

Briefing Book

Appearance before the

Standing Committee on

Environment and Sustainable Development

November 4, 2020

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Speech from the Throne

Question:

What are the environmental priorities of the government identified in the Speech from the Throne?

Answer:

- While the Government's number one priority remains to protect Canadians from Covid-19, the Speech from the Throne made clear that we must take bold action on multiple interconnected fronts: the economy, equality, and the environment.
- In this context, the Government intends on making climate action a cornerstone of its plan to support and create a million jobs across the country.
- Overall, the Speech from the Throne outlined 20 key commitments related to the environment.
- These include, among others, commitments to:
 - Exceed Canada's 2030 climate goals
 - Legislate Canada's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050
 - Continue policy of putting a price on pollution, while putting that money back in the pockets of Canadians
 - Use nature-based solutions to fight climate change, including by planting two billion trees
 - Invest in reducing the impact of climate-related disasters
 - Protect a quarter of Canada's land and a quarter of Canada's oceans in five years
 - Create the Canada Water Agency
 - Modernize the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA)
 - Ban harmful single-use plastics next year and ensure that more plastic is recycled

**Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable
Development**

Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Members

(12)

**Matt Jeneroux
Yvan Baker
Laurel Collins
Dan Albas (Vice-Chair)
Lloyd Longfield
Joël Godin**

**Monique Pauzé (Vice-Chair)
Brad Redekopp
Francis Scarpaleggia (Chair)
Peter Schiefke
Raj Saini
Ya'ara Saks**

Peter Schiefke



Political Affiliation: Liberal
Constituency: [Vaudreuil—Soulanges](#)
Province / Territory: Quebec
Preferred Language: English / French

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Peter was first elected as a Member of Parliament by the citizens of Vaudreuil-Soulanges in October 2015. Shortly thereafter he was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth by Prime Minister Trudeau and in 2018 was given the additional responsibilities of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction. In 2019 Peter was re-elected and was shortly thereafter appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

Prior to entering into politics Peter worked in numerous capacities lending his expertise in sustainable development to both domestic and international causes. His passion for positive social change inspired his work as the Director and Co-Founder of Youth Action Canada, the CEED Program based in Uganda, East Africa and his work as the National Director of Climate Reality Canada, an organization founded by former US Vice-President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore. For his work he has been awarded a Federal Minister's Commendation, the YMCA Peace Prize and the Forces Avenir Award for Peace Justice and Humanitarian Aid.

Peter holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Concordia University as well as a Master of Science in Renewable Resources from McGill University and currently lives with his wife and two children in his riding of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Quebec.

Francis Scarpaleggia (Chair)



Political Affiliation: Liberal
Constituency: [Lac-Saint-Louis](#)
Province / Territory: Quebec
Preferred Language: English

Liberal Party of Canada Caucus Chair

Main Issues - Water

First elected to the House of Commons in 2004, Francis Scarpaleggia was re-elected to Parliament in 2006, 2008, 2011, and 2015. Starting in 2011, he has served as Chair of the National Liberal Caucus.

Francis has made the protection of Canada's freshwater a personal priority. With this goal in mind, he has tabled several water-related bills and motions in the House of Commons. Namely, he has presented motions to establish a national water strategy as well as to create a Council of the St. Lawrence to better protect this vital waterway. In terms of legislation, he has introduced bills to ban bulk-water exports, prohibit the dumping of toxic mining waste into water bodies, and improve the process of developing Canada's drinking-water guidelines. He also initiated an in-depth study by the House of Commons environment committee into the impact of the oil sands on Canada's water resources and wrote *The Hidden Dimension: Water and the Oil Sands*, the Liberal report from the study.

Since first being elected, Francis has served on the following House of Commons committees: Public Safety and National Security (Vice Chair), Environment and Sustainable Development (Vice Chair), Transport, Canadian Heritage, and Government Operations and Estimates. He was also Chair of the House of Commons Special Committee on Electoral Reform.

Francis was a founding member of the all-party Parliamentary Committee on Palliative and Compassionate Care. In this capacity, he organized and chaired hearings in Montreal in the fall of 2010 to hear testimony for the Committee's report, entitled *Not to be Forgotten: Care of Vulnerable Canadians*.

Before entering elected politics, Francis served as senior political attache to his predecessor, Clifford Lincoln, for over a decade. Prior to that, he taught business administration at Montreal's Dawson College. His time as an educator was preceded by several years working in the private sector, including as a corporate financial analyst.

Francis did his undergraduate work in economics at McGill University and earned a master's degree in economics from Columbia University, in New York. He later obtained an MBA from Concordia University.

Francis lives with his wife and two children in Kirkland.

Raj Saini



Political Affiliation: Liberal
Constituency: [Kitchener Centre](#)
Province / Territory: Ontario
Preferred Language: English / French

Main Issues – International

Raj has deep roots in the Kitchener-Waterloo community, starting with owning and operating an award-winning pharmacy for over 20 years. As the owner of Greenbrook Pharmacy, Raj gained a true appreciation for the challenges, and the opportunities, of running a small business, and the importance of helping people of all ages live longer, healthier lives.

Raj is a proud Rotarian of many years, a former board member of the Canadian International Council (Waterloo Region Branch), and a long-time champion of Liberal values. He is passionate about growing the local economy, creating more well-paying jobs, and finding, smart, fiscally responsible ways to help protect the health of people and the environment.

Since 2015 when he was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre, Raj has proven himself to be a tireless champion and a strong advocate for the riding, attracting numerous investments to Waterloo Region and helping to build a better life for every resident and their family.

Over the past four years as MP, Raj has been a staunch advocate for the growth of Kitchener's vibrant arts and culture scene with an investment of \$4.5 million. The Liberal government invested over \$200 million in infrastructure in Waterloo Region and supported local seniors with a commitment of over \$350,000 to community-based projects through the New Horizons for Seniors Program. Furthermore, the introduction of the new Canada Child Benefit that saw over \$6 million come to families in Kitchener Centre in April 2019.

With your support, Raj will continue, alongside Justin Trudeau and the Liberal team, to fight for families, students, workers, seniors, businesses and will advocate on the community's behalf to build a more prosperous and sustainable Waterloo Region.

Yvan Baker



Political Affiliation: Liberal
Constituency: [Etobicoke Centre](#)
Province / Territory: Ontario
Preferred Language: English

Main Issues - *Rarely asks questions*

Yvan Baker is a devoted community leader and has been a fierce advocate for families in Etobicoke Centre for many years. Yvan is a former Member of Provincial Parliament, a management consultant, and instructor at the Schulich School of Business at York University who has always shown a deep passion and determination to make a real difference for families here in our community.

Born and raised in Etobicoke, Yvan has always had a strong connection to the community and everyone living here. His mother and grandparents were immigrants to Canada from Ukraine, with incredible pride for their heritage, but also an incredible pride in being Canadian. This lived experience has given Yvan a unique appreciation for community service and an understanding of Etobicoke Centre's vibrant character, and helps make him the best choice to represent our priorities in Ottawa.

As the Team Trudeau candidate for Etobicoke Centre, Yvan understands what it takes to grow the economy and create good, well-paying jobs for our middle class. During his time as a Member of Provincial Parliament, Yvan fought alongside others to deliver positive results that directly impacted, and made life easier for, families in our community.

Families in Etobicoke Centre need a trusted voice in government who will be a champion for them and a stronger middle class, and Yvan Baker will never stop working hard to build a future for everyone in our community.

Lloyd Longfield



Political Affiliation: Liberal
Constituency: [Guelph](#)
Province / Territory: Ontario
Preferred Language: English / French

Main Issues – Clean transportation, climate research, engagement with indigenous peoples

In October 2015, Lloyd was elected to Parliament as the Liberal Party of Canada candidate for Guelph, Ontario. Lloyd serves as a member of the Standing Committee for Industry, Science and Technology and as a member of the Standing Committee for Agriculture and Agri-Food. Lloyd is active in many caucuses including chairing the Innovation & Technology Caucus. Lloyd is also vice chair of the Digital Caucus and the Automotive Caucus and serves as the Secretary of the Ontario Caucus. A Triple Bottom Line approach guides Lloyd's work in representing Guelph and he is currently championing Social, Environmental, and Economic issues facing the community and, ultimately, Canada.

Lloyd has been serving Guelph for 25 years in community benefit organizations and led the Guelph Chamber of Commerce for 7 years. This followed a successful career in hydraulic and pneumatic automation that ranged from business startup to working with distributors across Canada as Managing Director of European multinationals.

Highlights of Lloyd's community leadership includes:

- Guelph Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director 2008-2015
- Chamber Executives of Ontario, Chair 2012-2013
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Director 2013-2014
- Rotary Club of Guelph Wellington, Member 2013-Present
- Innovation Guelph, Co-Founder, Director, Mentor 2010-2015
- Local Immigration Partnership, Founding Director 2009-2015
- YMCA-YWCA Guelph, Director 2009-2012
- Institute for Canadian Citizenship Guelph, Chair 2014-2015
- AIESEC Guelph International Internship Advisory Committee, Chair 2014-2015
- University of Guelph College of Business & Economics Advisory Board 2012-2015
- Conestoga College Career & Academic Access Advisory Board 2012-2015
- Guelph Wellington Poverty Elimination Task Force 2013-2015
- Guelph Partnership for Innovation, Director 2008-2010
- Immigrant Services Guelph Wellington, Director 2008-2015
- Career Education Council, Director 2008-2013
- Downtown Guelph Business Association, Director 2008-2014
- Guelph-Wellington Business Enterprise Centre, Director 2008-2014
- St Joseph's Hospital Quality Management Advisory Team 2012-2014
- GTA West Transportation Study 2011-2014
- Guelph Community Energy Plan Task Force 2008-2009

- Sustainable Guelph Task Force 2009-2014
- Guelph Prosperity 2020 Economic Development Plan 2008-2010
- Guelph Waste Water Management Task Force 2009-2010
- Guelph Water Conservation Committee 2010-2012
- Guelph Solid Waste Master Plan 2013-2014
- River Run Centre Board of Directors 2008-2010
- Holy Rosary Parish Council, Chair 1993-1998
- St James Catholic School Parent Council, Chair 1997-2002

Awards:

- Queen's Jubilee Award 2012
- Canadian Blood Services 95 Donations

Business Involvement:

- Fluid Power Design Inc, Founder, CEO 1986-1988
- HyPower Systems Manitoba Inc, CEO 1988-1992
- IMI Norgen Ltd, Managing Director 1992-2003
- Hydac International, General Manager 2003-2008
- Canadian Fluid Power Association, Director 2004-2008
- Society of Tribologists and Lubrication Engineers, 2003-2008

Lloyd has been happily married to his highschool sweetheart Barb for over 39 and have had three daughters together.

Joël Godin



Political Affiliation: Conservative
Constituency: [Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier](#)
Province / Territory: Quebec
Preferred Language: French

Joël worked in the communications field, and was director of sales at FM93, CITF and TQS, to name a few. He started his company, AJC Communication inc., in the fall of 2008, capitalizing on his leadership abilities.

He then worked for Louis-Hébert MLA Sam Hamad, first as his political advisor in his office as Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region and then, as manager of his constituency office.

His interest in municipal and provincial politics and his deep attachment to his community led to his involvement and work with a number of organizations, groups and people. He sat on a number of boards including the Québec Winter Carnaval, Laval University's Rouge et Or golf club, the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Fondation Sourdeine, as well as on a number of sports associations and groups where his children were participants.

His political experience, his experience dealing with people in a variety of contexts and his skills in the communications field provided him with the necessary tools to well represent his riding of Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier and defend its interests. He works on behalf of its citizens, organizations and institutions and as a former business owner, he knows that a region's economic prosperity starts with the individuals who live there, investing their time and money.

Joël Godin and his family have lived in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures for nearly 20 years. As someone who has been and continues to be actively engaged in his region, he knows its issues very well. This is why you can count on him to shine a light on the 28 municipalities that make up the magnificent constituency of Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier.

Dan Albas (Vice-Chair)



Political Affiliation: Conservative
Constituency: [Central Okanagan—Similkameen—Nicola](#)
Province / Territory: British Columbia
Preferred Language: English

Born in 1976, Dan Albas' family moved to Penticton when he was three years old. With his two sisters, he was raised in mostly in Penticton by a father who worked as a lawyer and was active in conservative politics and a mother who worked as a social worker. The family spent a short time living in Whitehorse, Yukon, but moved to Alberta to seek medical treatment after an accident left Dan with severe burns over much of his body. They moved back to Penticton where Albas attended Penticton Secondary School and Okanagan University College. He worked as a martial arts instructor and in the late-1990s he opened his own martial arts studio, Kick City Martial Arts (later renamed Premier Martial Arts). In 2005 his studio held a fund-raiser in which pledges were taken by students who would break boards with martial arts moves in support of a Hurricane Katrina-related charity. The Penticton and Wine Country Chamber of Commerce named Albas the 2005 young entrepreneur of the year. In the same year Albas became a board member on the Chamber of Commerce and was appointed to represent the region on the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce. He helped merge the independent Chambers of Commerce in Penticton, Okanagan Falls, Oliver and Osoyoos into the South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce. He ran the regional United Way fund-raising campaign in 2007 and again in 2010. In 2008 he became active with a community group called the Penticton Housing Coalition advocating for affordable housing in the city, like secondary suites.

In the 2008 local government elections the 31-year-old Albas ran, and placed first with 5,656 votes, for a seat on the Penticton City Council. Albas became known as the most fiscally-conservative councillor on an already fiscally-conservative council. Beyond the measures agreed to by the council, Albas sought to avoid having the city purchase or pay for a fire-rescue boat, the restoration of the SS Sicamous, landscaping improvements at the South Okanagan Events Centre and the beaches, mobile radar speed signs, building an agricultural centre in the downtown area and unsuccessfully tried to defer the hiring of additional fire department officers[20] and eliminate a 2.1% raise in councillor salaries (though all were approved by council despite Albas opposing the motions). He voted against opening public library on Sundays to avoid the extra costs and against raising the electricity rate to match FortisBC rate increases (the city purchases power from FortisBC and sells it to citizens), and requiring developers who work with the city to have professional liability insurance, though all were approved by council. Initiatives that Albas began or assisted with included bylaw enforcement fines for aggressive pan-handling, keeping a Canada Post outlet in the downtown area. Believing public transit should be funded through user fees, he voted against acquiring new buses from BC Transit unless it was paid for through higher fares and later sought to raise fares by 25% to fund operational costs. He drew criticism as a

councillor for interfering with staff management and for posting speculative comments on his blog regarding privatization of city services. Albas was appointed to be a director at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen where he was successful he reducing the Regional District's contribution to the Okanagan Film Commission by 50%; Albas became an alternate director in 2009 and 2010.

Matt Jeneroux



Political Affiliation: Conservative
Constituency: [Edmonton Riverbend](#)
Province / Territory: Alberta
Preferred Language: English

Jeneroux was born and raised in Edmonton and Sherwood Park, Alberta. He has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Alberta. Prior to his work in provincial and then federal politics, Jeneroux worked for Health Canada and was an active community volunteer in Edmonton. He has two daughters: Molly and Lily and a son: Hugh.

Jeneroux was first elected to the provincial assembly in the 2012 provincial election. In spring 2013, one year after being elected, he introduced a private member's bill entitled Compassionate Care Leave Legislation (Bill 203). The bill has gone through royal assent and provides a leave of absence for an employee from their employer while taking care of a terminally ill family member.

In just three years, he had two of his motions pass unanimously in the legislature. First, to provide support for playgrounds when new schools for young families are built in the province of Alberta. He also urged the provincial government to conduct a review of the childcare policy in the province. He chaired the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices. He was defeated in the 2015 provincial election.

He also chaired the Capital Region Caucus, Youth Secretariat, and was a member of the Alberta Treasury Board committee. In addition, he chaired Results Based Budgeting for Environment and Resource Stewardship, chaired Results Based Budgeting for Wellness, a member of Public Accounts committee, co-chair of the Alberta Film Advisory Council and chair of the Government of Alberta's Youth Advisory Panel.

In 2018, Jeneroux was named the co-Chair of the United Conservative Party Annual General Meeting in Red Deer, Alberta.

Brad Redekopp



Political Affiliation: Conservative
Constituency: [Saskatoon West](#)
Province / Territory: Saskatchewan
Preferred Language: English

Main Issues – GHG Emissions, Carbon Pricing,

Brad Redekopp is a small business owner and entrepreneur who has lived in the Saskatoon area for 35 years. He received his Commerce degree from the University of Saskatchewan as well as his CMA (now CPA) accounting designation. Brad spent 20 years in finance and accounting roles in the manufacturing industry, ultimately appointed as Plant Controller and then Plant Manager for a large multinational corporation. For the last 10 years, he has owned and operated a home building business.

Brad has been active in providing leadership within his community, participating in a number of boards, including The Bridge on 20th for over 17 years; 10 of those years as Board Chair where he spearheaded the renovation and expansion of their facility during a period of unprecedented growth. Brad has also volunteered with the City of Saskatoon Housing First Committee and Ride for Refuge. Other involvements have included teaching personal finance classes and conversational English to newcomers in his community.

Additionally, Brad has been involved with the Conservative Party during election campaigns and with local EDA boards. He served as Official Agent for 3 elections and has been an active EDA board member and Financial Agent.

Brad is married to his wife, Cheryl and together they have raised 2 sons, Kyle and Eric.

Laurel Collins



Political Affiliation: NDP
Constituency: [Victoria](#)
Province / Territory: British Columbia
Preferred Language: English

NDP Caucus Vice Chair, critic for Environment and Climate Change

Main Issues – protected areas, VW, Enforcement, CEPA

Laurel is a community organizer and climate activist. She was an Instructor at the University of Victoria and a city councillor prior to being elected MP for Victoria.

Laurel Collins was born in Kispiox, Northern BC, in Gixtzan territory. Her parents split up when she was a baby, and she moved around a lot - the Gulf Islands, Alert Bay, Port Hardy, out to New Brunswick and then back to Vancouver Island.

Watching her mom raise three kids, Laurel learned first-hand the value of helping those who need it the most. Her mother always told her, “When someone needs help, you help each other out. This is who we are.”

Hard work and support from her community opened up opportunity. Laurel went on to earn a Bachelor’s, Masters, and start a PhD. Her work was dedicated to trying to solve the unfairness she saw in the world: poverty, inequality, and conflict.

