You Be The Judge
The use of All Terrain Vehicles in Newfoundland and Labrador

All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use in Newfoundland and Labrador has grown steadily in recent years. There are now well over 40,000 ATVs, with most of them being used on the island portion of the province. In 1994, the Provincial Government established restrictions that limited the use of these vehicles to approved areas and established trails in order to protect fragile **ecosystems** from further damage. ATV use was restricted in **wetland** areas including **bogs** and **marshes** and mossy **barrens**. In such areas, ATV use was permitted only on trails approved by the Department of Environment and Lands.

However, after standing firm on this issue for more than five years, the Provincial Government lifted the regulations in 1999, permitting hunters to retrieve big game using these vehicles, no matter how sensitive the terrain. Today, ATVs allow access to hundreds of previously unreachable areas of the country.

Resolution: Government should place greater restrictions on ATV use.

Group 1: The first group is expected to uphold the *resolution* (Government should place greater restrictions on ATV use.) by presenting arguments in its favour, and debating the case the second group offers against the resolution.

- ATVs have defaced our bogs, wetlands, sand dunes, and hill sides, leaving scars of serious habitat destruction that will not heal for many years.
- ATVs allow access into areas of the country that were previously untouched by human activity.
- Greater ATV use will destroy even more of our pristine wilderness and natural spaces.

Group 2: The second group is expected to argue against the *resolution*, (Government should not place greater restrictions on ATV use,) and to debate arguments offered by the first team.

- ATV dealerships feel that serving commercial ATV markets gives the local economy a significant boost.
- ATVs allow older people and people with disabilities to participate in big game hunting and other outdoor recreational activities.
- Traditionally, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador have had the right to access all public land and sea.

Character Cards:

Environmentalist
Hunter
Photographer / Artist
Hiker
Senior Citizen
Fisherperson
Canoeist / Kayaker
Berry Picker
Hunting Lodge Outfitter
Concerned Citizen
ATV Dealership Owner
Wildlife Biologist
Government Representative

In the space provided, write a brief character sketch of your chosen character, and any points you would like to raise during your debate: