

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS



BUFFERS IN KESPUKWITK
2026 Fall Science Conference
Wed-Thurs, 18-19 November 2026



Venue: Caledonia Fire Hall, 8758 Highway 8, Queens, NS B0T, Canada (44.369442, -64.970679)

Conference website: mtri.speciesatrisk.ca/conference2026_buffers

The Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve Association (SWNBRA) is joining The Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute (MTRI) to host its annual fall science conference. SWNBRA is a UNESCO recognized organization with a principal mandate to demonstrate a working Buffer Area compatible with the ecological integrity of its Core, Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site and the Tobeatic Wilderness Area. The conference will focus on the role of buffers in Kespukwitk, from site to landscape scales. Buffers protect sensitive ecosystems and habitats while allowing industry and other intensive human activities to take place. In this two-day conference, the importance and efficacy of buffers will be examined through plenaries, contributed oral and poster sessions, and panel discussions.

We invite presentations focused on buffers in Kespukwitk/Southwest Nova Scotia, including topics such as: the role of buffers in maintaining the integrity of sensitive ecosystems and Species at Risk (SAR) habitat; methods for establishing buffers; effectiveness of different buffer widths; legislated versus voluntary buffers; and the role of privately stewarded lands in buffer zones of Biosphere Reserves. We will also consider presentations on conservation topics relevant to environmental stewardship, community engagement, and the research, monitoring or management of Species at Risk and ecosystems in Kespukwitk/Southwest Nova Scotia. Throughout, we aim to encourage *Etuaptmumk* —“two-eyed seeing,” and the need to learn to live sustainably in the natural world – the *Netukulimk* way of the Mi'kmaw.

We encourage participation from members of the Kespukwitk Conservation Collaborative, academic researchers, students, young scientists, citizen scientists, government, and other individuals and organizations working on related conservation projects across Atlantic Canada.

Those interested in presenting an Oral Paper or a Poster Presentation (printed, maximum 4 x 4 ft), must submit an abstract of their presentation by October 14. Submitters will be notified about a space on the program by October 23. Accepted abstracts will be posted on the conference website.

Abstract Submission Guidelines and Instructions to Presenters are posted on the conference website. Registration details, including fees, will be posted on the website in early October.

Email your abstracts to: buffers2026@gmail.com

Deadline: October 14, 2026