Guided by her Mom’s values, Laurel worked to make life better for the people who needed it the most. She volunteered with with Education and Literacy Programs for children affected by HIV/AIDS in South Africa. She researched climate migration in her Master’s program and then worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Northern Uganda helping people displaced by civil war rebuild their lives.

Laurel saw that people all over the world are fighting for the same thing: a better life for themselves and their families.

When she returned to her home in Victoria, Laurel worked at Victoria Women in Need to support women who have experienced violence and abuse. And she joined the grassroots environmental movements. She co-founded Divest Victoria and fought along the Shawnigan Lake community to protect their watershed.

Laurel poured her time and energy into organizing and fighting for climate action and environmental protection. She taught courses at the University of Victoria in Social Justice, Sociology, and Social Inequality, and explored the connection between the climate crisis and inequality.

Laurel understands that climate change is the biggest social justice issue of our time.

Rising ocean levels, raging forest fires, and melting ice caps will all hurt vulnerable people the most. It will also destroy this beautiful place we call home.

Motivated to tackle climate change, Laurel stepped up and took action. She ran for City Council as a member of Together Victoria, and she won.

She also sits on the CRD Regional Water Supply Commission, helping protect our region's watersheds and ecosystems, and she is a director on the board of the Green Municipal Fund, a federal body that funds innovative projects that dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions in communities across Canada.

Laurel works hard to make sure people and the environment are at the heart of local decision-making. And she works in her community to do everything she can to protect the environment and help people get ahead.

Monique Pauzé (Vice-chair)



Political Affiliation: Bloc Québécois

Constituency: [Repentigny](#)

Province / Territory: Quebec

Preferred Language: French

Bloc Québécois critic for Environment and Climate Change

Main Issues – Weather services, toxics, SARA

Monique Pauzé a su très tôt dans sa vie qu'elle voulait lutter contre les iniquités sociales et défendre les intérêts du Québec, des combats inachevés pour lesquels elle ne baisse pas les bras. Étant jeune, la députée bloquiste a enseigné au primaire pendant 20 ans où elle s'est appliquée à sensibiliser ses élèves à la protection de l'environnement, une cause pour laquelle elle se bat encore aujourd'hui. De 1995 à 2013, Monique Pauzé a acquis une vaste expérience dans le milieu syndical où elle a été coordonnatrice à l'action sociopolitique et présidente du Syndicat de Champlain avant de devenir commissaire pour la Commission spéciale sur le renouveau syndical à la CSQ. En plus de rédiger et présenter le mémoire du syndicat aux États généraux sur l'éducation, fait la formation des délégués sur la nouvelle Loi sur l'Instruction publique, elle a également eu comme mandat de sensibiliser les membres du syndicat sur le néolibéralisme et ses impacts sur l'éducation.

Féministe elle s'est battue pour l'équité salariale et elle a réussi à faire reconnaître le droit des femmes à un salaire égal pour un travail équivalent. Engagée dans le milieu environnemental, elle a été vice-présidente de la Coalition Eau Secours de 2013 à 2015 et plus récemment, elle a participé aux États généraux sur la souveraineté en tant que commissaire au chantier « économie et souveraineté ».

UNE FEMME ENGAGÉE – Pour elle, servir les citoyens de sa circonscription est le prolongement naturel de ses engagements passés. À peine après son arrivée au pouvoir, la députée et ses collègues ont réussi à faire avancer plusieurs dossiers à Ottawa et continueront de le faire tant que le Québec ne sera pas indépendant. Nous pouvons donc conclure qu'aujourd'hui, avec la même ferveur qu'à ses premiers jours de militantisme, la députée Monique Pauzé poursuit les mêmes objectifs et travaille à améliorer le sort de ses concitoyens.

Ya'ara Saks



Political Affiliation: Liberal
Constituency: [York-Centre](#)
Province / Territory: Ontario
Preferred Language: English

Ya'ara Saks is the Member of Parliament for York Centre in Toronto. As a long-time community advocate and Bathurst Manor resident, she is committed to making life better for families in York Centre.

Ya'ara brings a Canadian and global perspective to the work it takes to create community engagement and achieve real progress. She believes deeply in the values of equality and diversity, and has devoted her career to addressing societal inequalities. She has experience in advisory roles for policy, communications, and project management, having worked in the Office of the Mayor of Jerusalem and in advancing people to people programs as part of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Before her election in 2020, Ya'ara was a successful small business owner and a strong advocate for better access to mental health services as a founder and director of Trauma Practice for Healthy Communities, a Toronto-based mental health charity.

In Parliament, Ya'ara sits as a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee.

She holds an undergraduate degree from McGill University in Political Science and Middle East Studies, a master's degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in International Relations and Diplomacy, and is the mother of two teenage daughters.

We will continue to deliver real results and effective government to Canadians. This includes: tracking and publicly reporting on the progress of our commitments; assessing the effectiveness of our work; aligning our resources with priorities; and adapting to events as they unfold, in order to get the results Canadians rightly demand of us.

Many of our most important commitments require partnership with provincial, territorial and municipal governments and Indigenous partners, communities and governments. Even where disagreements may occur, we will remember that our mandate comes from citizens who are served by all orders of government and it is in everyone's interest that we work together to find common ground. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is the Government-wide lead on all relations with the provinces and territories.

There remains no more important relationship to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. We made significant progress in our last mandate on supporting self-determination, improving service delivery and advancing reconciliation. I am directing every single Minister to determine what they can do in their specific portfolio to accelerate and build on the progress we have made with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

I also expect us to continue to raise the bar on openness, effectiveness and transparency in government. This means a government that is open by default. It means better digital capacity and services for Canadians. It means a strong and resilient public service. It also means humility and continuing to acknowledge mistakes when we make them. Canadians do not expect us to be perfect; they expect us to be diligent, honest, open and sincere in our efforts to serve the public interest.

As Minister, you are accountable for your style of leadership and your ability to work constructively in Parliament. I expect that you will collaborate closely with your Cabinet and Caucus colleagues. You will also meaningfully engage with the Government Caucus and Opposition Members of Parliament, the increasingly non-partisan Senate, and Parliamentary Committees.

It is also your responsibility to substantively engage with Canadians, civil society and stakeholders, including businesses of all sizes, organized labour, the broader public sector and the not-for-profit and charitable sectors. You must be proactive in ensuring that a broad array of voices provides you with advice, in both official languages, from every region of the country.

We are committed to evidence-based decision-making that takes into consideration the impacts of policies on all Canadians and fully defends the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. You will apply Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) in the decisions that you make.

Canada's media and your engagement with them in a professional and timely manner are essential. The Parliamentary Press Gallery, indeed all journalists in Canada and abroad, ask necessary questions and contribute in an important way to the democratic process.

You will do your part to continue our Government's commitment to transparent, merit-based appointments, to help ensure that people of all gender identities, Indigenous Peoples, racialized people, persons with disabilities and minority groups are reflected in positions of leadership.

As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, you will lead in implementing the whole-of-government plan for climate action, a cleaner environment and a sustainable economy. This includes exceeding current 2030 targets and developing a plan to achieve a net-zero emissions economy by 2050.

I will expect you to work with your colleagues and through established legislative, regulatory and Cabinet processes to deliver on your top priorities. In particular, you will:

- Implement the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, while strengthening existing and introducing new greenhouse gas reducing measures to exceed Canada's 2030 emissions reduction goal and beginning work so that Canada can achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Lead government-wide efforts to develop a plan to set Canada on a path to achieve a prosperous net-zero emissions future by 2050. This includes:
 - Setting legally-binding, five-year emissions-reduction milestones based on the advice of experts and consultations with Canadians; and
 - Working with the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry and the Minister of Natural Resources to position Canada as a global leader in clean technology.
- Work with the Minister of Natural Resources and provinces and territories to complete all flood maps in Canada.
- Support the Minister of Natural Resources to operationalize the plan to plant two billion incremental trees over the next 10 years, as part of a broader

commitment to nature-based climate solutions that also encompasses wetlands and urban forests.

- Work with the Minister of Natural Resources to help cities expand and diversify their urban forests. You will both also invest in protecting trees from infestations and, when ecologically appropriate, help rebuild our forests after a wildfire.
- Expand the Learn-to-Camp program to meet the target that 400,000 kids each year learn basic camping skills.
- Provide a bursary for children and their families who live in poverty or underprivileged circumstances that create significant barriers to visiting national or provincial parks.
- Advance Parks Canada's efforts to play a leadership role in natural and cultural heritage conservation and promotion, and work to ensure that Canada's national parks and national historic sites are a source of national pride and enjoyment today and for future generations.
- Work with the Minister of Canadian Heritage to provide clearer direction on how national heritage places should be designated and preserved, and to develop comprehensive legislation on federally owned heritage places.
- Work with the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to introduce a new ambitious plan to conserve 25 per cent of Canada's land and 25 per cent of Canada's oceans by 2025, working toward 30 per cent of each by 2030. This plan should be grounded in science, Indigenous knowledge and local perspectives. Advocate at international gatherings that countries around the world set a 30 per cent conservation goal for 2030 as well.
- Implement our plan to ban harmful single-use plastic products and take steps toward eliminating plastic pollution in Canada. This includes working with provinces and territories to develop national targets, standards and regulations that will make companies that manufacture plastic products or sell items with plastic packaging responsible for collecting and recycling them.
- Work with the Minister of Health to better protect people and the environment from toxins and other pollution, including by strengthening the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*.
- With the support of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, create a new Canada Water Agency to work together with the provinces, territories,

Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists and others to find the best ways to keep our water safe, clean and well-managed.

- Develop further protections and take active steps to clean up the Great Lakes, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Simcoe and other large lakes.
- Continue to work to protect biodiversity and species at risk, while engaging with provinces, territories, Indigenous communities, scientists, industry and other stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing *Species at Risk Act* and assess the need for modernization.
- Support the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard in implementing the Oceans Protection Plan.
- Work with the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Natural Resources to advance toward our zero-emission vehicles targets of 10 per cent of light-duty vehicles sales per year by 2025, 30 per cent by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2040.

These priorities draw heavily from our election platform commitments. As mentioned, you are encouraged to seek opportunities to work across Parliament in the fulfillment of these commitments and to identify additional priorities.

I expect you to work closely with your Deputy Minister and their senior officials to ensure that the ongoing work of your department is undertaken in a professional manner and that decisions are made in the public interest. Your Deputy Minister will brief you on the many daily decisions necessary to ensure the achievement of your priorities, the effective running of the government and better services for Canadians. It is my expectation that you will apply our values and principles to these decisions so that they are dealt with in a timely and responsible manner and in a way that is consistent with the overall direction of our Government.

Our ability, as a government, to implement our priorities depends on consideration of the professional, non-partisan advice of public servants. Each and every time a government employee comes to work, they do so in service to Canada, with a goal of improving our country and the lives of all Canadians. I expect you to establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, whose role, and the role of public servants under their direction, is to support you in the performance of your responsibilities.

We have committed to an open, honest government that is accountable to Canadians, lives up to the highest ethical standards and applies the utmost care and prudence in the handling of public funds. I expect you to embody these values in your work and observe the highest ethical standards in everything you do. I want Canadians to look on their own government with pride and trust.

As Minister, you must ensure that you are aware of and fully compliant with the *Conflict of Interest Act* and Treasury Board policies and guidelines. You will be provided with a copy of *Open and Accountable Government* to assist you as you undertake your responsibilities. I ask that you carefully read it, including elements that have been added to strengthen it, and ensure that your staff does so as well. I expect that in staffing your offices you will hire people who reflect the diversity of Canada, and that you will uphold principles of gender equality, disability equality, pay equity and inclusion.

Give particular attention to the Ethical Guidelines set out in Annex A of that document, which apply to you and your staff. As noted in the Guidelines, you must uphold the highest standards of honesty and impartiality, and both the performance of your official duties and the arrangement of your private affairs should bear the closest public scrutiny. This is an obligation that is not fully discharged by simply acting within the law.

I will note that you are responsible for ensuring that your Minister's Office meets the highest standards of professionalism and that it is a safe, respectful, rewarding and welcoming place for your staff to work.

I know I can count on you to fulfill the important responsibilities entrusted in you. It is incumbent on you to turn to me and the Deputy Prime Minister early and often to support you in your role as Minister.

Sincerely,



Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



Speech

For

**The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister, Environment and Climate Change**

**To The Standing Committee
on Environment and Sustainable Development**

2020-21 Main Estimates

**House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario**

November 4, 2020

Check Against Delivery

- Madam Chair, Members of the committee, I'm delighted to be here with you today to discuss the 2020-21 Main Estimates for Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Parks Canada Agency, and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.
- I am joined today by Martine Dubuc, the Associate Deputy Minister for Environment and Climate Change Canada; Ron Hallman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Parks Canada; and David McGovern, the President of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.
- I would like to start by recognizing that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples.
- Without question, the world has changed significantly since we last met. COVID-19 has created tremendous loss and uncertainty all around the world.
- What has become increasingly clear, Madam Chair, is that we cannot choose between COVID-19 recovery efforts, climate action and the protection of nature. The work before us, supported by the 2020-2021 Main Estimates, is essential to getting it right.
- However, let me make it clear from the outset: the work we are discussing today is continuing to deliver real and effective results. Results that are grounded in evidence-based decisions and informed by traditional knowledge and meaningful engagement. Results achieved through actions that continue advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.
- So, let us get started with Environment and Climate Change Canada.
- The total funding in the 2020-21 Main Estimates for Environment and Climate Change Canada is approximately \$2 billion. This represents an increase of approximately \$154.8 million from the previous year's total estimates.
- At home, the department is continuing to implement the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change. With over 50 measures, this Framework supports everything from electric vehicles and public transit to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

- At the same time, the department is leading Government-wide work to ensure that we **exceed Canada's 2030 emissions reduction goal** and firmly put the country on a path to net-zero by 2050.
- In addition to the new measures, in the months ahead, we will seek advice from experts and consult with Canadians about pathways to achieve our goal of a net-zero economy by 2050 while growing the economy and making life more affordable for all Canadians.
- These pathways must also integrate nature protection, which is vital to our efforts to combat climate change and a significant priority.
- Moving forward, we plan to conserve 25% of Canada's land and 25% of Canada's oceans by 2025, and we are working to reach 30% of each of those goals by 2030.
- The department is also continuing its work to protect biodiversity and species at risk.
- Collaboration that is also essential to all of our work, including our goal to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030, and ban harmful single-use plastics by 2021.
- Another vital service, Madam Chair, is the weather and environmental prediction services the Department provides to Canadians, 24 hours a day.
- The Department is also developing further protections and taking steps to clean up the Great Lakes, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Simcoe and other large lakes.
- In addition, we are working to strengthen the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*.
- Let us now turn to Parks Canada, Madam Chair.
- After a brief suspension of visitor services, Parks Canada adapted its delivery to respond to the challenge of COVID-19 and re-opened national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas on June 1st.
- From June through September, over 13.4 million Canadians were able to safely spend their recreational and vacation time in Parks Canada administered places. Through the fall and winter, operations will continue in a number of parks and sites.

- Its 2020-21 Main Estimates total approximately \$1.1 billion.
- Parks Canada will continue protecting nationally significant examples of natural and cultural heritage in Canada and sharing the stories of these treasured places with Canadians.
- Just a few weeks ago, on September 25, I was honoured to join the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in signing the final agreement for Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve – which is the newest national park in Canada and an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area.
- Parks Canada is also working on a proposal to develop a legislative framework that would strengthen the protection of cultural heritage in Canada.
- As for the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Madam Chair, its 2020-21 Main Estimates total \$76.5 million.
- Madam Chair, I hope that this summary provides committee members with the insight on the 2020-21 Main Estimates for Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, and Impact Assessment Agency of Canada they are seeking.
- I look forward to any questions that Members have on these estimates.
- Thank you.

Number of words : 759



PARKS CANADA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS **2020-2021**

NATURE CONSERVATION

- Signing of final federal agreement with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation for the establishment of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.
- Deployment of fire management personnel to assist in wildfire mitigation efforts in the Western United States.
- Transfer of 30 wood bison from Elk Island National Park to the Republic of Sakha of the Russian Federation to establish a population of wood bison.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

- Recognition of the national historic significance of two persons and two events associated with Black History in Canada, including the Enslavement of African People in Canada.
- Recognition of the Residential School System as an important and defining event in Canadian history, and designation of two former residential school sites as national historic sites (former Portage La Prairie Indian Residential School in Manitoba, and former Shubenacadie Indian Residential School in Nova Scotia).

CONNECTING CANADIANS AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- Delivery of critical services to Canadians during COVID-19 pandemic, including avalanche control and highway maintenance, wildlife response and management, law enforcement, search and rescue and water management for watersheds across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec.
- Support for small businesses paying commercial rent, providing businesses operating in national parks and historic sites access to the same rent relief available to small businesses in Canada.
- After a temporary suspension of visitor services, reopening Parks Canada places to Canadians with adaptive measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19, keep visitors and staff safe, and help support domestic tourism (visitation of 13.4 million).
- Completion of 2020 Minister's Roundtable on Parks Canada, virtual engagement sessions with representatives from organizations with an interest in Parks Canada and nation-wide online public consultations.
- Installation of over 170 electric vehicle charging stations available for visitors to use at most popular Parks Canada places.

- Continuing with rehabilitation efforts following the impact of post-tropical storm Dorian at Green Gables Heritage Place and PEI National Park, including Cavendish Campground
- Partial opening of Georges Island National Historic Site to visitors during 2020 operating season.

INDIGENOUS

- Free access to all Parks Canada administered locations in Saskatchewan for Métis Nation – Saskatchewan citizens, and free access to Lower Fort Garry and Riel House national historic sites in Manitoba for Manitoba Metis Federation citizens.
- Symbolic re-naming of day-use area in Point Pelee National Park from "Pioneer" to “Madbin Jina”.



