



A Movement Starts

A newly appointed university professor and his family traveled across the province in the late 1970s. They became curious about the beautiful little horses roaming freely beside the Trans Canada Highway. After much investigation, they discovered these animals were important to the history of Newfoundland. The Newfoundland Pony Society was formed in 1979 and began lobbying to save the pony.

In June 1994, the Newfoundland Pony's plight reached the floor of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Labrador where the following resolution laid the groundwork for its protection and preservation.

"WHEREAS the Newfoundland Pony represents a significant element or the working heritage of our province, providing transportation, working power in the woods, in the fisheries and in farming and in being the virtual engine of outport and rural life for hundreds of years;

"AND WHEREAS the Newfoundland Pony is a distinctive breed of horse unique to our province having developed from various strains of Moorland ponies and other horses brought here in the 17, 18, and 19th centuries and through natural breeding and adaptation evolved characteristics especially suited to our climate and needs of our people;

"AND WHEREAS economic change and the lack of recognition and protection for this important part of our living

cultural heritage has caused the number of ponies to dwindle to the point where there are less than 100 breeding animals;

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly urge government to recognize the importance of the Newfoundland Pony by introducing legislation establishing the pony as a Heritage Animal;

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that measures be taken to assist in the establishment of the Newfoundland Pony as a recognized breed including providing or endorsing means or acknowledging individual animals as Newfoundland Ponies;

"AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that government protect Newfoundland Ponies from being exported from the province for meat and take steps to encourage the growth and development of the Newfoundland Pony population. "

(Moved by NDP MHA Jack Harris and carried unanimously.)



In 1996 the *Heritage Animals Act* was passed into law providing for a mechanism to ensure the survival of these animals in the province.

On September 9, 1997 the Newfoundland Pony became the first animal to be designated a Heritage Animal under this Act and the Newfoundland Pony Society was designated as the organization responsible for the preservation and protection of this animal.

Founded in 1979 and incorporated in 1981, the Society has adopted as its Mission Statement:

"A Charitable organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and promoting the Newfoundland Pony as a distinct heritage animal. We encourage ethical breeding standards, maintain a registration process and foster public awareness of the pony's history and its future. "

The Society is a registered Charity (#899 123 053 RRO 001) and its activities include educational and promotional activities, fundraising and maintenance of the Newfoundland Pony Registry. At present, the Society is moving toward attaining purebred status for the Newfoundland Pony under the Animal Pedigree Act of Canada.



For more information, please contact:

The Newfoundland Pony Society
P.O. Box 8132
St. John's, Newfoundland
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or
www.newfoundlandpony.com

If you would like to become a member of our Society or make a donation, please complete the following and return:

Name	
Address	
Postal Code	Phone #
Amount	(donation or membership)
Email Address	

Membership Fees: \$15 Junior/Senior,\$20 Single Adult,\$30 for Family.

All membership fees and donations are tax deductible. Newsletters are published quarterly.