

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SABLE ISLAND'S FUTURE A NATIONAL TREASURE AT RISK

HALIFAX, NS: In partnership with CONSiDER iT DONE, the first annual "Great Sable Island Expedition" trip lottery was Sable Island Preservation Trust's first foray into a major fundraising campaign. This highly collaborative effort demonstrated deep support for Sable Island from all sectors: federal and provincial governments, industry, volunteers, and those who purchased tickets.

Sable Trust is excited about the future fundraising opportunities underway with CONSiDER iT DONE, including next year's trip lottery. However, this type of fundraising will not solve the underlying issues faced by Sable Island.

Sable Trust's goal is the long-term conservation and preservation of Sable Island. A continuous human presence is necessary to conserve and protect the Island. The Trust believes that the federal government is the stakeholder best able to manage the core infrastructure of Sable Island, and that Sable Trust is the best vehicle for awareness-building, education, and research promotion through targeted fundraising. Sable Island Preservation Trust continues to work cooperatively with the key stakeholders towards this end, recognizing that new money from Ottawa is needed to supplement regional budgets to make this possible.

A NATIONAL TREASURE DESERVES NATIONAL SUPPORT.

Since its inception in 1998, Sable Trust has been struggling to locate the nearly **one million dollars** needed each year to maintain the life support systems required for an ongoing human presence on the Island. This sometimes overwhelming and complex effort has impeded progress on conservation, research, education and awareness-building for Sable Island - activities better suited to volunteers, and activities for which volunteers have the most passion.

Outstanding media coverage during the fundraising campaign boosted awareness of Sable Island and its issues, increased contacts and memberships in the Trust, and raised funds for an important conservation project - road repairs at West Light. The main road from the Station to the West Light area is used by all Island operators. Over many years, the roadway has been eroded by wind action, and parts of it are now impassable or hazardous, and in some areas the erosion is undercutting stable vegetation. This project is expected to be completed over the fall and winter by Sable Trust and Environment Canada staff.

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For further information, please contact:

April Hennigar
President
Sable Island Preservation Trust
Tel: (902) 425-7225
Email: president@sabletrust.ns.ca