2020-2021 PARKS CANADA
MAIN ESTIMATES and SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES A and B

TOTAL ESTIMATES TO DATE (MAIN ESTIMATES plus SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES A and B)
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- Parks Canada's total **Current Authorities for 2020-21, including Main Estimates and Supplementary Estimates A and B** total \$1.5 billion.
- The \$1.5 billion broken out by **Main Estimates** and the **Supplementary Estimates** is as follows:
- Main Estimates total \$1.1 (page proofs attached)
 - The Agency's 2020-21 Main Estimates funding level is presented at \$1,107.5 million, which represents a decrease of \$543.0 million or 33% when compared to the 2019-20 Main Estimates (\$1,650.5 million).
 - The decrease of \$543.0 million or 33% in total funding from the 2019-20 Main Estimates is primarily attributable to the sunsetting of a series of time-limited allocations that total approximately \$4.2 billion for Parks Canada over the period of 2015-2022 to rehabilitate a significant portion of its built asset inventory.
 - This reduction will be largely offset by new infrastructure funding Parks Canada is receiving in Supplementary Estimates B (\$141.2 million) arising from Budget 2019, along with existing funding that is moving into this year to align with project schedules (\$130 million).
 - Parks Canada is developing a long term plan focused on the sustainability of its capital assets.
- Supplementary Estimates A total \$141.2 million which is new funding to support capital program investments (page proofs attached)
- Supplementary Estimates B total \$83.9 million (page proofs attached) and include funding to:
 - partially address Parks Canada's loss of revenue due to the pandemic, allowing it to sustain operations (\$74.1 million)
 - combat mountain pine beetle infestations (\$2.2 million)
 - establish an impact benefit agreement with the Dehcho First Nation for the establishment of the Nahanni National Park Reserve (\$7 million)



MAIN ESTIMATES - DETAILS

VOTED VERSUS STATUTORY

Voted: Parks Canada's voted spending authority totals \$908.6 million (82%)

- \$898.6 million in operating expenditures composed of:
 - \$389.2 million in salary and goods and services expenditures
 - \$487.6 million in capital expenditures
 - \$31.9 million in grants and contributions.
- \$9.9 million in payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account
 - This is a special purpose account that Parks Canada uses to set aside and protect capital funds, previously approved and within its current funding levels, for future work to establish new parks and historic sites
 - Through the 2020-21 Main Estimates, \$9.9 million is being deposited into this account.
- The total amount in this special purpose account is \$77M for the following
 - Rouge (\$40M)
 - Lake Superior (\$12M)
 - Qausuittuq, Ukkusiksalik, Talluruptiup Imanga, HMS Erebus & Terror (\$10M)
 - Naats'ihch'oh, Nahanni, Thaidene Nënë (\$10M)
 - Gwaii Haanas (\$1M)
 - Gulf Islands (\$3M)
 - Mealy Mountain (\$1M)

Statutory: The statutory amount of \$198.9 million (18%) consists of \$48.9 million for Employee Benefit Plan and \$150 million for Expenditures equivalent to revenues.

REVENUES

- Parks Canada's 2020-21 authorities for statutory revenues are \$150 million.
- The Agency has the authority to respend these revenues in support of core operations. This fiscal year, revenues are expected to be lower than previous years due to the pandemic which meant a temporary closure of sites between March and June 2020 and the gradual and partial reopening of a number of locations with modifications to operations to mitigate health and safety risk. See Issue Note: COVID 19 related impacts on Parks Canada Revenues for more detail.



GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

- Parks Canada's 2020-21 Main Estimates include transfer payments for the following:
 - **Grants for the Implementation of Rights and Reconciliation Agreements in Atlantic Canada (\$4,094,700):** This grant will support the Rights and Reconciliation Agreements signed by Parks Canada and the Indigenous Nations included in the Historic Peace and Friendship Treaties in Atlantic Canada (the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Peskotomuhkati Nations), build capacity in Indigenous communities to participate with Parks Canada as co-managers of National Parks and National Historic Sites, foster re-connection with the lands through traditional stewardship practices and protect Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Peskotomuhkati culture and heritage.
 - **Grant for the Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Stewardship Program Seed Fund (\$2,400,000):** This grant provides funding for the start-up, management and operation costs for an Inuit Stewardship program in the five communities associated with Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area (TINMCA). The grant will cover the operation and management costs that are not directly related to the operation and management of TINMCA.
 - **Grant for the Inuit Research Fund (\$1,000,000):** This grant will provide funding for Inuit-led research and monitoring in Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, including the development of an Inuit Research and Monitoring Plan.
 - **Grant to the International Peace Garden (\$22,700):** The International Peace Garden commemorates the peaceful co-existence of Canada and the United States. The Garden straddles the Manitoba/North Dakota Border and is run by a non-profit organization which receives funding from the State of North Dakota, the Province of Manitoba as well as the American and Canadian Federal Governments.
 - **Contributions in Support of Activities or Projects Related to National Parks, National Marine Conservation Areas, National Historic Sites and Historic Canals (\$15,835,443):** These are contributions through the Parks Canada's General Class Contribution Program to assist recipients in conducting activities and delivering projects that will support the Parks Canada Agency in fulfilling its mandate. It includes, for example, a contribution of \$6,016,889 that is part of the funding that will be used to implement obligations under an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for the implementation of a consensus-based cooperative management board, Inuit stewardship program, and Inuit Research Fund; and a contribution of \$1,123,500 that is part of the funding to develop and implement a national heritage plan and strategy for commemorating



residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada’s history.

- **Contribution to Support the Trans Canada Trail to enhance and maintain The Great Trail (\$7,500,000):** This contribution will be used to provide a contribution to the Trans Canada Trail, a registered not-for-profit charitable organization, to enhance and maintain “The Great Trail”, a national network of multi-use recreational trails that links 15,000 communities and spans 24,400 kilometers.
- **Contributions in Support of the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places (\$1,000,000):** This program assists recipients in conducting activities aimed at ensuring the commemorative integrity of non-federally owned or administered national historic sites and, thereby, to support Parks Canada Agency in fulfilling its mandate to protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada’s natural and cultural heritage.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES A - DETAILS
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- The Agency’s Supplementary Estimates A includes funding of \$141 million for capital assets in Canada’s national parks, conservation areas and historical sites (Budget 2019).
- This Budget 2019 funding for Parks Canada is over two years, beginning in 2020-21.

	2020-21	2021-22	Total	Ongoing
<i>FTEs</i>	<i>246.00</i>	<i>295.00</i>		<i>0.00</i>
Total New Funding	\$141,219,297	\$222,066,518	\$363,285,815	-

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATSE B - DETAILS
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- The Agency’s Supplementary Estimates B includes funding of \$83.9 million. This funding includes:
 - Funding of \$74.1 million to sustain operations (COVID-19)
 - Funding of \$2.2 million to combat mountain pine beetle infestations (horizontal item)
 - Funding of \$7 million to protect Canada’s nature, parks and wild spaces
 - Transfers of \$0.6 million from other government departments.



DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS

1- Funding to sustain Operations (COVID-19): \$74.1 million

- Parks Canada is a special operating agency and retains the revenues earned from fees. These revenues are reinvested in service delivery and help Parks Canada provide greater opportunities for visitors across the country.
- In support of government efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve of the pandemic, the Parks Canada temporarily suspended visitor services and access at all national parks and national historic sites from March 19 to June 1, 2020 to align with the guidance of public health authorities.
- Beginning June 1, the Agency gradually restored visitor services at select locations with modifications to mitigate health and safety risks, while providing Canadians access to the health and wellness benefits of being outdoors in nature.
- Visitor services and paid experiences were reduced in summer 2020 and only locations that could be operated safely were open to visitation. This, combined with a preference among visitors for safer, low cost outdoor activities (e.g. hiking and enjoying day-use areas) are all factors that are impacting the Agency's annual revenues for 2020-21.
- This financial support to partially address Parks Canada's revenue shortfall allowed the Agency to effectively sustain operations, manage COVID-19 risks for visitors and employees, and continue to address uncertainty by continually adapting visitor services and operations so that Canadians could safely enjoy the wellness benefits of access to the outdoors in national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas.
- Furthermore, the Agency also sought and received authority and funding to provide rent relief to hard hit commercial operators within Parks Canada places to parallel the support provided under the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. This support has been a critical help to tourism businesses in Parks Canada places across the country.
- The Agency is continuing to monitor the potential risk of revenue loss for the remainder of the fiscal year and continues to assess the financial impact on commercial operators and mitigation measures.

2- Funding to combat mountain pine beetle infestations: \$2.2 million

Funding to mitigate the impacts of the mountain pine beetle infestation in Alberta, support research to enhance beetle management practices, and mitigate mountain pine beetle-related impacts in the Rocky Mountain National Parks. The initiative will also



allow government, academia, industry and other stakeholders to continue working together to protect Canada's forests and communities, and support the economy.

3- Reprofile of \$7 million to protect Canada's nature, parks and wild spaces, in support of an impact benefit agreement with the Dehcho First Nation and the establishment of the Nahanni National Park Reserve

In 2017, Parks Canada accessed funding earmarked in Budget 2016 to expand Canada's national park and national marine conservation area systems. This funding included a one-time grant of \$3 million payable to the Dehcho First Nations upon signing an Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) for Nahanni National Park Reserve.

In 2018, Parks Canada accessed funding earmarked in Budget 2018 to increase the initial grant to \$10 million in order to support the completion of the IBA for Nahanni National Park Reserve.

Further negotiations with the Dehcho First Nations were required. Consequently, Parks Canada was not in a position to proceed with the \$10 million grant payment to the Dehcho First Nations by March 31, 2019.

A reprofile request was approved in 2019 for the initial grant amount of \$3 million and due to timing considerations a separate reprofile request was required for the \$7 million grant funding so that the entire \$10 million is available in 2020-2021.

4- Transfers – Total increase of \$0.6 million

A. Transfer from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to various organizations to respond to Indigenous concerns on the overall health of the Salish Sea: \$94,788

This transfer is related to one of the initiatives under the Trans Mountain Expansion project. The Salish Sea initiative has the purpose of responding to Indigenous concerns regarding cumulative impacts on the Salish Sea. Parks Canada will participate in a DFO-led Secretariat with the objective to guide and support identification of Valuable Ecosystem Components, and support guidance for identification of immediate projects and capacity needs for Indigenous groups.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total	Ongoing
<i>FTE</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00		0.00
Total New Funding	\$94,788	\$94,788	\$94,788	\$94,788	\$94,788	\$473,940	-



B. Transfer from the Treasury Board Secretariat to various organizations for innovative approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in government operations: \$350,000

This transfer is part of the Greening Government Fund that was established to provide funding on a competitive basis for departments to explore and share innovative approaches to reducing GHG emissions in government operations. The funding is for three separate projects, as follows: 1) Northern Housing Greening Initiative, 2) Ya Ha Tinda Horse Ranch, and 3) Kejimikujik Campground Solar Array.

Project	2020-21
Northern Housing Greening Initiative	\$75,000
Ya Ha Tinda Horse Ranch	\$220,000
Kejimikujik Campground Solar Array	\$55,000
Total	\$350,000

C. Transfer from the Department of Transport to various organizations to provide operational funding to undertake a climate risk assessment through the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment Program: \$108,213

This transfer is part of Transport Canada’s Transportation Assets Risk Assessment initiative. Through this initiative, Transport Canada supports the development of climate change risk assessments and potential adaptation solutions for federally-owned and/or managed transportation assets. Parks Canada will be continuing its work to assess long-term coastal vulnerabilities, collect data, and validate hydrographic models for the Gulf Shore Parkway through Prince Edward Island National Park.

Parks Canada Agency

Raison d'être

The Minister of Environment and Climate Change is responsible for the Parks Canada Agency. Parks Canada protects and presents nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and fosters public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations. Canada's national urban park, national parks, national historic sites, heritage canals and national marine conservation areas, of which Parks Canada is the proud steward, offer Canadians opportunities to visit, experience and personally connect with these heritage places in ways that are meaningful to them. In carrying out its responsibilities, Parks Canada works in collaboration with the public, other federal departments, provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples and stakeholders.

Further details on the Agency's priorities will be made available in 2020-21 Departmental Plan.

Organizational Estimates

	2018–19 Expenditures	2019–20		2020–21 Main Estimates
		Main Estimates	Estimates To Date	
		(dollars)		
Budgetary				
Voted				
1 Operating expenditures	1,182,151,723	1,433,900,120	1,447,886,442	898,652,518
5 Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account	44,007,000	13,423,000	26,323,000	9,992,000
Total Voted	1,226,158,723	1,447,323,120	1,474,209,442	908,644,518
Total Statutory	234,165,441	203,220,527	204,078,376	198,887,333
Total Budgetary	1,460,324,164	1,650,543,647	1,678,287,818	1,107,531,851

2020–21 Main Estimates by Purpose

Budgetary	Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments	Revenues and other reductions	Total
			(dollars)		
Protecting and Presenting Canada's Natural and Cultural Heritage	502,985,075	487,369,924	31,852,843	.....	1,022,207,842
Internal Services	85,080,275	243,734	.....	.....	85,324,009
Total	588,065,350	487,613,658	31,852,843	.....	1,107,531,851

Listing of the 2020–21 Transfer Payments

	2018–19 Expenditures	2019–20 Main Estimates	2020–21 Main Estimates
		(dollars)	
Grants			
Grants for the Implementation of Rights and Reconciliation Agreements in Atlantic Canada	.....	.....	4,094,700
Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Stewardship Program Seed Fund	.....	.....	2,400,000
Inuit Research Fund	.....	.....	1,000,000
Grant to the International Peace Garden	22,700	22,700	22,700
Contributions			
Contributions in support of activities or projects related to national parks, national marine conservation areas, national historic sites and historic canals	13,109,395	7,664,324	15,835,443
Support to the Great Trail	7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000
Contributions in support of the National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program	2,456,112	1,000,000	1,000,000

Listing of Statutory Authorities

	2018–19 Expenditures	2019–20 Estimates To Date	2020–21 Main Estimates
		(dollars)	
Budgetary			
Expenditures equivalent to revenues resulting from the conduct of operations pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	170,827,686	150,000,000	150,000,000
Contributions to employee benefit plans	63,337,755	54,078,376	48,887,333

Items for inclusion in the Proposed Schedule 2 to the Appropriation Bill

(for the financial year ending March 31, 2022)

Unless specifically identified under the **Changes in 2020–21 Main Estimates** section, all vote wordings have been provided in earlier appropriation acts.

Vote No.	Items	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
	PARKS CANADA AGENCY		
1	– Program expenditures – Capital expenditures – The grants listed in any of the Estimates for the fiscal year – Contributions, including (a) expenditures on other than federal property; and (b) payments to provinces and municipalities as contributions towards the cost of undertakings carried out by those bodies	898,652,518	
5	– Amounts credited to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account for the purposes specified in subsection 21(3) of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	9,992,000	
			908,644,518
			908,644,518

2020–21 ESTIMATES

Statutory Forecasts

	2018–19 Expenditures	2019–20 Estimates To Date (dollars)	2020–21 Main Estimates
Budgetary			
Parks Canada Agency			
Expenditures equivalent to revenues resulting from the conduct of operations pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	170,827,686	150,000,000	150,000,000
Contributions to employee benefit plans	63,337,755	54,078,376	48,887,333
Total Budgetary	234,165,441	204,078,376	198,887,333

2020–21 ESTIMATES

Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

This table shows the forecast of total expenditures by Standard Object, which includes the types of goods or services to be acquired, or the transfer payments to be made and the revenues to be credited to the vote.

Definitions of standard objects available at: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/pceaf-gwcoa/2021/7-eng.html>

Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

	Personnel	Transportation and communications	Information	Professional and special services	Rentals	Purchased repair and maintenance	Utilities, materials and supplies	Acquisition of land, buildings and works	Acquisition of machinery and equipment	Transfer payments	Public debt charges	Other subsidies and payments	Less: Revenues and other reductions	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Parks Canada Agency	379,207,149	23,234,635	9,966,807	172,725,106	29,941,238	27,585,118	55,960,049	319,757,245	27,088,841	31,852,843	.....	30,212,820	.....	1,107,531,851
Total	379,207,149	23,234,635	9,966,807	172,725,106	29,941,238	27,585,118	55,960,049	319,757,245	27,088,841	31,852,843	.....	30,212,820	.....	1,107,531,851

2020–21 ESTIMATES

Expenditures by Purpose

Budgetary	2019–20 Main Estimates	2020–21 Main Estimates				Total
		Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments (dollars)	Revenues and other reductions	
Parks Canada Agency						
Protecting and Presenting Canada's Natural and Cultural Heritage	1,511,172,628	502,985,075	487,369,924	31,852,843	.....	1,022,207,842
Internal Services	139,371,019	85,080,275	243,734	.....	.....	85,324,009
Total	1,650,543,647	588,065,350	487,613,658	31,852,843	.....	1,107,531,851

Interim Supply Requirements**Parks Canada Agency**Approved and Pending Items (dollars) (*triage items included*)

Vote No.	Vote wording and explanation(s) of Additional Twelfths	Total Main Estimates	Amount Granted
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Program expenditures – Capital expenditures – The grants listed in any of the Estimates for the fiscal year – Contributions, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) expenditures on other than federal property; and (b) payments to provinces and municipalities as contributions towards the cost of undertakings carried out by those bodies <p>No additional twelfths beyond the normal three-twelfths</p>	898,652,518	224,663,130
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Amounts credited to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account for the purposes specified in subsection 21(3) of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i> <p>No additional twelfths beyond the normal three-twelfths</p>	9,992,000	2,498,000

Parks Canada Agency

Organization Summary

	Previous Estimates To Date	These Supplementary Estimates		Proposed Authorities To Date
		Transfers	Adjustments	
		(dollars)		
Budgetary				
Voted				
1a Program expenditures	898,652,518	.....	136,043,667	1,034,696,185
5 Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account	9,992,000	.....	.....	9,992,000
Total Voted	908,644,518	.....	136,043,667	1,044,688,185
Total Statutory	198,887,333	.....	5,175,630	204,062,963
Total Budgetary Expenditures	1,107,531,851	.....	141,219,297	1,248,751,148

Note: Additional details by organization are available on the Treasury Board Secretariat website – <http://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat.html>.

