



CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
COMMISSION CANADIENNE POUR L'UNESCO

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COMMUNIQUÉ
For immediate release

Joggins Fossil Cliffs, Nova Scotia, inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List

Ottawa, July 9, 2008. The World Heritage Committee, meeting at its 32nd session in Québec City, has officially designated Joggins Fossil Cliffs, Nova Scotia, as Canada's newest World Heritage Site. The Joggins Fossil Cliffs are a 689 hectare palaeontological site along the coast of Nova Scotia and have been described as the "Coal Age Galapagos", due to their wealth of fossils from the Carboniferous period (354 to 290 million years ago). The cliffs continue to yield an almost inexhaustible supply of new and important fossils, including an array of early reptiles and amphibians as well as the earliest land snails. The preserved plants and animals document the period in Earth history when animals first evolved from the water onto land.

UNESCO's 1972 *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* is the international instrument for the identification, protection and preservation of world heritage. The Convention established the World Heritage List as a means of recognizing that the protection and preservation of some places, either natural or cultural, are of sufficient importance to the common heritage of humanity to be the responsibility of the international community as a whole. Canada now has 15 World Heritage Sites and has adhered to the Convention since 1976.

The World Heritage Convention is the most universal of all UNESCO conventions with 185 of the 193 member States of UNESCO having ratified it. The World Heritage Committee is comprised of 21 States Parties to the Convention and is currently chaired by Canada.

In Canada, Parks Canada is the lead agency for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. More information about the Joggins Fossil Cliffs and its World Heritage designation is available at the Parks Canada site

http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?id=1220&andor1=nr

Information about the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee is available at <https://www.canada2008.ca/en/>

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO operates under the aegis of the Canada Council for the Arts. Its role is to act as a forum for governments and civil society, and to mobilize the participation of Canadian organizations and committed individuals in UNESCO's mandated areas: education, natural and social sciences, culture and communication and information. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the only member of the United Nations System to have National Commissions performing this role in its Member States.