Endangered Species Act," continued the

minister.

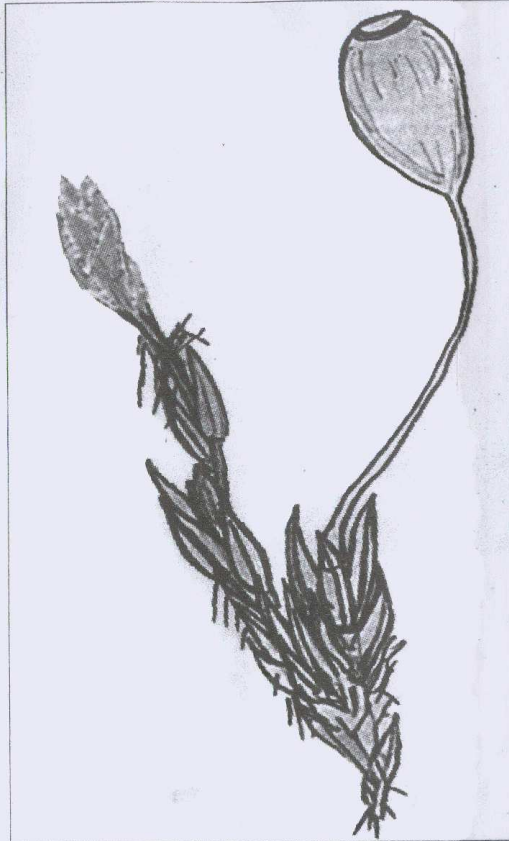
Mr. Osborne pointed out that the criteria used by SSAC and COSEWIC is recognized nationally and internationally to provide objective assessments of the status of particular species and therefore the provincial government supports the use of these listing processes.

Recovery teams and recovery plans will now be established to offer protection to the species. Under the Act, recovery plans are required within one year for endangered species and within two years for those threatened.

"A recovery team will be struck in the very near future for the Red Crossbill, while a recovery team that already exists for plants of limestone barren habitat will incorporate the two newly listed plant species in its recovery efforts," said Mr. Osborne.

Recovery teams consist of stakeholders, researchers and wildlife managers and other interested parties.

"For example, in the case of the Red Crossbill, people from the forest industry and forest managers will be invited to participate in recognition of the role they can play in habitat management," added the minister. "The recovery team that exists for plants is already incorporating community involvement on the Northern Peninsula into the team's plans and activities."



Mr. Osborne said listing the species under the Endangered Species Act reaffirms the province's commitment under the Accord

for the Conservation of Species at Risk signed in 1996 to protect and legally list species at risk.

"This province boasts



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF ENDANGERED SPECIES  
Photograph and illustration show Porsild's Bryum, a tiny moss with only six known locations in the province.

many unique plant and animal species," said Mr. Osborne. "Government will take the necessary action to ensure the protection of these species,

which are an important part of our environment and natural heritage."

This province has 23 species of plants and animals listed under the Endangered Species Act, which includes eight endangered, seven threatened and eight vulnerable species, subspecies and populations.