Explanation of Requirements (dollars)

Budgetary

Voted Appropriations

Funding for capital assets in Canada's national parks, conservation areas and historic sites (Budget 2019)	Vote 1a	136,043,667
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Total Voted Appropriations

136,043,667

Total Statutory Appropriations

5,175,630

Total Budgetary

141,219,297

Listing of Statutory Authorities

	Authorities To Date	These Supplementary Estimates (dollars)	Proposed Authorities
Budgetary			
Contributions to employee benefit plans	48,887,333	5,175,630	54,062,963

Items for inclusion in the Proposed Schedule 2 to the Appropriation Bill
(for the financial year ending March 31, 2022)

Vote No.	Items	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
1a	<p style="text-align: center;">PARKS CANADA AGENCY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Program expenditures – Capital expenditures – The grants listed in any of the Estimates for the fiscal year – Contributions, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) expenditures on other than federal property; and (b) payments to provinces and municipalities as contributions towards the cost of undertakings carried out by those bodies 		136,043,667
			136,043,667

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A), 2020–21

Statutory Forecasts

	Authorities To Date	These Supplementary Estimates (dollars)	Proposed Authorities
Budgetary			
Parks Canada Agency			
Expenditures equivalent to revenues resulting from the conduct of operations pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	150,000,000	. . . . .	150,000,000
Contributions to employee benefit plans	48,887,333	5,175,630	54,062,963
Total Budgetary	198,887,333	5,175,630	204,062,963

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A), 2020–21

Expenditures by Program or Purpose

Budgetary	Estimates to Date	These Supplementary Estimates				Total	Revised Estimates
		Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments	Revenues and other reductions		
				(dollars)			
Parks Canada Agency							
Protecting and Presenting Canada's Natural and Cultural Heritage	1,022,207,842	2,253,901	118,680,466	.....	.....	120,934,367	1,143,142,209
Internal Services	85,324,009	20,284,930	.....	.....	.....	20,284,930	105,608,939
Total	1,107,531,851	22,538,831	118,680,466	.....	.....	141,219,297	1,248,751,148
Total Budgetary	1,107,531,851	22,538,831	118,680,466	.....	.....	141,219,297	1,248,751,148

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A), 2020–21

Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

This table shows the forecast of total expenditures by Standard Object, which includes the types of goods or services to be acquired, or the transfer payments to be made and the funds to be credited to the vote.

Definitions of standard objects available at: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/pceaf-gwcoa/2021/7-eng.html>

Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

	Personnel	Transportation and communications	Information	Professional and special services	Rentals	Purchased repair and maintenance	Utilities, materials and supplies	Acquisition of land, buildings and works	Acquisition of machinery and equipment	Transfer payments	Public debt charges	Other subsidies and payments	Less: Revenues and other reductions	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Parks Canada Agency	24,344,630	820,600	170,400	27,704,000	705,300	3,288,400	1,750,600	80,116,167	2,302,700	.....	.....	16,500	.....	141,219,297
Total	24,344,630	820,600	170,400	27,704,000	705,300	3,288,400	1,750,600	80,116,167	2,302,700	.....	.....	16,500	.....	141,219,297

Parks Canada Agency

Organization Summary

	Authorities To Date	These Supplementary Estimates		Proposed Authorities To Date
		Transfers	Adjustments	
		(dollars)		
Budgetary Voted				
1b Program expenditures	1,227,913,557	553,001	83,237,392	1,311,703,950
5 Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account	9,992,000	.....	.....	9,992,000
Total Voted	1,237,905,557	553,001	83,237,392	1,321,695,950
Total Statutory	224,056,040	.....	90,180	224,146,220
Total Budgetary Expenditures	1,461,961,597	553,001	83,327,572	1,545,842,170

Note: Additional details by organization are available on the Treasury Board Secretariat website – <http://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat.html>.

Explanation of Requirements (dollars)

Budgetary

Voted Appropriations

Funding to sustain operations (COVID-19)	Vote 1b	74,100,000
Funding to protect Canada's nature, parks and wild spaces	Vote 1b	7,000,000
Funding to combat mountain pine beetle infestations (horizontal item)	Vote 1b	2,137,392

Total Voted Appropriations

83,237,392

Total Statutory Appropriations

90,180

Transfers

Transfers from Other Organizations

From the Treasury Board Secretariat to various organizations for innovative approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in government operations	Vote 1b	350,000
From the Department of Transport to various organizations to provide operational funding to undertake a climate risk assessment through the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment Program	Vote 1b	108,213
From the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to various organizations to respond to Indigenous concerns on the overall health of the Salish Sea	Vote 1b	94,788

Total Transfers

553,001

Total Budgetary

83,880,573

Listing of Transfer Payments

	Estimates to Date	These Supplementary Estimates (dollars)	Revised Estimates
Grants			
Grant to the Dehcho First Nations	.....	7,000,000	7,000,000
Contributions			
Contributions in support of activities or projects related to national parks, national marine conservation areas, national historic sites and historic canals	15,835,443	600,000	16,435,443

Listing of Statutory Authorities

	Authorities To Date	These Supplementary Estimates (dollars)	Proposed Authorities
Budgetary			
Contributions to employee benefit plans	54,062,963	90,180	54,153,143

Items for inclusion in the Proposed Schedule 2 to the Appropriation Bill
(for the financial year ending March 31, 2022)

Vote No.	Items	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
1b	<p style="text-align: center;">PARKS CANADA AGENCY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Program expenditures – Capital expenditures – The grants listed in any of the Estimates for the fiscal year – Contributions, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) expenditures on other than federal property; and (b) payments to provinces and municipalities as contributions towards the cost of undertakings carried out by those bodies 		83,237,392
			83,237,392

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B), 2020–21

Statutory Forecasts

	Authorities To Date	These Supplementary Estimates (dollars)	Proposed Authorities
Budgetary			
Parks Canada Agency			
Expenditures equivalent to revenues resulting from the conduct of operations pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	169,993,077	. . . . .	169,993,077
Contributions to employee benefit plans	54,062,963	90,180	54,153,143
Total Budgetary	224,056,040	90,180	224,146,220

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B), 2020–21

Expenditures by Program or Purpose

Budgetary	Estimates to Date	These Supplementary Estimates				Total	Revised Estimates
		Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments	Revenues and other reductions		
				(dollars)			
Parks Canada Agency							
Protecting and Presenting Canada's Natural and Cultural Heritage	1,143,142,209	73,137,896	550,000	7,600,000	.....	81,287,896	1,224,430,105
Internal Services	105,608,939	2,592,677	.....	.....	.....	2,592,677	108,201,616
Total	1,248,751,148	75,730,573	550,000	7,600,000	.....	83,880,573	1,332,631,721
Total Budgetary	1,248,751,148	75,730,573	550,000	7,600,000	.....	83,880,573	1,332,631,721

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B), 2020–21

Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

This table shows the forecast of total expenditures by Standard Object, which includes the types of goods or services to be acquired, or the transfer payments to be made and the funds to be credited to the vote.

Definitions of standard objects available at: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/pceaf-gwcoa/2021/7-eng.html>

Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

	Personnel	Transportation and communications	Information	Professional and special services	Rentals	Purchased repair and maintenance	Utilities, materials and supplies	Acquisition of land, buildings and works	Acquisition of machinery and equipment	Transfer payments	Public debt charges	Other subsidies and payments	Less: Revenues and other reductions	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Parks Canada Agency	510,968	1,941,758	872,848	19,126,405	2,297,821	2,825,465	5,161,340	40,586,275	2,957,693	7,600,000	.....	.....	.....	83,880,573
Total	510,968	1,941,758	872,848	19,126,405	2,297,821	2,825,465	5,161,340	40,586,275	2,957,693	7,600,000	.....	.....	.....	83,880,573

Horizontal Items

The items listed in this table are horizontal initiatives and other jointly funded items. Both types of horizontal items involve two or more organizations with a formal funding agreement [REDACTED]. Through horizontal initiatives, the organizations work in partnership toward the achievement of shared outcomes. In jointly funded items, organizations receive incremental funding, and each independently contributes to the realization of the stated objective(s).

Horizontal Items

Organization	Amount
	(dollars)
Funding to combat mountain pine beetle infestations	
Parks Canada Agency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating expenditures to mitigate the impact within the Rocky Mountain National Parks, reduce the risk of fires by clearing dead trees, improve fire protection systems in affected areas and collect data. 	2,137,392



MEASURES TO PROTECT CARIBOU IN JASPER NATIONAL PARK

(All data current as of October 30, 2020)

ISSUE

- Parks Canada has an ongoing conservation program to safeguard the herds of woodland caribou found in Jasper National Park and to foster their recovery to population levels that will be self-sustaining. The Agency is examining the feasibility of augmenting the herd to support population growth of this this iconic species.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is committed to preserving national parks and protecting the wildlife that are an integral part of these places. Parks Canada has an ongoing conservation program to safeguard the herds of woodland caribou found in Jasper National Park and to foster their recovery to population levels that will be self-sustaining.
- In recent weeks, Parks Canada has communicated to stakeholders, partners and Canadians that the woodland caribou herd in the Maligne Valley of Jasper National Park is no longer present in the valley. This determination was made after several aerial surveys conducted since 2018.
- Habitat protection measures and area closures will remain in place in the Maligne Valley with minor adjustments, including closures to winter access. Limited winter trail access will be provided to park users, but only in two small areas (Bald Hills and Big Shovel/Little Shovel Passes which represent only 6% of the original closures).
- The Agency is examining the feasibility of augmenting the herd to support population growth of this this iconic species. Parks Canada has been investigating the feasibility of developing a caribou conservation breeding program and is now at the point where a proposal will undergo a review by external experts.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- In September 2020, Parks Canada communicated with stakeholders and on the Agency website that the Maligne Valley caribou herd was no longer present in the valley and all evidence suggests that it is functionally extirpated.
- Five separate aerial surveys (three in fall 2018 and two in fall 2019) of the Maligne Valley have not located any caribou or caribou tracks. In Jasper National Park, annual surveys of caribou are done by flying over caribou habitat and counting the number of caribou that are spotted.
- Parks Canada has an ongoing conservation program to minimize threats to the herds of woodland caribou who make their home in Jasper National Park and to support the growth of herds toward self-sustaining population levels.



- Research shows that the decline in caribou in southern Jasper (Brazeau, Tonquin, and Maligne herds) results mostly from adult caribou deaths. After studying the causes of these deaths, Parks Canada has taken steps to reduce as many of the threats as possible:
 - roadkill has been handled differently since 2006 to prevent predator population growth;
 - access to occupied caribou ranges is closed in winter so human trails and roads don't give wolves easy access to the herds;
 - helicopter guidelines are in place to protect caribou from being disturbed by aircraft;
 - warning signs and speed reductions are in place to protect caribou from traffic.

- Taking these steps created better conditions for caribou survival as well as caribou recovery. Jasper National Park has abundant habitat and conditions are favorable to support caribou recovery:
 - elk populations are at a level that doesn't encourage predator growth;
 - wolf populations are at levels that are no longer a significant threat to healthy, sustainable herds.

- Parks Canada has been investigating the feasibility of developing a caribou conservation breeding program and is now at the point where a proposal will undergo a review by external experts before any further considerations are taken.

- Recovery actions for caribou in Jasper are guided by the Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Southern Mountain population (2014) and the Multi-Species Action Plan for Jasper National Park (2017), both of which were developed in cooperation with Indigenous partners, local and regional stakeholders, and provincial and federal agencies.



SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

ISSUE

- Parks Canada is responsible for the protection and recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou where they occur in Parks Canada places.
- Southern Mountain caribou populations in Alberta and B.C. have declined significantly across their range and are listed as threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*. Two herds range into Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks, and five herds have historically been found in Jasper and Banff national parks. Most herds using the national parks are too small to recover on their own and, in recent years, Banff's (2009) and Jasper's Maligne (2020) herds have become extirpated. This has garnered media attention and questions about Parks Canada's plans for recovery. Three herds (Tonquin, Brazeau, and the cross-boundary A La Pêche herd) remain in Jasper.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada has taken concrete steps to reduce threats to Southern Mountain Caribou and to create better conditions for their survival and recovery, including \$1.5M in investments under Nature Legacy funds.
- Conservation actions implemented include speed zones, hiking and flying restrictions, and winter access restrictions designed to prevent facilitated predator access to caribou. These measures have effectively mitigated four of the five main threats to Southern Mountain Caribou within national parks, and have created the necessary conditions in Jasper National Park to support the growth of caribou populations.
- The remaining threat is small population size, with current numbers too low for caribou to recover on their own. Working with partners and experts, Parks Canada has developed a preliminary project proposal to rebuild caribou herds in Jasper National Park, and is now at the point where the proposal will undergo a review by external experts before any further considerations are taken.
- The recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou herds ranging into Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks is tightly linked to management of the species and its habitat on provincial lands adjacent to the parks. Parks Canada is working closely with the province of B.C. to determine next steps for recovery of these herds.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Southern Mountain Caribou have been identified as one of six Priority Species under the Government of Canada's Nature Legacy program.



- The Banff National Park herd was extirpated in 2009 after an avalanche killed the remaining five animals. The Maligne herd in Jasper National Park is now deemed extirpated, after several surveys in 2018, 2019 and 2020 failed to locate any caribou or caribou tracks.
 - The Tonquin herd is estimated to have 45 caribou and the Brazeau herd to have fewer than 15 caribou.
 - The À La Pêche herd is a partially migratory herd of about 150 animals on Jasper's northern boundary that is primarily managed and monitored by the Province of Alberta. Some animals in this herd are resident in Jasper National Park year-round, some stay in the foothills of Alberta's Rocky Mountains, and some migrate back and forth.

REACTIVE / IF ASKED

Winter access restrictions in Jasper National Park:

- Parks Canada continually reviews and evaluates conservation measures to adapt to changing conditions.
- Recent actions supporting caribou habitat protection include the continued use of winter closures for 2800 km² in Jasper National Park from November to March.
- This year, access to terrain in the Bald Hills and the area between Big Shovel and Little Shovel Passes is no longer restricted. This adjustment opens only 6 percent of the former closures to visitation. Parks Canada will continue to monitor these areas and the closure will be reassessed and reinstated at any time if appropriate.



SPECIES AT RISK

ISSUE

- The *Species at Risk Act* and the Pan-Canadian Approach to Species at Risk focus on the shared responsibility for wildlife conservation in Canada.
- Parks Canada is responsible for the protection and recovery of species in national parks, national marine conservation areas, and national historic sites.
- Parks Canada works collaboratively with ECCC, DFO, Indigenous partners, and adjacent land managers to advance species at risk protection and recovery efforts.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is an active partner in implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation.
- More than 230 species at risk occur on Parks Canada lands and waters, which is about 40% of all listed species. All 6 Priority Species occur on Parks Canada lands and Parks Canada has active conservation programs and existing relationships in place for two of the 4 priority caribou species (Boreal Caribou and Southern Mountain Caribou), as well as for Greater Sage Grouse and Wood Bison, which are also both identified as Priority Species.
- Parks Canada continues to make on-the-ground conservation gains using multi-species, ecosystem-based, and threat-based approaches, as well as by engaging with Indigenous peoples, partners and stakeholders.
- Parks Canada has developed 21 site-based, multi-Species Action Plans that identify recovery actions for over 220 species of conservation concern (including over 127 SARA-listed species) occurring in 42 Parks Canada places.
- In 2019-20 Parks Canada allocated approximately \$2.5M to projects that initiated more than 60 actions identified in Species at risk action plans.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The purpose of the *Species at Risk Act* is to prevent wildlife species from becoming extirpated or extinct, to provide for the recovery of endangered and threatened species, and to prevent other species from becoming endangered or threatened.



- Due to the investment of *A Nature Legacy for Canada* in 2018, Parks Canada has further invested in conservation actions for species at risk, enhanced collaboration with indigenous partners, developed climate-smart approaches to species at risk recovery, and worked more effectively at a landscape scale.
- Parks Canada lands and waters support 40% of Canada's 622 SARA-listed Species at Risk, despite accounting for less than 5% of the total area of Canada.
- The Pan-Canadian Approach to Species at Risk focuses on multiple species and ecosystems, and concentrates federal, provincial and territorial conservation efforts on priority places, species, sectors and threats across Canada. Led by ECCC, this approach includes a commitment to engagement with Indigenous Peoples and enables conservation partners to work together to achieve better outcomes for species at risk.

High profile Species in Parks:

Bison:

- A National Bison Strategy is currently under development and will expand Parks Canada's role as a leader in bison conservation, identify agency-wide bison objectives and priorities, ensure national cohesion for the management of bison herds, and support informed decision making

Southern Mountain Caribou:

- Parks Canada has taken concrete steps to reduce threats to Southern Mountain Caribou and to create better conditions for their survival and recovery, including \$1.5M of Nature Legacy funds. These measures have effectively mitigated four of the five main threats to Southern Mountain Caribou within national parks. The remaining threat is small population size.
- Working with partners and experts, Parks Canada has developed a preliminary project proposal to rebuild caribou herds in Jasper National Park and is exploring options.
- The recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou herds ranging into Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks is tightly linked to management of the species and its habitat on provincial lands adjacent to the parks. Parks Canada is working closely with the province of B.C. to determine next steps for recovery of these herds

Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW):

- Parks Canada protects critical habitat for Southern Resident Killer Whales in the waters of Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands national park reserves.
- Parks Canada works jointly with Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada to increase awareness of, and compliance with, Southern Resident Killer Whale Management Measures.
- Parks Canada is working collaboratively with Indigenous partners to co-develop Indigenous-led marine conservation initiatives/programs that support Southern Resident Killer Whale protection and recovery.



ADVANCING FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR HISTORIC PLACES

ISSUE

- On December 13, 2019, the Prime Minister mandated the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to:
 - Advance Parks Canada's efforts to play a leadership role in [...] cultural heritage conservation and promotion, and work to ensure that Canada's [...] national historic sites are a source of national pride and enjoyment today and for future generations.
 - Work with the Minister of Canadian Heritage to provide clearer direction on how national heritage places should be designated and preserved, and to develop comprehensive legislation on federally-owned heritage places.
- Parks Canada has begun working on a legislative proposal related to the designation of places, persons and events and the protection of federally designated and administered historic places.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Places, persons and events of national historic significance are common markers, connecting Canadians together by telling our diverse stories and helping to understand our past.
- While a national historic site designation communicates to Canadians the significance of a place, it does not affect ownership of the site nor provide legislative protection.
- Parks Canada has begun working on a legislative proposal related to the designation of places, persons and events and the protection of federally designated and administered historic places.
- The development of this legislative proposal is informed by feedback received from this Committee as well as from stakeholders and Indigenous groups over the past few years and input from more recent and targeted engagement sessions.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

Currently the Agency is carefully considering the recommendations and feedback received through several recent gatherings, engagement efforts and reports to advance our work. These include:

- The 2017 and 2020 Minister's Round Tables;
- The 2017 Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) *Preserving Canada's Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow*;



- The Auditor General of Canada's 2018 Report *Conserving Federal Heritage Properties*; and
- The Indigenous Cultural Heritage Gatherings in November 2018.
- Call to Action 79 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

In addition, targeted engagement with relevant Indigenous groups, including Modern Treaty rights holders, are being completed to honor provisions pertaining to the development or formulation of legislation relating to Indigenous heritage resources, heritage resources or archaeological resources, and to ensure the maintenance of established relationships.

