

Guidance for Request for Extensions of Planning Permits

Issue

Commercial and residential lessees and licensees with existing or planned developments in Parks Canada places are facing significant financial and operational challenges due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Combined with the impact of provincial restrictions, such as those on the construction industry, there is greater uncertainty and potential impacts to all phases of development projects including design, construction and renovation.

To support lessees and licensees during this time who may require adjustments to deal with these impacts, Parks Canada will consider extensions of permit expiry dates. Since each project is unique in terms of size, scope, and current status of development, such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Parks Canada will need to look favourably on any request for an extension for a permit given the impact on all businesses, small and large, and the halt to tourism and construction industry, including the closure of Parks Canada places

Considerations

Permit extensions will not be automatically granted nor universally applied to all permits, rather applicants should request an extension that would be considered based on the type of request, status of work, and other any other considerations.

- Some activities can still continue given provincial directives are evolving separately. For example, some provinces have exempted the construction/renovation industry from closure (but subject to strict physical distancing measures), while others allowed construction to continue only if foundation permits were issued or construction was started by early April.
- Additionally, some activities related Development Permit applications can still continue such as professional services, albeit on a limited or virtual basis.

Proposed Approach

Generally speaking, requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the local Field Unit based on:

- the current phase of development;
- type of permit;
- provincial restrictions on the construction industry or professional services;
- workforce and industry capacity;
- risk to employee and public safety;
- site safety;
- impact of one extension on another permit (e.g. extending the term of a Building Permit on a request for extension of a Development Permit).

For safety reasons, 'interim' occupancy should not be permitted without inspections or until previously identified safety issues are resolved.

No fee will apply when considering such requests or issuing a new permit with a new expiry date.

It is understood that requests for extensions will likely run beyond the time that Parks Canada places are closed since the impacts on a project might not be immediately known.

Standard Communication to use with lessees:

Parks Canada recognizes that many businesses and individuals are facing significant financial and operational challenges due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Combined with the impact of provincial restrictions, such as those on the construction industry, there is greater uncertainty related to construction and renovation projects.

To support lessees and licensees during this time, Parks Canada will consider extensions of permit expiry dates if requested. Since each project is unique in terms of size, scope, and current status of development, such requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

To keep up to date on the agency-wide initiatives taken by Parks Canada to prevent the spread of COVID-19 please consult our website: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/voyage-travel/securite-safety/covid-19-info>. Further information regarding the measures the federal government is taking to support individuals and businesses through *Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan* can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>.

We will provide further updates on possible future measures taken by Parks Canada or the Government of Canada, when necessary and as information becomes available with respect to the situation you have raised with the Agency.