



As per my obligations under the **Trails Act**, I am pleased to report on the progress towards developing a strategic management plan for the Confederation Trail.

My department leads policy development, maintenance, and repairs on the Confederation Trail. In the Fall of 2023, Transportation and Infrastructure launched a comprehensive engagement process. We needed to learn how people use the trail and what is important to them and hear their ideas about potential future enhancements. To encourage the greatest participation, an independent third-party contractor led the engagement process.

The engagement drew input from thousands of Islanders, stakeholders, and visitors. The consultation attracted a broad range of participants across the Island, with diverse lived experience and interests. Online surveys, in-person community workshops, and written submissions provided inclusive and accessible opportunities for public participation.

Once engagement was completed, a [What We Heard](#) report was published. It summarizes the feedback and insights gathered across all consultation activities. The key themes that emerged include:

- Safety
- Infrastructure Improvements
- User Group Accessibility
- Environmental Sustainability
- Tourism Considerations

Safety on the Confederation Trail was the prominent theme throughout the engagement. To address this concern, it was announced that [motorized vehicles](#) will be restricted from the Confederation Trail. While this decision was based on safety concerns, it is also a significant policy decision for the future of the trail.

Following the publication of the What We Heard report, the independent contractor has been continuing to research and learn about trail use best practices from other areas in Canada and the United States. This research, combined with input through the engagement period, will help the contractor to develop recommendations. The department expects to receive the recommendation in the summer of 2024. The public will receive notification that the recommendations are posted online.

The department intends to engage partners representing user groups and other stakeholders to assist in prioritizing enhancements that could be phased in over time. When the department met

with trail partners in winter 2024, they showed a strong willingness to support the long-term strategic planning of the Confederation Trail.

This engagement will foster collaboration and better align strategic planning and opportunities between the Confederation trail and the trails that are independent from the provincial government. Non-profit organizations, volunteers, and clubs work tirelessly to make other trails a positive recreation experience for Islanders and visitors.

Over the last several years, off-highway vehicle sport and recreation is gaining popularity. The Province has committed funding to support the PEI ATV Federation plan and develop a legal, safe, and sustainable tip-to-tip trail for ATVs. This project will have positive economic benefits by attracting visitors to the Island and offering Islanders a reason to not travel out of the province for a unique riding experience.

In closing, the conclusion of the Confederation Trail engagement and recommendations will be the beginning of developing a strategic management plan for PEI. It will take time and collaboration with partners. As the work moves forward, information and progress updates will be provided.

Hon. Ernie Hudson
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
June 5, 2024