Should a legislation with enabling regulatory authorities be adopted, consultations would be required as part of the regulatory process.

Currently, the federal government is lagging behind the provinces and territories with respect to the legal protection of its historic places, as all provinces and territories have adopted heritage legislation.

Canada is the only G7 country without comprehensive legislation supported by regulations, policies and programs to protect historic places within its jurisdiction, including government heritage buildings, archaeological sites and heritage shipwrecks.

Existing federal designations result from various legal and policy obligations adopted over the years. Designation does not necessarily result in protection nor conservation, even for federally-owned historic places. Existing federal designations include:

- National Historic Sites;
- Federal Heritage Buildings (Classified and Recognized);
- Heritage Railway Stations; and
- Heritage Lighthouses.

Heritage Railway Stations and Heritage Lighthouses are the only federal designations legally protected. The *Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act* (1985) and the *Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act* (2008) were both adopted by Parliament following the introduction of Private Member's Bills in, respectively, the House of Commons and in the Senate.



DEFERRED PAYMENTS & RENT RELIEF

ISSUE

- To provide an update on commercial rent deferrals and commercial rent relief for Parks Canada tenants.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- In line with the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program and following guidance from the Treasury Board Secretariat to all federal landlords, the Parks Canada Agency provided rent relief to eligible commercial tenants equivalent to 75% of rents for the period of April through August, 2020.
- In addition to the rent relief aligned to the CECRA program, Parks Canada is also offering commercial tenants the option to defer payments. Parks Canada rents are calculated on an annual basis, with almost all payments made on an annual or semi-annual payment schedule. Payment deferrals supported commercial tenants in managing cash flow.
- Every year, hundreds of small businesses deliver important services to thousands of residents and millions of visitors at Parks Canada places across the country. These businesses play a vital role in their local economies and these initiatives will help them weather some of the financial challenges that COVID-19 has caused.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- CECRA provided rent relief to eligible businesses for the period of April through September, 2020. Parks Canada is currently seeking the authority to extend rent relief for the month of September to ensure alignment with CECRA.
- On October 9, the Government of Canada announced that CECRA was being replaced by the new Commercial Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS). Further details on the CERS program as well as guidance from the Treasury Board Secretariat, will establish if further relief may be offered by federal custodians to their commercial tenants.
- Commercial rent deferrals were offered as follows:
 - Payments due between April 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 could be deferred until October 1, 2020.
 - Payments due between October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 may be deferred until January 4, 2021.
- Rent relief is only being provided to eligible commercial businesses, as well as the Towns of Banff and Jasper. Residential lessees and licensees, and other agreement holders such as utility agreements, are not affected.



FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

ISSUE

- The Government is committed to investing in Canada's national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas.
- Budget 2019 provided \$368 million in funding over two years for high priority capital projects across the country, beginning in 2020-21.
- Budget 2019 served as an extension of the Government commitment made to Parks Canada's places, with \$4.2 billion provided to the Agency over the past five years to support the delivery of 985 high priority projects to protect and restore capital assets in national parks and national historic sites.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is the largest federal land owner and has one of the largest asset portfolios in the federal government (more than 18,000 assets, with a current replacement value of over \$26 billion).
- Parks Canada is developing a long-term plan to ensure effective management and ongoing sustainability of its wide-ranging and diverse portfolio.
- Through infrastructure investments, Parks Canada is protecting and conserving our national treasures, while supporting local economies, and contributing to growth in the tourism sector.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Over the past four decades, Parks Canada has been challenged to maintain the condition of its asset portfolio. The majority of Parks Canada's assets are aging and require significant ongoing investments in lifecycle maintenance and recapitalization.
- Initially in 2012, and then again in 2017, the Agency engaged Opus International Consultants (Canada) Ltd. to assist in planning and implementing a national review of its built asset portfolio. This review validated the overall condition of the Agency's asset portfolio and the ongoing financial requirements to sustain it.
- The Agency is considering a shift to an accrual budgeting regime, which is not just about financial management and investment planning. It is expected to further improve the manner in which the Agency plans, prioritizes, manages, and reports on its capital assets within its portfolio.



PARKS CANADA AGENCY **NEW PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES ACCOUNT**

WHAT IT IS

The New Parks and Historic Sites Account is a special purpose account that provides the Agency with the ability to set aside capital funds for new parks and historic sites. Funds are deposited into the New Parks and Historic Sites Account in order to protect the capital funding required and honor the Agency's commitment for the establishment, enlargement or designation of national parks, national historic sites, national marine conservation areas or other protected heritage areas.

The Account is funded from Parks Canada appropriations (i.e., amounts appropriated to Parks Canada for the establishment and operation of new parks and historic sites), the disposition of the Agency's real property or federal immovables, and from gifts, bequests and donations. Amounts are paid out of the account primarily for the following purposes:

- to acquire any real property or immovables; and
- to develop or maintain any national park, national historic site, national marine conservation area or other protected heritage area that is being established, enlarged or designated, and to make any related contribution or other payment.

HOW IT WORKS

[REDACTED]

(northern park model, southern park model and national marine conservation areas model).

These models include funding for the establishment phase as well as the ongoing phase. The costs related to the establishment phase are to be captured in the New Parks Fund (operating – Vote 1) and the New Parks and Sites Account (capital – special purpose account). Once the park is operational, funding for the ongoing portion is to be transferred into the A-Base of the Business Unit for them to manage as part of their day to day business.

The deposit of moneys into the New Parks and Historic Sites Account (the special purpose account) is done through the Parliamentary appropriation process (vote transfer from vote 1 operations to vote 5 the New Parks and Historic Sites account via Main Estimates & Supplementary Estimates processes).



BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

Funds currently available in the Account are for the following parks (\$77M):

- Rouge (\$40M)
- Lake Superior (\$12M)
- Qausuittuq, Ukkusiksalik, Talluruptiup Imanga, HMS Erebus & Terror (\$10M)
- Naats'ihch'oh, Nahanni, Thaidene Nënë (\$10M)
- Gwaii Haanas (\$1M)
- Gulf Islands (\$3M)
- Mealy Mountain (\$1M)



PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHMENT

ISSUE

- Parks Canada has a key role to play in developing and delivering the Government of Canada's plan to conserve 25 per cent of Canada's land and 25 per cent of Canada's oceans by 2025, working toward 30 per cent of each by 2030.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada's 47 national parks, one national urban park, freshwater National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA), and other protected areas contribute 3.53 percent, or more than a quarter of Canada's 12 percent total terrestrial protected areas.
- Parks Canada's NMCAs and coastal national parks currently contribute 2.12 per cent of Canada's 13.81 per cent total marine and coastal protected areas. Within the 13.81 percent, 5.55 percent is under interim protection in the High Arctic Basin, as Tuvaijuittuq Marine Protected Area, through the *Oceans Act*; Parks Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are working with Inuit partners and territorial governments on this ongoing conservation effort.
- Parks Canada's approach to creating new protected areas is grounded in science and Indigenous knowledge and founded upon collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, and with Indigenous governments and communities.
- Parks Canada works closely with approximately 300 Indigenous communities and has over 30 formal collaborative arrangements with Indigenous partners in a range of formal structures, including cooperative management boards.
- Parks Canada's commitment to approaches that enable Indigenous peoples to fulfill their roles as traditional stewards of lands and waters within heritage places has led to many Indigenous governments and communities expressing desire to see additional sites established as NMCAs. Examples include:
 - the Mushkegowuk Council requesting an NMCA in western Hudson Bay;
 - the Cree in Quebec requesting an NMCA in Eastern James Bay NMCA and nearby National Wildlife Area; and
 - the Nunatsiavut Government working towards an Indigenous protected and conserved area in northern Labrador under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*.



BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada's work to establish new protected areas has been guided by the National Parks System Plan and NMCAs System Plan. The goal of these plans is to achieve representation of each of Canada's 39 terrestrial natural regions and 29 marine natural regions through the creation of new national parks and NMCAs, thereby contributing to domestic and international biodiversity targets. The 47 national parks currently represent 31 of Canada's 39 terrestrial natural regions, while the five established NMCAs represent six of 29 marine regions.
- Parks Canada is currently working closely with British Columbia and the Syilx / Okanagan Nation on a project to establish a national park reserve in the South Okanagan–Similkameen, and with the Government of Prince Edward Island and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island to assess the feasibility of a new national park reserve in the Hog Island Sandhills chain in northwestern Prince Edward Island.
- Parks Canada is currently working collaboratively with provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments on feasibility assessments for NMCAs in Eastern James Bay, in the Southern Strait of Georgia in British Columbia, in the Iles de la Madeleine in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, in Canada's High Arctic Basin, and off the coast of Torngat Mountains National Park in northern Labrador.



VISITATION IN 2020 (APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30)

(All data current as of October 17, 2020)

ISSUE

- Parks Canada experienced a general decline in visitation from April to September 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, while a number of Parks Canada places received significantly fewer visitors, others exceeded past records. In total, some 13.4 million Canadians visited Parks Canada places from April 1 to September 30, 2020. This is 65 percent of 2019 visitation levels for the same period.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Millions of Canadians safely enjoyed Canada's national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas this summer and early fall. Parks Canada received 13.4 million visitors from April 1 to September 30, 2020.
- Parks Canada's primary goal in resuming operations was to help flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic while providing Canadians with safe access to the outdoors and the associated health and wellness benefits that come with it. The core operating principle was to mitigate health and safety risks to visitors, employees, and all Canadians.
- Despite the challenges of operating during COVID, visitors had positive experiences. Based on a national survey of visitors in summer 2020:
 - 89% of visitors enjoyed their visit;
 - 87% of visitors chose to visit because they considered the place to be safe;
 - 84% of visitors were satisfied with health and safety measures in place; and
 - 82% of visitors felt re-opening of parks/sites provided a sense of normalcy.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Visitation to national parks was 8.5 million, which is 67 percent of 2019 levels. July and August were the busiest months, with 5.4 million visits or 82 percent of 2019 levels. Some national parks exceeded past records, including Elk Island National Park and Point Pelee National Park.
- Many national historic sites could not safely open for full operations in summer 2020. Total visitation to historic sites was 4.9 million, or 62 percent of 2019 levels. Visitation to historic canals and waterways was 3.2 million (94 percent of 2019) and visitation to historic sites unconnected to waterways was 1.7 million (37 percent of 2019).
- There were regional differences in visitation. Alberta and Ontario fared well overall, while Atlantic and Northern Canada experienced lower visitation due partly to regional travel restrictions.



Table 1 - Change in Visitation by Program: 2020 (compared to 2019)							
	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	YTD
National Parks	-100%	-100%	-38%	-20%	-16%	-10%	-33%
National Historic Sites	-100%	-100%	-30%	-39%	-28%	-28%	-38%
<i>Canals</i>	-100%	-100%	+8%	-8%	-1%	0%	-6%
<i>All other historic sites</i>	-100%	-100%	-65%	-62%	-53%	-50%	-62%
All Parks Canada	-100%	-100%	-35%	-27%	-21%	-17%	-35%

Table 2 - Change in Total Visitation by Region: 2020 (compared to 2019)			
Newfoundland and Labrador	-83%	Manitoba/Saskatchewan	-34%
Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Isl.	-59%	Alberta	-30%
Quebec	-31%	British Columbia	-42%
Ontario	-17%	North (Yk, Nu, NWT)	-85%



WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK WORLD HERITAGE SITE **ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

ISSUE

- In 2017, the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee requested that Canada develop an Action Plan for the Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site to address threats to the site's Outstanding Universal Value as a result of climate change and pressures from the increasing pace and scale of development (hydro-electric and oil sands) outside its boundaries.
- The Action Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Committee on February 1, 2019 and tabled in Parliament in March 2019.
- The Action Plan is a comprehensive response to the World Heritage Committee concerns and includes 142 actions that are focused on:
 - strengthening park management in collaboration with Indigenous partners
 - enhancing research, monitoring and management of the Peace-Athabasca Delta using science and Indigenous knowledge
 - establishing new mechanisms to support improved water management in the Peace Athabasca Delta
 - increasing the protection and connectivity of ecosystems within and adjacent to WBNP
 - implementing recovery actions for Whooping Crane and Wood Bison
- In July 2019, the World Heritage Committee welcomed the Action Plan and urged Canada to make additional investments in support of the Plan's implementation due to the complexity of the conservation challenges the park is facing.
- Canada will submit a report on progress with the Action Plan's implementation to the World Heritage Committee by December 1, 2020.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The Government of Canada recognizes the Outstanding Universal Value of Canada's UNESCO World Heritage sites and is committed to their ongoing protection.
- Through Budget 2018, the Government of Canada has demonstrated its commitment to the protection of the Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site by investing \$27.5 million to support the development of the Action Plan and its early implementation.



- Through the measures outlined in the Action Plan, through ongoing collaboration with partners, and by making use of the best available science and Indigenous knowledge, the Outstanding Universal Value of Wood Buffalo National Park will be preserved and the important issues identified by the World Heritage Committee will be addressed.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Canada is leading the implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the Government of Alberta, Government of British Columbia, Government of Northwest Territories, Indigenous partners of Wood Buffalo National Park and stakeholders.
- Under Budget 2018, Parks Canada Agency received \$27.5 million to develop the Action Plan and support implementation of limited early actions.



COVID-19 RELATED IMPACTS ON PARKS CANADA'S REVENUES

ISSUE

- Parks Canada Supplementary Estimates B includes funding to address the revenue shortfall that the Agency experienced in the first six months of the fiscal year due to the impact of the pandemic on revenues from visitation and rent relief provided to commercial tenants.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is a special operating agency and retains the revenues earned from fees. These revenues are reinvested in service delivery and help Parks Canada provide greater opportunities for visitors across the country.
- In support of government efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve of the pandemic, Parks Canada temporarily suspended visitor services and access at all national parks and national historic sites from March 19 to June 1, 2020 to align with the guidance of public health authorities.
- Beginning June 1, the Agency gradually restored visitor services at select locations with modifications to mitigate health and safety risks, while providing Canadians access to the health and wellness benefits of being outdoors in nature.
- Visitor services and paid experiences were reduced in summer 2020 and only locations that could be operated safely were open to visitation. This, combined with a preference among visitors for safer, low cost outdoor activities (e.g. hiking and enjoying day-use areas) are all factors that are impacting the Agency's annual revenues for 2020-21.
- This financial support to partially address Parks Canada's revenue shortfall allowed the Agency to effectively sustain operations, manage COVID-19 risks for visitors and employees, and continue to address uncertainty by continually adapting visitor services and operations so that Canadians could safely enjoy the wellness benefits of access to the outdoors in national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas.
- Furthermore, the Agency also sought and received authority and funding to provide rent relief to hard hit commercial operators within Parks Canada places to parallel the support provided under the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. This support has been a critical help to tourism businesses in Parks Canada places across the country.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada generates approximately \$177 million in revenue annually, primarily from visitor services, commercial real property agreements, and the sale of permits and other goods and services. These revenues are used to support core and ongoing operations.
- In Supplementary Estimates B for Parks Canada, there is up to \$74.1 million to partially address its anticipated visitation and commercial leases and licences of occupation revenues' shortfall associated with the first six months of 2020-21. Specifically, this funding is composed of the following two elements:
 - First, up to \$68.4 million was identified as the revenue that was at risk of not being generated from visitor services from April 1 to September 30, 2020. This amount represents a maximum that could be made available to the Agency. It will be reduced by the amount of revenue collected and by a portion of the shortfall that the Agency will fund internally from savings incurred.
 - Second, up to \$5.7 million was earmarked to provide for the remission of rent to commercial tenants in national parks and historic sites to parallel the Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program.
- The Agency is finalizing its financial reports on revenue collected and savings
[REDACTED]
- The Agency is continuing to monitor the potential risk of revenue loss for the remainder of the fiscal year and continues to assess the financial impact on commercial operators and mitigation measures.



SNOW REMOVAL ON THE MULTI-USE PATH ON THE LACHINE CANAL

ISSUE

- The Lachine Canal National Historic Site is bordered by a multifunctional path which is one of the busiest in Montreal and which allows workers and bicycle enthusiasts to cross the city from east to west safely on a daily basis.
- Parks Canada maintains the path from April 15 to November 15. Although the site is not maintained in winter, winter activities such as cross-country skiing, walking or snowshoeing are practiced there.
- For several years, municipal officials and interest groups have been lobbying Parks Canada to have the path cleared of snow to make it a four-season active transportation corridor.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada will begin discussions with the City of Montreal this fall to assess possible options.
- Parks Canada recognizes the growing interest in winter activities on the Lachine Canal and is committed to working with its partners to expand the recreational offer along the Lachine Canal, including winter activities for all clientele (walkers, snowshoers, cross-country skiers, cyclists, etc.).
- Currently, Parks Canada is already working with the City of Montreal, which maintains a separate 2 km portion of the trail to allow winter activities such as snowshoeing, winter walking and oversized tire cycling (commonly called "fatbike").

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- From 2016 to 2019, at the request of the City of Montreal, Parks Canada contributed (\$ 25,000) to carrying out a feasibility study as part of a pilot snow removal project on a section of approximately 500 m - 1 km from the track on the north side of the canal between Richmond and Smith road.
- The preliminary results of the feasibility study were shared with Parks Canada on February 7, 2019 and presented by City of Montreal officials to stakeholders on February 15, 2019. The study reveals that the current characteristics of the path are not suitable for snow removal without significant modifications involving reconstruction: low structural capacity, low thickness, high freezing of soils, poorly draining soils, loss of the insulating power of snow and acceleration of degradation, presence of dangers such as patches of stagnant water and root-induced uplifts, etc.



The study also shows that the trail is not suitable for snow removal and must be rebuilt.

- A subsequent analysis of other factors to be taken into account such as the very high costs of disposing of contaminated soil, the presence of dikes along the path retaining water from the adjacent urban environment, the modification of bridges, tunnels and walkways not suitable for snow removal, the costs associated with archaeological monitoring and environmental studies, modification of the appearance and accessibility of the site, etc. was also taken into consideration.
- During the public consultation on the draft master plan for the Lachine Canal in 2017, requests for a winter recreational offer were repeatedly expressed, which includes snowshoeing, winter walking, oversized wheeled cycling (fatbike), skating, and also winter biking (requiring snow removal of the path).



LIRICON GONDOLA PROPOSAL IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK

ISSUE

- On December 19, 2019, Parks Canada communicated to Liricon Capital Limited that their proposal for redevelopment of the Mount Norquay ski area into a year-round attraction via development of a gondola would not be considered further based on its lack of conformance with key policy and its adverse impacts on a public access road. On February 28, 2020, Liricon submitted “for discussion purposes only”, a revised gondola (aerial transit) proposal along with additional plans for redeveloping their nearby ski area and the railway lands inside the town of Banff, which would be connected by the proposed gondola.
- Liricon is also advocating for twinning of the railway line and development of passenger rail between the Calgary airport and the town of Banff, as a means to promote “green” transportation.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is committed to protecting the environment and to providing exceptional visitor experiences. Carefully planned and managed ski areas can provide meaningful national park visits and learning experiences while complementing the conservation and restoration objectives of Parks Canada.
- Canadians have high expectations for the protection of their national parks and they have clearly supported policies limiting commercial development and growth as a cornerstone to that protection.
- The information presented by Liricon to Parks Canada has been for “discussion purposes only”. No decisions have been made.
- Public openness and transparency are key principles underlying Parks Canada’s management and decision-making. Parks Canada applies an integrated set of considerations to preliminary review of all land use proposals and plans, commencing with conformance with applicable regulations and policy.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The revised Liricon proposal for discussion purposes submitted in February 2020 is not substantively different from the proposal deemed to be non-conformant in 2019 and includes:
 - Development of a gondola spanning the Trans-Canada Highway, extending between the town of Banff and the ski area,
 - Redevelopment of the ski area, demolition of a number of buildings, construction of a 39,000 sq ft building, a reduction in ski runs, and expansion of operating hours and season to accommodate a shift in business from winter to year-round sightseeing, and
 - Redevelopment of the Banff railway station lands to include a gondola base, retail, restaurants, amphitheatre, parking for 2,500 – 2,825 vehicles.



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



- The proposal is also connected to Liricon's advocacy for the re-establishment of passenger rail between Calgary and Banff, a project currently being studied by the Government of Alberta and the Canada Infrastructure Bank.
- Liricon has publicly framed their proposal as an environmentally-friendly mass transit initiative aiming to: reduce vehicle congestion in Banff; augment parking in the townsite at no cost to residents; and reduce the impacts of human use activity in the Cascade wildlife corridor.
- Extensive review of the revised proposal for discussion purposes is underway and Parks Canada will provide additional feedback to Liricon.



ADVISORY PANEL FOR SUSTAINABLE PEOPLE MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK

(All data current as of October 30, 2020)

ISSUE

- Parks Canada will announce on November 2, 2020 its intention and plan to create an expert panel to advise on the development of a unique people-moving framework for Banff National Park. In the coming months, Parks Canada will engage Indigenous partners, stakeholders and the public to develop a terms of reference for the panel and seek participants with expertise in protected area management, tourism, and transportation planning.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is committed to ecological and cultural integrity of national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas and to providing Canadians with opportunities to discover and enjoy these remarkable places.
- Banff National Park is one of Canada's most iconic protected places and is a national and international treasure. It is also one of Canada's busiest natural and cultural recreation and tourism destinations.
- On Monday of this week (November 2, 2020), Parks Canada announced its intention to create an expert panel to advise on the development of a long-term framework and strategy for transportation and the movement of people within the park.
- The goal of this work is to chart a bold path for the future that will transform the way people access and move within Banff National Park. This work will enhance and complement ongoing efforts by Parks Canada to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support biodiversity and resource protection, protect ecological and cultural integrity, foster reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and deliver authentic visitor experiences that can be enjoyed by all Canadians and by visitors from around the world.
- Since 2005, Parks Canada has reduced the greenhouse gas emissions from its operations in Banff by more than 35 percent. Over the past five years, the Agency has also made a number of advances in transit and people movement at popular destinations in the park. More can be done and we are committed to making advances in this area while protecting the ecological and cultural integrity of the park and its resources.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- On November 2, Parks Canada will announce its intent and plan to create an expert panel to advise on the development of a unique people-moving framework for Banff National Park.



- The effort will involve extensive engagement of Indigenous partners, stakeholders and the public to develop a terms of reference for the panel and seek participants with expertise in protected area management, tourism, and transportation planning.
- In addition, Parks Canada will provide future opportunities for consultation and engagement on the plan that will be developed based upon the panel's advice and recommendations.
- The framework will result in a complete overhaul of the way people access and move around the park, with options for visitor movement that enhance overall efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support Parks Canada's objectives for biodiversity and resource protection, visitor experience, sustainability and authenticity.



NATURAL GAS LIQUEFACTION PLANT PROJECT (PROJET ÉNERGIE SAGUENAY) BY GNL QUÉBEC INC. IN SAGUENAY, QUÉBEC

ISSUE

- Ships from the proposed natural gas liquefaction plant by GNL Québec Inc. in Saguenay, Québec (Projet Énergie Saguenay) would add additional 300 to 400 transits per year in the Saguenay Fjord. This increase would mean the presence of at least one tanker at all times in the Saguenay St. Lawrence Marine Park area.
- The Saguenay Fjord is located within the Saguenay-St. Laurent Marine Park that was established jointly by Québec and Canada with public support largely to protect the critical habitat of the beluga. The Fjord is a very important acoustic refuge for the endangered St. Lawrence beluga population.
- The project is a polarizing issue with wide media coverage at the provincial level.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada acts as an expert in both ongoing environmental assessment processes (federal and provincial) for the proposed natural gas liquefaction plant. Parks Canada has expressed concerns about the potential impacts of an increase in maritime traffic in connection with the project, particularly with regard to protection of the environment, public safety and the quality of visitor's experience in the marine park.
- As part of the federal environmental assessment, Parks Canada indicated that given the precariousness of the St. Lawrence beluga population, and in the absence of scientific certainty, the Agency advocates the precautionary principle in the management of activities that may represent a threat to the beluga recovery.
- Parks Canada has also expressed concerns about cumulative effects of shipping projects in the Saguenay Fjord as combined impacts of projects may give rise to impacts that are different or greater than those caused by individual project.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the Marine Park is identified as critical habitat for the beluga, and the Marine Park represents thirty-seven percent (37%) of all critical habitat of the beluga.
- Parks Canada, Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are working together to assess options to increase the protection of belugas in the context of increased shipping expected both on the Saint-Lawrence and the Saguenay.
- When creating the Marine Park in 1998, the governments of Quebec and Canada, together with public support, committed to increase ecosystem protection levels for conservation purposes, for the benefit of present and future generations, while encouraging its use for educational, recreational and scientific purposes.



PROVINCE HOUSE NHS CONSERVATION PROJECT

ISSUE

- The Province House National Historic Site Conservation project is a comprehensive and total conservation of the 172-year-old building known as the birthplace of Confederation and the site of the Prince Edward Island Provincial Legislature.
- Funding for the restoration of Province House has been allocated incrementally as the project has proceeded in order to allow information gathered as the building is dismantled to inform costing of restoration. In a series of increments, \$61M was allocated for project preparation and the first phase of structural repairs. A news release issued on February 5, 2020, announced a further \$30.7M in funding for completion of the project, bringing the total to \$91.8M. An Access to Information request was subsequently received requesting information related to budget overages. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this Access to Information request is still being processed.
- While conservation work at Province House National Historic Site continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a reduction in the number of people working on site. As a result, the Province House NHS Conservation Project timeline of 2022 may be affected, but it is too soon to fully understand what those delays may be at this time.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Due to the size and complexity of this project, funding has been allocated incrementally. This has ensured a better understanding of the scope of the project as the layers of the building have been uncovered. This incremental budgeting approach has been well publicized to stakeholders and the media.
- Work has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic but the reduction in workforce during the pandemic could result in delays to the project completion date of 2022.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Province House National Historic Site, the seat of the PEI Legislative Assembly, is owned by the Province of PEI and operated and maintained by the Federal Government via Parks Canada Agency, through a 1974 MOA.



- The Government of Canada is investing in the conservation of this historic structure through Parks Canada's Federal Infrastructure Investment and Capital Asset Investment programs, and Budget 2017 funding. The conservation project is being managed by Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) on behalf of Parks Canada.
- The Province House NHS conservation project began in 2015 and is scheduled to be completed in 2022. Recent funding will be used to complete the final phases of the project, refitting the building for occupation and public access and developing new ways to share the story of Confederation to visitors. Work will also include reinstallation of the building's electrical and mechanical systems, interior finishes, fire code compliance, and universal accessibility upgrades. The fourth and final phase of the project will centre on the design, development and installation of new interpretive media. A visitor experience plan for the site will be developed in consultation with stakeholders in fall 2020.



ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK

ISSUE

- The park's first management plan was tabled in Parliament in 2019 and park land assembly is now nearly 95% complete, with lands having transferred incrementally to Parks Canada from the Province of Ontario, Transport Canada and several local municipalities since 2015. Negotiations with the City of Markham are underway to transfer most remaining lands committed to Parks Canada for inclusion in the park. In August 2019, Minister McKenna and Toronto Mayor John Tory announced the location of the park's visitor center on lands the Toronto Zoo has agreed to transfer to Parks Canada for inclusion in the park. Parks Canada is currently reviewing architecture and engineering bids for the centre and an extensive public engagement program has commenced with Indigenous and community partners; the centre is expected to open in 2024. Parks Canada is also working on building approximately 50 kms of new trails, washrooms, and other foundational facilities as part of completing the establishment of the park. Now that the park's land assembly is substantially completed, a Minister-appointed park advisory committee will be named by early 2021, including an open nomination process for the public members.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The first of its kind in Canada, Rouge National Urban Park protects Canada's natural, cultural and agricultural heritage and is situated within one hour's drive of 20% of Canada's population. Once fully established, the park will be 23 times larger than Central Park in New York and one of the largest urban protected areas in the world.
- Since 2012, Parks Canada has worked closely with the RNUP First Nations Advisory Circle on all aspects of the park's establishment and programming, including co-designing park trails and infrastructure, and working together on park restoration, archaeology and educational programming.
- Parks Canada is working closely with a wide range of community partners, stakeholders, Indigenous partners, park farmers, conservationists and residents in designing all park trails, facilities and the park's flagship visitor center.
- Over the next three years, a significant amount of new trails, visitor amenities and conservation projects are expected to open or be completed, including the addition of approximately 50 kilometers of new trails and planting of over 100,000 trees and shrubs.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The establishment of RNUP is now at an advanced stage, with the park's first new trails and day use areas having opened in 2019 and 2020, with many more new trails and facilities expected to open over the next four years.



- In 2017 the *Rouge National Urban Park Act* was amended by the Government of Canada to ensure that ecological integrity is the first priority when managing the park, and also to provide greater certainty for park farmers.
- To this end, Canada's Minister responsible for Parks Canada committed to providing park farmers with leases of up to 30 years to provide them with long-term stability. Longer term leases give farmers an opportunity to make investments in sustainable agricultural practices and continue providing an important source of locally-grown food to the Greater Toronto Area.
- Parks Canada will continue working collaboratively with farmers to encourage the development and implementation of best farming practices, which will assist in achieving desired ecological conditions across the landscape.
- The RNUP Management Plan was tabled January 16, 2019. In completing the plan, Parks Canada engaged with over 20,000 Canadians and worked closely with Indigenous Peoples, all levels of government, conservationists, farmers, residents, and volunteers in one of the Agency's most significant and largest ever public engagement processes.
- On August 27, 2019, the Government of Canada, Parks Canada and the Toronto Zoo announced an agreement regarding the location of the future RNUP visitor centre, which will be built on the lands formerly part of the Toronto's Zoo's naturalized overflow parking. The facility will be a learning, orientation and community centre where students, visitors and residents may learn about the Rouge as well as about Parks Canada places across the country.
- With ecological integrity enshrined as RNUP's first priority, Parks Canada has put in place a very ambitious ecological restoration and species-at-risk recovery program. To this end, since 2014, Parks Canada has released over 400 threatened turtles back into the park, planted over 100,000 trees and shrubs, and created over 80 hectares of aquatic and forest habitat.
- The City of Toronto is an important partner in the establishment of Rouge National Urban Park and has been working in partnership with Parks Canada to establish the park since 2012.
- Parks Canada has worked with the City of Toronto to preserve and safeguard a number of heritage buildings in the Toronto area of Rouge National Urban Park. Some of these buildings include:
 - **Toronto Wildlife Centre House:** Parks Canada is working in partnership with the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to help locate a new long-term home in Rouge National Urban Park for the Toronto Wildlife Centre (Canada's largest hospital for sick and injured wildlife). As part of this work, Parks Canada has been working with all partners to restore the Meeno-Reesor Homestead at 6461 Steeles Avenue



East. The restored building will act as an office and interim base of operations until the completion of an adjacent new facility can be completed in the coming years.

- **Pearse House:** Parks Canada has been working closely with the City of Toronto to ensure that the Pearse House always remains an important landmark and community hub in the park. To this end, in creating the park, Parks Canada committed to ensuring the building will remain the home of the Rouge Valley Foundation, an important local education and youth organization.
- Parks Canada manages 22 buildings with heritage character in the Toronto area of Rouge National Urban Park, including some of the last working farmsteads and barns in the City of Toronto. By 2025, it's estimated that Parks Canada will have invested \$3 million in restoring, servicing and maintaining some of these buildings. The buildings have been managed by Parks Canada since June 2019, when 1,847 hectares of lands in the Toronto area of the park transferred to Parks Canada for inclusion in Rouge National Urban Park.
- In addition, Parks Canada's head office for Rouge National Urban Park is located at the historic Cornell-Campbell House at 3620 Kingston Road. This City of Toronto heritage building has been Parks Canada's flagship Toronto office since 2013, and although situated outside of the national park, Parks Canada has taken an active role in the building's commemoration through hosting annual events such as Doors Open T.O. and other important community events.



WOOD BISON CONSERVATION IN WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK

ISSUE

- On December 19, 2019, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change formed the opinion that Wood Bison are facing imminent threats to their recovery. The imminent threat assessment focused on the Ronald Lake and Wabasca herds in northeastern Alberta.
- Several Wood Bison herds occur in Wood Buffalo National Park. The Ronald Lake herd range includes lands in the southern area of Wood Buffalo National Park.
- The imminent threats to the Ronald Lake Herd are the risk of contracting two bovine diseases from diseased bison in Wood Buffalo National Park, as well as range loss from proposed industrial activities. With fewer than 20 individuals in the Wabasca herd, the imminent threat is unregulated harvest.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada continues to work towards the conservation and recovery of this species, to support the goals and objectives of the federal Wood Bison Recovery Strategy. In particular, Parks Canada is identifying and evaluating options for addressing the risk of disease transmission from Wood Buffalo herds to disease-free herds
- Parks Canada will continue to work in collaboration with federal, provincial, territorial, Indigenous and community partners to develop and implement Wood Bison conservation measures.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The Minister responsible for Parks Canada is a competent Minister for Wood Bison under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) where the species occurs on Parks Canada lands. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is the competent Minister for the species outside of Parks Canada lands and is leading the development of Wood Bison recovery.
- Wood Bison was also identified as one of six “priority species” under the *Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada*, which was approved by federal/provincial/territorial ministers in 2018. This approach aims to focus collaborative action on shared priorities to maximize conservation benefits through the identification of priority sectors, places and species.
- Parks Canada’s 2010 management plan for Wood Buffalo National Park also committed to minimize the risk of transmission of bovine diseases to adjacent disease-free Wood Bison.



PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

ISSUE

- To provide an update on Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for Parks Canada.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- PILT is the means by which the federal government contributes financially to municipalities for its fair share of the cost of municipal administration for federally-owned properties.
- Under the authority of the *Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act*, Public Services and Procurement Canada continues to determine the amount of PILT and make payments to municipalities on behalf of Government Departments.
- In return for its payment, the federal government expects to receive all of the same services provided to a taxable property in a given municipality (e.g., water, sewer, garbage collection, ambulance services, health inspections, etc.).
- PILT costs continue to increase due to municipal development and infrastructure demands, increased property values and inflation.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The PILT estimate for this fiscal year (2019-20) is \$20M for properties administered by the Agency.
- As additional lands are acquired by the Agency, PILT costs will continue to increase causing additional financial pressures.



TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

ISSUE

- To provide a status update for the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) under Parks Canada's jurisdiction in Alberta and British Columbia.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Since the creation of Parks Canada in 1998, \$353.5 million in supplementary funding has been provided for TCH twinning enabling the twinning of 82 km in Banff National Park and 6 km in Yoho National Park. There remains 97 km of untwinned TCH in national parks located in British Columbia. Currently, Parks Canada has no funding to continue TCH twinning after March 31, 2021.
- Parks Canada continues to seek opportunities to extend TCH twinning through its parks in British Columbia. The Province of British Columbia is continuing to advance numerous TCH twinning investments along this shared transportation corridor between the Alberta / British Columbia border and Kamloops.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Three hundred and twenty kilometres of the TCH from the Alberta / British Columbia border to Vancouver remain untwinned. Parks Canada is the custodian of 97 km of the untwinned sections of the TCH (40 km Yoho National Park, 44 km Glacier National Park, 13 km Mount Revelstoke National Park). Parks Canada's untwinned sections of the TCH are the least reliable and in the most challenging terrain making them the most susceptible to closures and delays. Many incidents would be eliminated entirely by safety improvements inherent in upgrading to a twinned highway.
- Parks Canada previously submitted applications in 2017 and 2019 to Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund program seeking funding to continue twinning the TCH in British Columbia. These applications were unsuccessful.
- The estimate to complete TCH twinning in national parks in British Columbia is in the range of \$1.5 billion (Yoho National Park \$370 million; Mount Revelstoke National Park \$140 million and over \$1 billion for Glacier National Park).
- Preparatory work (i.e. impact assessment, design, consultation) for twinning the remaining 40 km in Yoho National Park is near completion; therefore, ready for twinning construction.
- Total planned investment on TCH for twinning and rehabilitation by the Government of British Columbia is approximately \$1.7 Billion over the next several years.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

ISSUE

- Climate change impacts to Parks Canada-administered places are complex, and the Agency is committed to integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation actions into its work.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks and protected areas in Canada are part of a “nature-based solution” to climate change, as healthy ecosystems help nature and people adapt to climate change. These places conserve biodiversity, protect ecosystem services, connect landscapes, take up and store carbon, build knowledge and understanding, and inspire people.
- By using ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation and adaptation, Parks Canada's work provides important co-benefits that address multiple climate change impacts, not only contributing to landscape-level biodiversity conservation, but also human health and well-being.
- Parks Canada is conducting important research within protected areas that contributes to our understanding of climate change, and informs climate change adaptation and mitigation action at protected heritage places.
- Through the 32.2 million hectares of natural capital found in national parks, \$266 billion in ecosystem services are provided annually to Canadians. This does not include national marine conservation areas and national historic sites

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The Agency is working to improve its understanding of current and future climate change impacts, and to enhance its ability to adapt, through a variety of initiatives:
 - Agency experts are co-leading two working groups that include federal, provincial and territorial managers, as well as Indigenous, industry and academic partners, to develop and share knowledge and best practices for heritage place stewardship in the context of climate change.
 - Parks Canada led the development of an adaptation framework for parks and protected areas in collaboration with federal, provincial and territorial partners.
 - In collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Climate Services a series of climate summaries were developed. This work builds on a series of Parks Canada regional and site-specific reports summarizing the evolution of climate conditions at heritage places and the potential impacts that projected changes may cause.



- Prince Edward Island National Park and academic partners are working together to assess dune vegetation recovery following tropical storm Dorian, to better understand the recovery of coastal ecosystems after extreme weather events.
- The Agency is also conducting research with the Canadian Forest Service and other organizations to develop Parks Canada's Carbon Atlas series, which will assess and map ecosystem carbon dynamics within the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of Canada's national parks and national marine conservation areas.



NATURE LEGACY

ISSUE

- In Budget 2018, the Government of Canada made a historic investment of \$1.3 billion in nature conservation, known as the *Nature Legacy for Canada*. This is the single largest investment in conserving nature in Canadian history.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The Nature Legacy investment is supporting Parks Canada in its mandate to protect and present the examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage under its care.
- Since 2018, sustained efforts in the effective management of Parks Canada places during Nature Legacy has led to concrete conservation gains and progress towards targets:
 - As of 2020, 86% of ecological integrity measures have been maintained or improved, an increase of 4% since 2019. Parks Canada is on track to reach its target of 92% by 2023, and will sustain efforts to maintain this target.
 - Parks Canada continues to develop site-based multi-species action plans for species at risk, and is on track to achieve the Nature Legacy target of implementing 50% of recovery actions in SARA action plans by 2023.
- The Agency has also initiated new work to increase the ecological connectivity of Parks Canada places with other protected and conserved areas. For example, as of 2020-21, more than 30 conservation initiatives anchored around Parks Canada places are underway to increase connectivity.
- COVID-19 has helped to remind many Canadians of their love of nature. Building on the foundation that have been laid with the Nature Legacy investment, the Agency will continue to enhance biodiversity conservation and is exploring how to support access to nature in urban areas.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Through the Nature Legacy Parks Canada received \$220.8 million over 5 years to support the implementation of Canada's Nature Legacy.



PROPOSED SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

ISSUE

- In July 2019, the governments of Canada and BC and the syilx/Okanagan Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing: (1) the negotiations phase of the establishment agreement process; (2) to a working boundary; and (3) to negotiate a national park reserve establishment agreement. As of the fall 2020, current activities focus on the negotiation of that establishment agreement.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen will protect a rare ecosystem, contribute to the conservation and enjoyment of nature, help save species at risk, strengthen biodiversity, advance reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and preserve opportunities for syilx/Okanagan Nation cultural practices to continue.
- Parks Canada undertook broad and extensive consultations with local residents, stakeholders and all Canadians to obtain their views on the proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. This valuable input will inform the negotiation of an establishment agreement between the Governments of Canada and British Columbia and the syilx/Okanagan Nation.
- Parks Canada and its partners are committed to continue working with stakeholders and local residents to take advantage of opportunities and find solutions to concerns raised through the public consultations.
- As the situation around COVID-19 evolves, work on the proposed national park reserve continues through the use of remote meeting technology. The approach and timelines need to be adaptive.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen straddles two federal ridings: South Okanagan-West Kootenay, represented by MP Richard Canning, NDP; and Central Okanagan - Similkameen – Nicola, represented by MP Dan Albas, Environment and Climate Change critic for the Conservative Party. While MP Canning is supportive of the proposed national park reserve, MP Albas has not expressed any strong views to Parks Canada's knowledge.
- Parks Canada is providing financial support to both the Osoyoos Indian Band and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band to continue to inform and consult with their respective community membership, as well as to initiate pilot guardian programs.



- Parks Canada is actively implementing key recommendations from the 2019 “What We Heard” consultation on this establishment project to ensure ongoing and transparent communications with local residents and to address specific concerns.
- Parks Canada, the Province of BC and Local First Nations (syilx Nation) are in negotiations right now; the focus at this point is on First Nations issues and exploring ways that the syilx Nation and Parks Canada land management systems can coexist and inform one another in cooperative management. When the focus moves to other provisions related to land management including grazing, water management, helicopter access, mining, and boundary adjustments, etc., then the appropriate representatives and impacted stakeholders will be updated on progress and engaged in discussions.
- Parks Canada continues to share information and keep communities up to date on progress. For instance, PC’s Project Manager has provided quarterly updates to the Regional District of the Okanagan Similkameen, as well as to mayors and councils of the surrounding communities, as recently as Sept 17, 2020.
- A letter to local landowners approved by the tri-partite partite PC – B.C. Parks – Okanagan Nation Steering Committee was distributed in mid-August. It reaffirms in writing the commitments contained in the July 2019 MOU signed by ministers and chiefs, as well as providing general updates on the negotiations process.



PARKS CANADA NATIONAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ISSUE

- Under the *Canada National Parks Act*, Parks Canada is responsible for managing wildland fire activity across the of federal lands under its jurisdiction. The Agency fulfills this responsibility through its National Fire Management Program.
- Parks Canada is the only federal organization with operational wildfire management resources. As a steward of 350,195km² of federal Crown lands in Canada that include a number of high profile townsites, such as Banff, Jasper and Waterton, Parks Canada has an obligation to prepare for and respond to wildfires and wildfire risks.
- Parks Canada regularly contributes fire management resources to assist provinces, territories and international governments through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is proud to have sent members of its fire management team to Australia earlier this year and most recently to the United States during their devastating wildfire seasons. As part of the Canadian response, Parks Canada deployed 13 team members to Australia and 25 team members recently returned home from supporting the fight against wildfires along the west coast of the United States.
- Parks Canada is working in collaboration with other government departments to advance sustainable fire management and to improve our ability to understand and manage fire on the landscape to enhance the resilience of national parks to the impacts of climate change.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada's fire management program has four objectives: (1) to mitigate wildfire risks, and control and manage wildfires to protect "values at risk"; (2) to maintain the role of fire as a natural ecological process; (3) to maintain readiness to respond to wildfires; and (4) to maintain Parks Canada's obligations to partner agencies.
- Parks Canada collaborates with federal, provincial, territorial, and international governments as well as the academic, non-profit, and private sectors to prepare for and respond to wildfires as well as to better understand, prevent, and manage increasing risks. Parks Canada is also a member of CIFFC, which coordinates the sharing of resources for wildfire response across Canada and internationally.
- Climate change is driving more intense, faster moving and longer lasting wildfires, increasing risk to the safety and security of Canadians, to economic activity, and to critical infrastructure. Canada, including Parks Canada, is facing wildfire resource and capacity challenges as the frequency and damages resulting from wildfires are increasing.



FOREST PESTS IN PARKS CANADA

ISSUE

- Native and exotic forest pests occur in many national parks. Some of those pests kill large numbers of trees and can therefore affect ecological integrity, species at risk, visitor and staff safety, as well as cultural resources and infrastructure.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Native insect outbreaks are part of the natural cycle of forests, contributing to forest renewal and diversity, especially in the boreal regions. However, climate change has increased the extent and severity of outbreaks of forest insects such as mountain pine beetle and eastern spruce budworm. Parks Canada responds to outbreaks by working with partners to mitigate major risks to park visitors, staff, infrastructure, and surrounding communities.
- Exotic forest pests, such as hemlock woolly adelgid, are not part of natural forest cycles. Parks Canada uses integrated pest management, a comprehensive strategy to limit the population of unwanted species and/or the damage they cause, by combining prevention, monitoring, and control measures (biological, mechanical, or chemical).

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Mountain Pine Beetle has invaded Jasper National Park, as the beetle's eastern geoclimatic barrier was breached in 2006 and 2009, leading to its establishment in lodgepole pine and jack pine forests in Alberta. In Jasper National Park, cold weather events in 2019 and 2020, along with declining available habitat, have collapsed mountain pine beetle populations to pre-outbreak levels. On October 8, 2020, \$6.9 million in funding was announced to assist the Rocky Mountain national parks (Jasper, Banff, Kootenay and Yoho) in implementing measures to mitigate the effects of the mountain pine beetle infestation, including wildfire risk reduction in and around communities (FireSmart).
- As an outbreak of spruce budworm is threatening to develop on the west coast of Newfoundland, Gros Morne National Park has been in ongoing discussions with the Province and Canadian Forest Service regarding the need and conditions for conducting Early Intervention Strategy activities in the park.
- Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site is working with partners to slow the spread and to mitigate the impact of hemlock woolly adelgid. Since it was first discovered in Nova Scotia, Parks Canada has implemented several measures and is investing \$1.4 million over 5 years to further support the efforts to protect eastern hemlock forests in Kejimikujik.



MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

ISSUE

- On October 8, 2020, \$6.9 million in funding was announced to assist the Rocky Mountain national parks (Jasper, Banff, Kootenay and Yoho) in implementing measures to mitigate the effects of the mountain pine beetle infestation, including wildfire risk reduction in and around communities.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada remains committed to management of the mountain pine beetle in national parks, and to working together with the Government of Alberta, Natural Resources Canada, municipal governments and other stakeholders to mitigate the associated economic, social and environmental risks.
- With the recently announced funding, Parks Canada is augmenting the mitigation measures it has in place to address the impact of mountain pine beetle and associated fire risk, and improve the ecological health of our forest ecosystems.
- This work is underway. Specifically, Parks Canada is:
 - in partnership with the Municipality of Jasper, expanding the ‘FireSmart’ program to reduce the fire hazard created through mountain pine beetle-killed trees;
 - establishing contracts to work alongside Parks Canada on hazard tree removal in two large Jasper National Park campgrounds;
 - in collaboration with the Jasper Indigenous Forum, Parks Canada has already begun the action plan to reduce fire risk at Jasper’s Cultural Use Area, and;
 - undertaking the engineering on further fire suppression and protection methods for affected national park communities (e.g., high volume fire suppression systems).

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Jasper National Park has been monitoring and managing mountain pine beetle since they were first recorded in the park in 1999.
- Recent research shows that the leading edge of the infestation was likely slowed by control efforts, and that extended cold temperatures during winters of 2019 and 2020 provided a further control effect on mountain pine beetle populations. While the research results are welcome, there is still much work to do to mitigate mountain pine beetle-related impacts, particularly in the forests surrounding communities located within the Rocky Mountain national parks (Jasper, Banff, Kootenay, and Yoho), as well as those that abut susceptible provincial forests.



2020 MINISTER'S ROUND TABLE ON PARKS CANADA

ISSUE

- Every two years, the Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency holds a national roundtable to consult interested Canadians on the work of the Agency. For 2020, the Minister's Round Table began on October 8 with nine days of small, virtual stakeholder sessions. From October 19 to 30, 2020, all Canadians were invited to share their views through an online engagement portal at letstalkparksCanada.ca (Let's Talk Parks Canada).

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Every two years, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada holds a roundtable to discuss the work of the Agency with interested Canadians. For 2020, the Minister's Round Table was held from October 8 to 30.
- The following five topics were the primary focus of dialogue for the 2020 Minister's Round Table on Parks Canada.
 - Urban Parks: Parks Canada, as a catalyst in urban conservation, and providing access to nature and culture in communities.
 - Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility: Parks Canada as a partner, and a leader in inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and reconciliation in protected and heritage places.
 - Ecological Corridors: Connecting protected places to respond to climate change and biodiversity loss.
 - Reconciliation Through Conservation: Indigenous leadership in conservation, traditional use, and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
 - Protecting our Cultural Heritage: Advancing legislative protection for federal built heritage.
- Participation in the 2020 Minister's Round Table was very good, with rich dialogue. Under the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, the Minister must respond to the recommendations of the Minister's Round Table within 180 days.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Section 8.1 of the *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998) calls upon the Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency to hold a roundtable every two years to seek input from Canadians on matters for which Parks Canada is responsible. The last Minister's Round Table was held in January 2017 and the Minister's response was published in May 2018.



- The Minister's Round Table began by engaging with a small number of key stakeholders from October 8 to 16, 2020, with short facilitated topic-based discussions held by video-conference led by the Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries Duguid and Schiefke as well as Parks Canada's President and CEO, Ron Hallman. From October 19 to 30, 2020, all Canadians were invited to participate through an online engagement platform found at letstalkparkscanada.ca (Let's Talk Parks Canada dot CA).



DECLINE IN VISITOR REVENUES IN 2020 (APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30)

(All data current as of October 17, 2020)

ISSUE

- Parks Canada experienced a decline in revenues in summer and early fall 2020 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on travel and tourism in Canada. Visitation in some regions, particularly where bubbles were implemented, was very low. International visitation dropped dramatically and domestic visitors frequently chose low-cost activities, such as day use.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada has experienced a decline in revenues due to COVID-19 so far this fiscal year. While visitation was high in many locations, there was a significant drop in visits in other parts of the country. Also, adjustments to Parks Canada's visitor services meant that fewer fee-based experiences could be delivered in 2020 in order to minimize the risks of COVID-19.
- Currently, Parks Canada visitor revenues are estimated to have declined by 62 percent compared to 2019 (\$31 million up to September 30, 2020 versus \$82 million for the same period in 2019).
- The decline in visitor related revenues was a function of many intersecting factors, including, but not limited to:
 - Decline in overall visitation;
 - Closure of or delayed openings of some Parks Canada locations;
 - Modified offer at many Parks Canada locations (e.g., reduced hours, limited access to buildings / attractions, reduced availability of camping, limited programming and services);
 - Elimination of high yield international travelers due to border closures;
 - Heavy dependence on same day, local visitors (due to travel limitations, public concern over cases in different regions); and
 - Significant volume of refunds on camping reservations (due to border closures) and coverage of cancellation fees.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada's primary goal in resuming operations during COVID was to provide Canadians with safe access to the outdoors and the associated health and wellness benefits without increasing the risks of the coronavirus for visitors, employees and all Canadians. Resuming operations at Parks Canada places also helped to support the Canadian tourism industry by drawing Canadians to destinations across the country.



- Parks Canada’s core operating principle for resuming operations was to mitigate health/safety risks to employees, visitors and Canadians. This meant Parks Canada had to adapt / modify its offer, which would impact earned revenues.

- Although Parks Canada experienced significant loss of revenue in 2020-21, a national survey of Canadians who visited national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas in summer 2020 found broad support for the Agency’s efforts.
 - 87% of visitors chose to visit because they considered the place to be safe;
 - 84% of visitors were satisfied with health and safety measures in place;
 - 82% of visitors felt re-opening of parks/sites provided a sense of normalcy; and
 - 80% said re-opening was important to their mental health.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SERVICE FEES ACT AT PARKS CANADA

ISSUE

- In January 2020, for the first time since 2008, Parks Canada made adjustments to its fees. These changes were made as part of the Agency's implementation of the 2017 *Service Fees Act*. All fees were increased by 2.2 percent to reflect inflation. Also, admission fees were updated at 21 Parks Canada locations based on enhancements made to the visitor experience offer.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The 2017 *Service Fees Act* provides for increased transparency in the setting and administration of service fees across federal departments and agencies. It also requires improved cost-recovery where services bring a largely private benefit to individuals or businesses. The legislation further requires regular adjustment of fees to reflect inflation based on the Consumer Price Index.
- Parks Canada increased all fees by 2.2 percent on January 1, 2020 to reflect inflation. The Agency also increased admission fees at 21 parks and historic sites based on enhancements made to the visitor experience offer. These changes were the first increases made to Parks Canada fees in over a decade.
- Parks Canada fees are very reasonable and offer good value for Canadians. The Agency reinvests all revenues earned from fees into operations. Over 20 percent of Parks Canada's operating budget comes from fee revenues. Providing high quality service and experiences to Canadians requires reasonable cost recovery for fee-based services while being affordable for individuals and families.
- Parks Canada conducted a national consultation on fees in 2019. No fee adjustments have yet been made based on this consultation.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada administers more than 3,500 individual fees that fall under the scope of the *Service Fees Act*. They range from admission to accommodation, to lockage, as well as municipal services, business licenses and various permits.
- Parks Canada's admission fee structure is based on the level of service offered at each location. These service levels are based on the number of hours a visitor would typically spend on-site, as well as the variety of programs, services, and facilities available to visitors.



OCCUPATION OF LAKE AUDY CAMPGROUND AT RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

(All data current as of October 30, 2020)

ISSUE

- Mr. Wesley Bone, a member of Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation (KOFN), is currently occupying a portion of Lake Audy Campground in Riding Mountain National Park without the support of his community or the Coalition of First Nations with Interests in Riding Mountain National Park. There is no collective recognition within his community to his claim as a hereditary chief of the Okanase.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is committed to a system of national parks and national heritage places that recognizes and respects the rights of Indigenous peoples, as well as honours their contributions, cultures, and relationships with lands and waters.
- Over the past months, a member of the Keeseekoowenin Ojibway [KEY-SEE-KOO-WAY-NIN OH-JIB-WAY] First Nation has occupied a portion of the Lake Audy Campground in Riding Mountain National Park.
- Parks Canada is working with all parties to come to a constructive resolution of this matter for the individual, for our Indigenous partners, for park residents and for the tens of thousands of Canadians who enjoy Riding Mountain every year.
- The Lake Audy area remains available to visitor use, including the bison enclosure, the Lake Audy dam, picnic areas, hiking trails, and the lake is open for fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing. The area is also available for use for traditional ceremonial purposes for Indigenous peoples and partners.
- The Anishinabe of the region of Riding Mountain hold deep cultural connections at Lake Audy. Parks Canada values and respects the connection they have had to the land and waters of Riding Mountain National Park since time immemorial. Parks Canada and the Coalition of First Nations with Interest in Riding Mountain National Park are collaborating to facilitate and foster use and enjoyment of the Lake Audy area for cultural and ceremonial purposes.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Mr. Bone has occupied a portion of the Lake Audy Campground for several months. The area is popular with visitors and local residents. There is limited public understanding that the site has been occupied and used by Indigenous groups for at least 4,000 years. Parks Canada is working with Mr. Bone and Indigenous partners to resolve the situation. There is no recognition by Indigenous partners of Mr. Bone's status. The Agency is communicating regularly with park residents and visitors.



TOURISM AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

ISSUE

- Parks Canada is one of the largest national providers of tourism experiences in Canada and makes significant contributions to Canada's economy.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Heritage places are cornerstones of Canada's tourism industry. Banff National Park, the West Coast Trail (in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve), the Cabot Trail (in Cape Breton Highlands National Park), and the Fortifications of Quebec are some of the most iconic tourism destinations in Canada.
- Parks Canada places attract millions of visitors annually and are important economic engines in communities across Canada. They help create and sustain local jobs and businesses in hundreds of communities across Canada. In 2017-2018, Parks Canada places generated \$4.1 billion in gross domestic product and supported over 40,000 jobs across the country.
- Travel and tourism have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. After a brief suspension of visitor services, Parks Canada began re-opening national parks and historic sites beginning on June 1, 2020. This provided 13.4 million Canadians with safe access to natural and cultural settings and also helped to support countless small tourism businesses across the country which depend on Parks Canada's visitors.
- Parks Canada is preparing for the coming winter season and for spring and summer 2021 and will work closely with the tourism industry to help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the sector.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Canada's tourism industry has been dramatically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Jobs are estimated to have dropped from 739,000 in 2019 to as low as 430,000 by September 2020. The industry has experienced an estimated 61 percent drop in revenues with a full recovery not anticipated until 2023 or 2024.
- All regions have suffered equally, but some components of the sector have experienced even greater impacts, such as accommodations and business events which have suffered an 82 percent and 87 percent drop in revenues respectively. Tourism to heritage places has helped to sustain the sector, with overnight visitation down by 35 percent in Banff and 45 percent in Niagara Falls as examples. However, visitors are spending less, even in popular domestic destinations, and Banff and Niagara have experienced an estimated 70 percent decline in revenues from last year.



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AT PARKS CANADA IN 2020

ISSUE

- Parks Canada employs over 2,000 youth at national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas across Canada every year. In summer 2020, due to operational adjustments for COVID-19 and limited resources, fewer than 1,000 youth were employed at Parks Canada places.
- Parks Canada is committed to youth employment, is a participant in the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, and employs youth in urban, rural and remote locations across Canada. The Agency employs a number of youth who face barriers to employment, including Indigenous and racialized youth.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is one of the federal government's largest employers of youth. The Agency employs over 2,000 young people every year in urban, rural and remote locations across Canada.
- Over the past four years, Parks Canada has employed an average of 2,200 young people per year. However, in 2020, youth employment was lower than in previous years due to necessary adjustments to Parks Canada's operations in response to COVID-19 and reduced resources for youth employment.
- Parks Canada is committed to youth employment and to helping young people overcome barriers to employment and career development. The Agency employs Indigenous youth, racialized youth, youth with disabilities, and youth who have faced barriers to education and career development. Parks Canada offers a career path for young people in a wide variety of occupations.
- Parks Canada's full-time workforce, as of September 30, 2020, is composed of 1,279 employees under the age of 30, which represents 19 percent of the total workforce.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada employs youth in a wide variety of occupations. Over the past four years, funding for youth employment has come from three sources: the Agency's A-Base (approximately 1,100 youth); the Young Canada Works Program (approximately 200 youth); and the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (Green Jobs – between 500 and 1,300 youth). The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy was only partially renewed in 2020-21 and Parks Canada funding was not included in the renewal.



- Parks Canada has also participated in the Youth Employment Opportunity Program (YEO). The Treasury Board Secretariat leads this pilot project and its goal is to support youth facing barriers to employment. From June 2019 to June 2020, seven youth facing barriers to employment in a NEET situation (not in employment, education or training) were employed in CR-04 positions within the Agency.



CONSOLIDATION OF THE COLLECTION UNDER PARKS CANADA'S CARE

ISSUE

- The Government of Canada will invest \$66 million to build a special-purpose collection facility in Gatineau, Quebec and consolidate the national collection of archaeological and historical objects under Parks Canada's care from five locations into this facility.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The consolidation of the archaeological and historical collection in one place ensures the sustainable, long-term conservation and management of the collection. At present, approximately 60 percent of the collection is under threat due to lack of appropriate environmental and security controls.
- The collection will be safeguarded in a Class A environment¹, systematically organized, managed and monitored by a national team of collection, curatorial and conservation specialists.
- Parks Canada continues to engage and work with interested Indigenous Nations to find concrete, practical ways to enhance their access to the collection. To date the Agency has engaged 44 Indigenous Nations.
- The Agency will work collaboratively with other stakeholder groups such as museums to find innovative ways to present and share the collection.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- In 2012, the Government of Canada decided to consolidate the existing facilities into one, newly constructed, special-purpose collection facility in Gatineau, Quebec. This facility is the most sustainable long-term way to secure, conserve and manage the collection, which was confirmed as the best value for money by Public Services and Procurement Canada's 2015 Investment Analysis Report and reaffirmed in 2019.
- Five of the facilities, due to age, would have required significant investment to bring them to the required conservation and security standards. In spring 2020, the collection housed in the Cornwall facility was moved to the Agency's Ottawa Sheffield road facility. Objects currently remain in Winnipeg, Quebec City (2 locations), Ottawa and Dartmouth.
- Land in Gatineau was acquired from Library and Archives Canada in January 2018 at a cost of \$405k. Design consultants Moriyama and Teshima Architects + NFOE were hired in January 2018 and design work was completed in fall 2019. In summer 2020 the project was tendered and closed in October 2020. Bids are currently under evaluation and it is expected construction will commence late 2020. Subject to the construction schedule, it is anticipated the collection will be moved by 2023-24.

¹ Stable temperature and humidity control allowing for gradual fluctuations.



- Indigenous communities are concerned that Indigenous artifacts from current regional locations will be moved to the new facility. Overall, discussions with Indigenous communities have been positive.

- In 2017, Parks Canada decided to uphold the Dartmouth lease (expires 2029) as it is a purpose-built facility in order to alleviate facility pressures at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site. The stored Louisbourg collection will be moved to Dartmouth where it will be incorporated into the national collection. Storage needs beyond 2029 will be assessed at a later date.



DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND HISTORICAL COMMEMORATION

ISSUE

- Parks Canada is committed to supporting diversity and inclusion through implementation of the National Program of Historical Commemoration, as well as through the Agency's interpretive programming and other public history initiatives.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- National historic sites reflect the rich and varied heritage of our country and provide an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about our diverse history.
- Parks Canada recognizes the need to ensure that the National Program of Historical Commemoration and all of the Agency's public history programs better reflect the diversity that has made Canada what it is today. Various initiatives are underway to help ensure Canadians are able to see themselves and their communities reflected through the designation of persons, places and events of national significance and through the interpretation of places administered by Parks Canada.
- In particular, our Government is committed to developing a national system of natural and cultural heritage places that acknowledges the contributions of Indigenous peoples, their history and cultures, and respects the special relationship Indigenous peoples have with traditional lands and waters.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- In June 2019, Parks Canada released its new *Framework for History and Commemoration: National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan 2019*. This new framework aims to support the development of a more inclusive system of national historic designations. In implementing the framework, Parks Canada is supporting a broader range of stories that reflect the diversity of voices, perspectives, and experiences in Canadian history and the integration of Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practice into the commemoration and presentation of heritage and history at Parks Canada.
- The principles and approach outlined in the *Framework for History and Commemoration* provide the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and the Government of Canada with a consistent approach to reviewing and revising controversial historical designations and promoting greater diversity and inclusion in its public history programs. This ongoing work will help the Agency to build awareness of nationally significant aspects of Canada's history and promote diverse understandings of our country's past through more relevant visitor experiences and enhanced public interpretation of historical subjects.



- In addition, Parks Canada is continuing to review and update its cultural heritage policies and practices to promote the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives and the removal of any potential barriers.
- Currently 39 designations under the National Program of Historical Commemoration focus on subjects related to Black History, including four which were announced on July 31, 2020. Other examples include:
 - Africville National Historic Site (designated 1997) is a site of remembrance for Halifax’s Black community. For over a century, Black Canadians settled in this Halifax neighbourhood, developing an independent community centred around church and family. During the urban renewal movement of the 1960s, the city leveled Africville and relocated its residents in the face of community protest. Africville has become an enduring symbol of the ongoing struggle by Black Canadians to defend their culture and their rights.
https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=1763
 - Kathleen ‘Kay’ Livingstone National Historic Person (designated 2011) advanced the cause of Black Canadian women. This noted Toronto activist founded the Canadian Negro Women’s Association in 1951 and was the driving force of the first National Black Women’s Congress in 1973. She worked tirelessly to break down prejudice and promote the equality of individuals of diverse origins.
https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=13024
 - Portia May White National Historic Person (designated 1995) was an internationally-acclaimed contralto who had a remarkable career on the concert stage. Debuting in Toronto and New York in the 1940s and performing in recitals across North and South America, this Black Nova Scotia vocalist became a source of pride for all Canadians.
https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=1713
 - Harry Winston Jerome National Historic Person (designated 2009) was an exceptional athlete and one of the fastest men in the world for the better part of the 1960s. This Vancouver-based sprinter later made major contributions to the development of amateur sport and fitness in Canada. His determination, courage and perseverance remain a point of pride for Black Canadians and an inspiration for all Canadians.
https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=12543



REFLECTING CANADA'S DIVERSITY IN NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC SITES AND MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS

ISSUE

- Canada's national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas belong to all Canadians and Parks Canada is committed to ensuring that these places can be enjoyed by all without barriers.
- Parks Canada is committed to sharing Canada's national heritage places with all Canadians and is delivering focused programming designed to reach urban Canadians, Canadians of diverse backgrounds, Canadians with disabilities, and Canadian youth.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada delivers a wide range of programs designed to invite more Canadians of all backgrounds and abilities to enjoy national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas.
- Parks Canada's Learn-to Camp program reached over 100,000 people in 2019, introducing countless families to the enjoyment of nature and history in cities, towns, national parks and historic sites. This program is delivered across Canada in collaboration with community organizations and other partners and is focused on empowering Canadians of all backgrounds and abilities to access the health and wellness benefits of safely enjoying nature.
- Parks Canada's outreach programs, including partnerships with organizations like the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, help share Canada's national parks and historic sites with new Canadians and Canadians of all backgrounds and abilities. Parks Canada's youth outreach programs are present on 25 university and college campuses across Canada and Parks Canada youth ambassadors connect with young Canadians in communities across Canada and over digital channels.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Since 2011, Parks Canada has been implementing a multi-year strategy called *On Target* to reach new audiences and bring parks and history to Canadians where they live. The initiative is helping to diversify Parks Canada visitation, engage youth, and foster broad interest in natural and cultural conservation across Canada.
- In 2019, the Agency connected with more than half a million Canadians through Urban Outreach and Learn-to camp programs, as reported against its Departmental Results Framework. In the years to come, Parks Canada expects to exceed this as it has increased its engagement efforts to reach Canadians where they work, live and play.



ENVI REPORT AND AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON CONSERVING FEDERAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES

ISSUE

- The Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) in 2017 and the Auditor General in 2018 both pointed out that the Government of Canada is not adequately protecting and conserving its historic places.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is the lead federal organization for federal heritage buildings, federal archaeology and programs that relate primarily to built heritage.
- Parks Canada has already undertaken steps to address the concerns raised by the ENVI Committee in 2017 and the Auditor General in 2018.
- Parks Canada has been asked to consider the development of a comprehensive legislation for the designation and protection of federally owned historic places to ensure that they continue to benefit present and future generations of Canadians, connecting them with their history and fostering pride.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

In fall 2017, the ENVI Committee tabled its report, *Preserving Canada's Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow*. The report's 17 recommendations go beyond the protection and preservation of historic places administered by the Government of Canada. The ENVI Committee recommended the introduction of new legislation and the strengthening of policy measures to protect historic places and archaeological resources. The Committee also called for increased funding of the National Cost-Sharing Program, as well as for the integration of Indigenous voices and perspectives in all aspects of federally designated historic places, including their designation and protection.

In November 2018, the Auditor General of Canada tabled in Parliament the report, *Conserving Federal Heritage Properties*. The findings of the report were that Parks Canada does not have a full picture of the number and condition of the heritage buildings under its responsibility, cannot conserve all of its designated heritage properties and sets priorities based on available resources to determine which properties will be maintained, conserved and monitored regularly.

Parks Canada has already undertaken steps to address the concerns raised by the ENVI Committee in 2017 and the Auditor General in 2018, such as;

- completion of the review on approach for designating federal heritage buildings
- creation of an Ad Hoc Heritage Places Conservation Advisory Committee to monitor the state of heritage conservation in Canada



- continued work with Indigenous partners to review cultural heritage policies and practices while collaborating on new ways of telling their stories at Parks Canada's places through research, development and presentation initiatives.

Since December 2019, Parks Canada is working on the development of a legislative proposal related to the designation and to protection of federally-owned historic places.

In addition, the Agency continues to work with other departments to strengthen the conservation of federally-owned historic places. For example, as the federal lead for built heritage and archaeology, Parks Canada has contributed to the review of the Treasury Board Secretariat's *Policy on the Management of Real Property*.



INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP

ISSUE

Through Indigenous stewardship initiatives, Parks Canada works collaboratively with Indigenous groups to bring life to reconciliation.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada works with Indigenous peoples to further advance stewardship and conservation priorities for both natural and cultural heritage.
- The Agency fosters an Indigenous stewardship approach that is tailored to the rights, priorities, and aspirations of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis partners. Indigenous stewardship initiatives start early, for example, guardians programs are developed at the outset of the establishment process. The following are other examples of stewardship in action at Parks Canada:
 - 30 formal cooperative management arrangements or boards with Indigenous peoples at Parks Canada places;
 - 5 on-the-land guardians programs that provide a variety of supports for park operations as well as training and career opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in land management within their traditional territories;
 - a cooperative, multi-jurisdictional initiative to manage hyper abundant black-tailed deer and invasive fallow deer at Gulf Islands National Park Reserve;
 - ongoing collaboration with Indigenous groups to facilitate traditional harvesting activities of plants for medicinal and traditional purposes;
 - integrating Indigenous knowledge in conservation activities such as the 2018 Gwaii Haanas Land-Sea-People Management Plan and current initiative to protect and support recovery of the Southern Resident Killer Whales with the Coast Salish and Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations;
 - working in partnership with Indigenous groups at Parks Canada places to provide economic opportunities such as the current development of the Upscheek tashee multi-use pathway project in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.
- As part of the 2020 Minister's Roundtable on Parks Canada, Indigenous peoples, and Canadians more broadly, have been invited to share their views on what Parks Canada could do to further support Indigenous leadership in conservation and stewardship in national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

Parks Canada administers over 90 percent of federal lands, nearly all of which have been traditionally used by Indigenous peoples. Parks Canada currently works within the traditional territories of approximately 300 First Nations, Inuit, and Metis communities.



Long standing Indigenous guardian programs operate within Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site. New guardian programs are operating within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, and the Wrecks of HMS *Terror* and *Erebus* National Historic Site. At each of these sites Indigenous guardians uphold generations-long responsibilities to steward lands and waters.

- Indigenous peoples have been stewards of their traditional territories since time immemorial. As the largest federal land manager, Parks Canada is advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by ensuring these places support practices on the land, economic opportunities for local Indigenous communities, and collaborative decision making that honours and upholds Indigenous rights, responsibilities, and knowledge systems.
- Parks Canada's approach to Indigenous stewardship responds to calls for action from Indigenous peoples, and the Government of Canada's commitment to renewed relationships, rooted in the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development's 2017 report, *Taking Action Today: Establishing Protected Areas for Canada's Future*, made recommendations for the Government of Canada to pursue common conservation objectives and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in both new and existing protected areas, including Indigenous protected areas.



LABORATORIES CANADA: CULTURAL HERITAGE SCIENCE HUB

ISSUE

- Budget 2018 committed \$2.8 billion for Phase 1 of Laboratories Canada, starting in 2018-2019. This is part of a 25-year plan to rebuild federal laboratories and bring federal scientists and science facilities across the Government together to advance interdisciplinary research.
- The Culture Heritage Science Hub is one of the five Phase 1 science hubs of this initiative. The Hub will see the co-location of the Parks Canada's conservation services, the Canadian Conservation Institute and the Canadian Heritage Information Network into a new, state of the art conservation science facility.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The co-location of these culture heritage science functions will create the largest Canadian center of expertise in cultural conservation and will emphasize and foster science excellence, collaboration and national and international leadership to advance the understanding, preservation and conservation of historic sites, objects and collections.
- The hub will see real property, IT/IM and science infrastructure gains through co-location, collaboration and sharing of space, scientific instruments and technology.
- The Hub is currently working together with the Laboratories Canada Office to map out how the organizations will work with each other as well as developing a functional program for the new facility to inform its design.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Phase 1 of Laboratories Canada (formerly the Federal Science and Technology Infrastructure Initiative) lead by PSPC, was approved by Cabinet in November 2018. It includes five Hubs. The partnering departments of all of the Hubs in Phase 1 are to be co-located in world- class science facilities over a five-year period.
- Under this initiative, the Cultural Heritage Science Hub has created a small project management office to support the Hub teams. The project office is overseen by a Director General Hub committee that reports to the Deputy Minister Hub Committee co-chaired by the President & Chief Executive Officer (PCEO) of Parks Canada and the Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage. Both Canadian Heritage and Parks Canada have been heavily engaged on all aspects of the initiative at the working and management level.
- To date, the Hub team has developed a Science Plan, which was reviewed by the Government of Canada's Chief Science Officer and a panel of experts. The plan outlines science areas for collaboration, including climate change. As part of the functional programming, the Hub completed the Master Plan and is embarking on



identifying the details of the functional program. This work will inform the design and ultimately the construction of the Hub's science facility.

- With the involvement of the Hub, Laboratories Canada carried out an evidence based, detailed analysis on site locations for the Hub in the National Capital Area. This analysis is complete and four locations were provided to the Deputy Ministers Science Committee for a site recommendation to the Minister of PSPC. The Hub is expecting a decision on site location shortly.