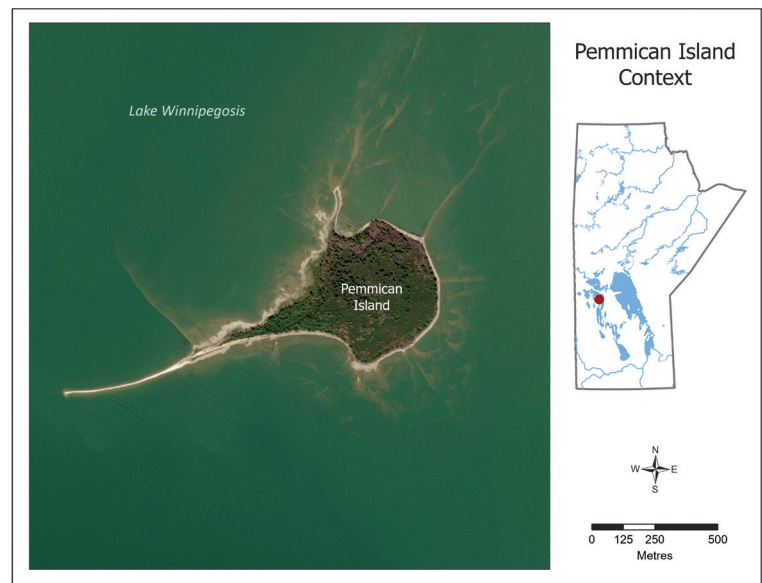


## A Proposal to Designate Pemmican Island Provincial Park

Pemmican Island is located in the north basin of Lake Winnipegosis, approximately 175 kilometres north of Dauphin, 20 kilometres (over water) southwest of Chemawawin Cree Nation reserve land, and roughly 23 kilometres (over water and land) east of Sapotaweyak Cree Nation reserve land. Several other Indigenous communities have nearby territory or interests in the area, including Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation and Minegoziibe Anishinabe (formerly Pine Creek First Nation). The island is also located within the Métis Natural Resource Harvesting Zone. Pemmican Island was originally designated a park reserve in 2001 in order to provide interim protection to lands representing the Mid-Boreal Lowlands Ecoregion as well as important wildlife habitat.

Pemmican Island is 27.48 hectares in size. The 1.21 kilometre long island is comprised of limestone outcrops and cliffs, boulders, gravel, and sand. A long spit of limestone gravel extends southwest of the island, rising a metre out of the lake, while inland areas contain mature forest stands of American elm, Manitoba maple, and trembling aspen. Limestone cliffs on the east and south shores of the island are separated from the flat, sandy beaches by bands of trees. The limestone cliffs helped protect this area of the island from the effects of glaciation and erosion.



Pemmican Island provides habitat for a variety of colonial waterbirds. The proposed provincial park will protect the nesting grounds of double-crested cormorants, a species protected under The Wildlife Act. Several other bird species protected by federal and provincial legislation have also been detected on the island, including American white pelican, herring gull, ring-billed gull, Caspian tern and common merganser.

## The History of Pemmican Island in the Provincial Park System

Pemmican Island was first designated as a park reserve in June 2001. The designation of an area as a park reserve is an interim measure that provides time for appropriate consultation to take place with Indigenous communities and stakeholders. The park reserve designation was renewed in December 2006 and 2011 to allow for continued discussions regarding designating the reserve as a provincial park. The final park reserve designation was allowed to expire in 2016, to facilitate the issuance of a Mineral Exploration Licence (MEL) on the island. Manitoba committed to re-engage with Indigenous communities and renew the process towards the permanent protection of Pemmican Island once the MEL expired. The MEL expired in 2022, and Manitoba is now prepared to designate the island as a provincial park, provided that the Indigenous communities with traditional territory in the area are supportive of the proposed designation and pending the results of the public engagement process.

## Proposal

- To permanently protect the 27.48 hectares of land illustrated on the map below as Pemmican Island Provincial Park, and classify it as a natural park
- To designate the lands within the park under the backcountry land use category (LUC)

Areas designated under the backcountry LUC contribute to Manitoba's network of protected and conserved areas by legally prohibiting commercial logging, mining, hydroelectric development, oil and gas development, exploration for or harvest of peat, and any other activity that may significantly and adversely affect habitat.

The Provincial Parks Act specifies that provincial parks are dedicated to the people of Manitoba. Provincial parks are recognized as special places that play an important role in the protection of natural lands and the quality of life for Manitobans. The rights of Indigenous peoples to access this area for hunting, trapping, fishing and other traditional pursuits would continue to be respected.



*Double-crested Cormorants*

# Share Your Views

We want to hear from you. Your input will help shape the future of Pemmican Island. Please visit EngageMB.ca to provide your opinion on the proposal to designate the park.

Comments may also be mailed, faxed or emailed to:

## Pemmican Island Provincial Park Proposal

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