

Briefing Book

Appearance Before the

Standing Committee on

Environment and Sustainable Development

May 3rd, 2022

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OVERVIEW OF PARKS CANADA 2022-23 MAIN ESTIMATES

ISSUE

- The Agency's reference levels for the 2022-23 Main Estimates are presented at \$988.6 million.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Approximately \$988.6 million in total funding is anticipated through the 2022-23 Main Estimates, which is composed of:
 - A voted spending authority amount of \$781.5 million (79%) which consists of
 - \$622.1 million in Operating expenditures, grants and contributions (Vote 1);
 - \$138.1 million in Capital expenditures (Vote 5); and
 - \$21.3 million for the New Parks and Historic Sites Account (Vote 10).
 - A statutory amount of \$207.1 million (21%) which consists of:
 - \$57.1 million for the Employee Benefit Plan; and
 - \$150 million for expenditures equivalent to revenues.
- This represents a net decrease of \$140.5 million, or 12%, compared to the 2021-22 Main Estimates. The major changes include:
 - a decrease of \$308.8 million due to the time-limited funding for infrastructure investments;
 - an increase of \$96.6 million for an Enhanced Nature Legacy;
 - an increase of \$15.8 million for the implementation of the Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site Action Plan;
 - an increase of \$13.6 million for the wildfire and flood resilience;
 - an increase of \$9.4 million for Canada's New Marine Conservation Targets; and
 - a net increase of \$32.8 million for a number of initiatives with changes in the approved funding levels.
- With the funding received in Main Estimates, Parks Canada will continue to protect, present, and manage Canada's existing national historic sites, national parks, heritage canals, national marine conservation areas and one national urban park for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians. It will also support Parks Canada to work with partners to consider the creation or enhancement of new new national parks, national marine conservation areas and cultural landscapes as well as the creation or enhancement of urban parks and ecological corridors.

CHANGE TO THE VOTE STRUCTURE

- Starting with 2022-23, Parks Canada Agency has a separate vote for capital expenditures.
- Capital expenditures are not new to the Agency, however, in the past, spending was reflected under one vote entitled program expenditures.
- The Agency is a major assets holder and incurs significant capital expenditures as part of its normal business. The change towards a separate vote aligns the Agency's vote structure with other organizations who are also major assets holder with substantial capital expenditures.

MAIN ESTIMATES – EXPLANATIONS OF MAIN VARIANCES

The Agency's 2022-23 Main Estimates reflect a net decrease of \$140.5 million, or 12%, compared to previous year's Main Estimates. Following are brief descriptions of the major items:

- **A decrease of \$308.8 million related to infrastructure investment**

This decrease is primarily due to the time-limited funding for infrastructure investments as it nears completion. An amount of \$4.2 billion was provided to the Agency over the period of 2015-2023 to support the delivery of 995 high priority projects to improve the condition of its capital assets in national parks and national historic sites. The Agency is developing a long-term plan to seek funding renewal for the management and sustainability of its infrastructure.
- **An increase of \$96.6 million for an Enhanced Nature Legacy**

This funding will allow for the renewal and/or expansion of critical elements of the original Nature Legacy 2018 initiative to meet the more ambitious conservation goals. Funding will help respond to the biodiversity crisis and pressures for sustainable recovery and well-being of Canadians by protecting 25% of Canada's lands and freshwater by 2025, strengthening protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats, advancing reconciliation through Indigenous leadership in conservation and supporting healthy natural infrastructure and increased access to nature.
- **An increase of \$15.8 million for the implementation of the Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site Action Plan**

Funding will be used to strengthen management of the Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP) in collaboration with Indigenous partners, enhance research, monitoring and management of the Peace-Athabasca Delta as well as establish mechanisms and take action to support improved water management in the Peace-Athabasca Delta. This initiative will contribute to improved outcomes for ecological integrity of WBNP.
- **An increase of \$13.6 million for the wildfire and flood resilience**

This funding will support the Enhancing Wildfire Resilience of Parks Canada's Protected Areas program focused on prevention and response measures for wildfires that originate in, traverse through, or otherwise threaten Parks Canada administered lands and adjacent communities. It is part of a program that will collectively help Canada better understand, be resilient to, and protected from, natural hazards by improving availability and access to crucial data and mapping, as well as increasing operational capacity to prevent and respond to wildfires. Parks Canada will use the incremental funding to enhance capacity and expand its existing National Fire Management program. Activities will focus on strengthening the wildfire resilience of Parks Canada's protected areas, including the safety of visitors and the protection of built facilities, natural and cultural assets, ecosystems and wildlife, for which the Agency has responsibility.
- **An increase of \$9.4 million for Canada's New Marine Conservation Targets**

This funding will support the new marine conservation targets initiative which aims to protect 25% of Canada's oceans by 2025. Funding will be used to support feasibility assessments and negotiation for 11 new national marine conservation areas throughout Canada's oceans. This funding will also provide Parks Canada with the capacity to negotiate impact and benefit agreements and participate in marine spatial planning in the Western Arctic.



- **A net increase of \$32.8 million for a number of initiatives with changes in the approved funding levels**

Description	Amount
Implementation of Rights and Reconciliation Agreements in Atlantic Canada	6,807,543
Youth Employment and Skills Strategy	6,765,876
Wood Bison	5,071,659
HMS Erebus and HMS Terror Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement	7,932,427
HMS Erebus and HMS Terror Archaeology and Conservation	5,341,311
Advertising Initiatives	3,000,000
Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan Phase IV	2,899,956
Other minor changes	2,483,829
Trans Canada Trail Contribution *	(7,500,000)
Total	32,802,601

* Budget 2022 proposed a renewed funding for the Trans Canada Trail at a higher level.

MAIN ESTIMATES – VARIANCES BY VOTE

Vote 1 Operating expenditures, grants and contributions: an increase of \$159.5 million compared to 2021-22 Main Estimates

- The increase in Vote 1 are mainly related to additional funding provided for: an Enhanced Nature Legacy; the implementation of the WBNP World Heritage Site Action Plan; the wildfire and flood resilience; the New Marine Conservation Targets.

Vote 5 Capital expenditures: a decrease of \$316.2 million compared to 2021-22 Main Estimates

- The decrease in Vote 5 are mainly related to the reduction in time-limited funding for infrastructure investment. An amount of \$4.2 billion was provided to the Agency over the period of 2015-2023 to support the delivery of 995 high priority projects to improve the condition of its capital assets in national parks and national historic sites. This decrease is offset by new capital investments for the Enhanced Nature Legacy; the implementation of the Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site Action Plan; and the wildfire and flood resilience.

Vote 10 Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account: an increase of \$13.9 million compared to 2021-22 Main Estimates

- The New Parks and Historic Sites account is a special purpose account into which the Agency can deposit capital funds to set them aside for the specific purpose of creating or expanding national historic sites, national parks, national marine conservation areas or other protected heritage areas.
- The amounts shown in the Estimates documents are deposits into the account and vary from year to year depending on the funding plans and approvals for site establishment or expansion.
- The increase of \$13.9 million relates to the following:
 - Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area;

- Qausuittuq National Park, Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, Wrecks of HMS Erebus & HMS Terror National Historic Site;
- Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve, Thaidene Nëné National Park Reserve;
- Akami-Uapishk^U-KakKasuak-Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve;
- Land acquisitions to expand and complete existing National Parks; and
- offset by a decrease related to Rouge National Urban Park.

GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Parks Canada Agency's 2022-23 Main Estimates include a total of \$105,590,370 in transfer payments for grants and contributions. Grants and contributions have increased by \$67.2 million compared to 2021-22 Main Estimate. This increase is mainly due to the new funding related to the Enhanced Nature Legacy.

1. Grants

A. Grant for the Implementation of Rights and Reconciliation Agreements in Atlantic Canada - \$10.9 million

- 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 historic sites and national parks, foster re-connection with the lands through traditional stewardship practices and protect Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Peskotomuhkati culture and heritage.
- This is an ongoing grant that ranges from \$3 to 4 million annually, however, the 2022-23 amount is higher because Parks Canada is just finishing the negotiations and this amount includes an amount from the previous years.

B. Grant to implement the Impact and Benefit Agreements for Nahanni National Park Reserve - \$7.5 million

- This grant provides funding to the Dehcho First Nations and the Nahanni Butte Dene Band to support the completion of the Impact and Benefit Agreement for the Nahanni National Park Reserve to expand Canada's national park and national marine conservation area systems and to support Canada's biodiversity by protecting species and spaces.
- This is an ongoing grant and it is part of a larger approval of over \$10 million.

C. Grant for the implementation of Inuit Benefits related to the establishment and operation of the Wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* National Historic Site of Canada - \$6.9 million

- This grant is to fulfill commitments made in the Wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* National Historic Site of Canada Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement regarding Inuit benefits



and Inuit economic opportunities stemming from the establishment, management and operation of the national historic site in Nunavut. The sole eligible recipient of the grant is the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (the 'recipient'), the Designated Inuit Organization designated by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. to negotiate the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for the national historic site under the Nunavut Agreement.

- This is a new grant and it is a one-time grant.

D. Grants in support of activities or projects related to national parks, national marine conservation areas, national historic sites and historic canals – \$5.6 million

- These new grants are intended to assist recipients in conducting activities and delivering projects that will support the Agency in fulfilling its mandate.
- Funding is mainly related to the Enhanced Nature Legacy initiative. This funding will be provided to partners, such as provincial governments, municipalities, established NGOs as well as Indigenous communities and Indigenous organizations, to support the following activities:
 - feasibility assessments and negotiations for 10 new national parks, up to 4 freshwater national marine conservation areas and 2 cultural landscapes, which could add up to 303,000 km² (3%) to Canada's network of conserved areas;
 - creation or enhancement of new or existing urban parks as well as new corridors and/or recognition of existing ones in accordance with the Canadian criteria for Ecological Corridors;
 - establishment of 30 to 35 new Indigenous Guardians programs and develop capacity for new Guardians programs at Parks Canada places;
 - recovery of Priority Species (southern mountain caribou).
- These are new and ongoing grants with funding levels that vary from year to year based on anticipated requirements.

E. Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Stewardship Program Seed Fund – \$3.6 million

- 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) to support Inuit involvement in conservation economy and collaborative management of Canada's natural and cultural heritage. The purpose of this grant is not directly related to the operation and management of TINMCA.
- This is a continued grant and it is part of a larger approval of over \$17.8 million over 7 years.

F. Grant to the International Peace Garden - \$22.7 thousands

- 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 operated 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.



- This is an ongoing grant with \$22.7 thousand annually.

2. Contributions

A. Contributions in support of activities or projects related to national historic sites, national parks, national marine conservation areas and historic canals - \$70.1 million

- These are contributions to assist recipients in conducting activities and delivering projects that will support the Agency's in fulfilling its mandate.
- For example, there are contributions to the Qikiqtani Inuit Association for Cooperative Management Board capacity, Inuit Stewardship Program operating and infrastructure (environmental research/monitoring, impact assessments of climate change, search and rescue, harvesting, enforcement of zoning restrictions and youth programming) and contributions related to Nature Legacy.
- Funding increases significantly in 2022-23, which is mainly related to the Enhanced Nature Legacy initiative. This funding will be provided to partners, such as provincial governments, municipalities, established NGOs as well as Indigenous communities and Indigenous organizations, to support the following activities:
 - feasibility assessments and negotiations for 10 new national parks, up to 4 freshwater national marine conservation areas and 2 cultural landscapes, which could add up to 303,000 km² (3%) to Canada's network of conserved areas;
 - creation or enhancement of new or existing urban parks as well as new corridors and/or recognition of existing ones in accordance with the Canadian criteria for Ecological Corridors;
 - establishment of 30 to 35 new Indigenous Guardians programs and develop capacity for new Guardians programs at Parks Canada places;
 - recovery of Priority Species (southern mountain caribou).
- These are ongoing contributions with funding levels that vary from year to year based on anticipated requirements.

B. Contributions in support of the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places - \$1 million

- Parks Canada's National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places ("the Program") helps ensure the protection of heritage places that have been formally recognized by the Government of Canada, but that it does not administer. The Program supports the Parks Canada Agency's mandate of protecting and presenting places of national historic significance, and fostering the public's understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of these places in ways that ensure their commemorative integrity for present and future generations.



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- In addition to the on-going amount identified in the Main Estimates, the Agency will be reallocating another \$1 million in 2022-23 to this program, bringing the total funding available to \$2 million.

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.

Additional information can be found in the Organization's Departmental Plan.

Organizational Estimates

	2020–21 Expenditures	2021–22		2022–23 Main Estimates
		Main Estimates	Estimates To Date	
		(dollars)		
Budgetary				
Voted				
1 Operating expenditures, grants and contributions	552,017,308	462,559,236	610,414,071	622,094,141
5 Capital expenditures	556,925,053	454,342,112	447,795,484	138,130,184
10 Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account	19,292,000	7,371,000	50,988,628	21,258,071
Total Voted	1,128,234,361	924,272,348	1,109,198,183	781,482,396
Total Statutory	177,335,556	204,836,381	211,495,828	207,100,909
Total Budgetary	1,305,569,917	1,129,108,729	1,320,694,011	988,583,305

2022–23 Main Estimates by Purpose

Budgetary	Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments	Revenues and other reductions	Total
			(dollars)		
Protecting and Presenting Canada's Natural and Cultural Heritage	622,206,709	159,231,871	105,590,370	.....	887,028,950
Internal Services	101,397,971	156,384	.....	.....	101,554,355
Total	723,604,680	159,388,255	105,590,370	.....	988,583,305

Listing of the 2022–23 Transfer Payments

	2020–21 Expenditures	2021–22 Main Estimates	2022–23 Main Estimates
		(dollars)	
Grants			
Grants for the Implementation of Rights and Reconciliation Agreements in Atlantic Canada	.....	4,090,400	10,899,300
Grant to implement the Impact and Benefit Agreements for Nahanni National Park Reserve	3,000,000	.....	7,500,000
Grant for the implementation of Inuit Benefits related to the establishment and operation of the Wrecks of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site of Canada	.....	.....	6,900,000
Grants in support of activities or projects related to national parks, national marine conservation areas, national historic sites and historic canals	.....	.....	5,550,000
Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Stewardship Program Seed Fund	2,400,000	3,100,000	3,600,000
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	15,248,077	21,647,421	70,118,370
Contributions in support of the National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program	967,759	1,000,000	1,000,000

Listing of Statutory Authorities

	2020–21 Expenditures	2021–22 Estimates To Date	2022–23 Main Estimates
		(dollars)	
Budgetary			
Expenditures equal to revenues resulting from the conduct of operations pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	110,514,225	150,000,000	150,000,000
Contributions to employee benefit plans	66,821,331	61,495,828	57,100,909

Items for inclusion in the Proposed Schedule 1 to the Appropriation Bill

(for the financial year ending March 31, 2023)

Unless specifically identified under the **Changes in 2022–23 Main Estimates** section, all vote wordings have been provided in earlier appropriation acts.

Vote No.	Items	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
	PARKS CANADA AGENCY		
1	– Operating expenditures	622,094,141	
	– 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		
5	– Capital expenditures	138,130,184	
10	– 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>	21,258,071	
			781,482,396
			781,482,396

2022–23 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/2223/7-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	437,773,835	13,571,608	8,685,574	117,722,439	20,614,255	17,065,142	78,209,259	127,806,027	29,935,729	105,590,370	.....	31,609,067	.....	988,583,305
Total	437,773,835	13,571,608	8,685,574	117,722,439	20,614,255	17,065,142	78,209,259	127,806,027	29,935,729	105,590,370	.....	31,609,067	.....	988,583,305

2022–23 ESTIMATES

Statutory Forecasts

	2020–21 Expenditures	2021–22 Estimates To Date (dollars)	2022–23 Main Estimates
Budgetary			
Parks Canada Agency			
Expenditures equal to revenues resulting from the conduct of operations pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	110,514,225	150,000,000	150,000,000
Contributions to employee benefit plans	66,821,331	61,495,828	57,100,909
Total budgetary	177,335,556	211,495,828	207,100,909

2022–23 ESTIMATES

Expenditures by Purpose

Budgetary	2021–22	2022–23 Main Estimates				
	Main Estimates	Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments	Revenues and other reductions	Total
				(dollars)		
Parks Canada Agency						
Protecting and Presenting Canada’s Natural and Cultural Heritage	1,015,272,311	622,206,709	159,231,871	105,590,370	.....	887,028,950
Internal Services	113,836,418	101,397,971	156,384	.....	.....	101,554,355
Total	1,129,108,729	723,604,680	159,388,255	105,590,370	.....	988,583,305

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	<p>– Operating expenditures</p> <p>– The grants listed in any of the Estimates for the fiscal year</p> <p>– Contributions, including</p> <p>(a) expenditures on other than federal property; and</p> <p>(b) payments to provinces and municipalities as contributions towards the cost of undertakings carried out by those bodies</p> <p>An additional one twelfth is required beyond the normal three-twelfths</p> <p>Reason: To provide Parks Canada Agency with sufficient cash in the first quarter to cover expenditures as the operating season starts. Parks Canada Agency's high operating season is during the spring/summer months. The Agency will be able to use its revenue collected, however the Agency will be required to process these payments first.</p>	622,094,141	207,364,714
5	<p>– Capital expenditures</p> <p>An additional three twelfths are required beyond the normal three-twelfths</p> <p>Reason: To provide Parks Canada Agency with sufficient cash to cover capital expenditures in the first quarter. The Agency's capital funding is significantly reduced in 2022-23 as the time-limited infrastructure investment is nearing completion. Additional supply will allow the Agency to continue critical projects and to have an early start of the construction season during the spring/summer months. The Agency continues to work on seeking supplementary capital funding as well as to develop long-term strategy for the management and sustainability of its infrastructure, cultural and heritage assets.</p>	138,130,184	69,065,092
10	<p>– 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> <p>No additional twelfths beyond the normal three-twelfths</p>	21,258,071	5,314,518

PARKS CANADA'S ACHIEVEMENTS 2021-2022

NATURE CONSERVATION

- Deployment of 185 Parks Canada wildland fire management specialists to six provinces and territories to support efforts fighting 2021 wildfires.
- Investment of \$682,000 for a project to protect important habitats at Sable Island National Park Reserve and better understand the influence of the wild horses on its ecosystems.
- Investment of up to \$24 million to support woodland caribou recovery in Jasper National Park, including a conservation breeding program (subject to consultation and impact assessment).
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mushkegowuk Council to launch a feasibility assessment for a National Marine Conservation Area in western James Bay and southwestern Hudson Bay.
- Launch of a new program to support the creation of a network of national urban parks. Parks Canada has signed statements of collaboration with the Meewasin Valley Authority (SK) and the municipalities of Winnipeg (MB), Halifax (NS), Windsor (ON), and most recently Edmonton (AB). Parks Canada is also working with others to identify potential urban park sites at various locations, including Colwood (BC) and Montreal (QC).
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with Heiltsuk Nation, Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation, Nuxalk Nation, Wuikinuxv Nation, and the Government of British Columbia to launch a feasibility assessment for a national marine conservation area reserve in the Central Coast area of British Columbia.
- Investments of \$14.7 million over five years (beginning 2021/22) for conservation projects to prevent and manage aquatic invasive species in Banff, Jasper, Kootenay, Waterton Lakes and Yoho national parks.
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils to formally work towards the establishment of a new national park reserve in the Pituamkek area (Hog Island Sandhills) in Prince Edward Island.
- Parks Canada and international partners, including the National Parks UK, the U.S. National Park Service, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature joined in signing the *Protected and Conserved Areas Joint Statement on Climate Change and Biodiversity Crises*.
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Nunatsiavut Government to determine the feasibility of establishing an Indigenous protected area in northern Labrador under the Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act. The study area is 14,906 square kilometres – or three times larger than Prince Edward Island – and is located in the coastal waters adjacent to Torngat Mountains National Park.
- Canada provided an updated report on the state of conservation of Wood Buffalo National Park as requested by the World Heritage Committee. The report outlines our progress on

implementation of the Action Plan, with more than two-thirds of the 138 measures now completed or underway. The Government of Canada is leading this collaborative effort with Indigenous partners and the governments of Alberta, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories and is investing more than \$87 million to implement federal commitments under the Action Plan.

- As part of a larger announcement between Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador to accelerate the creation of new protected areas in the province, Parks Canada will work with the province to negotiate a memorandum of understanding by the end of 2022 to assess the feasibility of a South Coast Fjords national marine conservation area and consider an adjacent national park in the Burgeo region.
- Launched the National Program for Ecological Corridors with an investment of \$60.6 million over five years. The Parks Canada-led program will support and enable other jurisdictions and organizations to develop better ecological connections between protected and conserved areas, which will benefit the environment and all Canadians.]

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

- Recognition of two former residential school sites as national historic sites: former Shingwauk Indian Residential School in Ontario, and former Muscowequan Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan. (The recognition of the Residential School System as a tragic and defining event in Canadian history, and designation of two other former residential school sites: former Portage La Prairie Indian Residential School in Manitoba and former Shubenacadie Indian Residential School in Nova Scotia, occurred in 2020.)
- Began construction on Parks Canada's new artifact collection facility that will ensure approximately 25 million artifacts will be safeguarded for future generations.
- Parks Canada launched the 2022-23 call for proposals for the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places. This year, a total of up to \$2 million is available to help ensure the protection of national historic sites, heritage lighthouses, and heritage railway stations.
- The Province House National Historic Site conservation project underway since 2015 is the most extensive project in the building's 174-year history. As one of the most labour intensive aspect of the project, the final exterior stone replacement was completed in February 2022, marking years-long intensive work to replace approximately 1,300 stones and repair in situ approximately 3,800 stones.
- Parks Canada, together with Canadian Heritage and the Canada Council for the Arts (responsible for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO), united to help Ukraine through UNESCO's Heritage Emergency Fund. Their combined contribution of \$4.8 million to the fund will support UNESCO's efforts to quickly respond to crises resulting from armed conflicts and disasters, and in particular to the severe threats facing Ukraine.

INDIGENOUS

- Working with WSÁNEĆ First Nations to rename a campground in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve from “McDonald” to “SMONEĆTEN”, to recognize Indigenous culture and connection to the land.
- The Advisory Group of the Jasper Indigenous Forum, composed of over 25 First Nations and Métis groups with historical ties to Jasper National Park, has been working with Parks Canada to find an appropriate name for the former Pocahontas Campground, located in the eastern end of the park. In January 2022, the Advisory Group and Parks Canada announced the selection of “Miette” as an interim step in the process. The name “Miette” is consistent with existing names in this region of Jasper National Park. The campground sits on Miette Road, which leads visitors to the Miette Hot Springs.
- 40 plains bison were successfully translocated to establish a new herd with The Key First Nation in Treaty 4. This marks a historic moment for The Key First Nation; a nation that has worked closely with Parks Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to return these culturally significant animals to their traditional lands.
- The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) and Parks Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding to renew their partnering arrangement for 2022-2025. ITAC and Parks Canada are committed to collaborate with Indigenous peoples across Canada and advance the development of experiences that foster reconciliation through appreciation, learning and enjoyment.
- 20 wood bison were successfully translocated from Elk Island National Park to the Wildlife Park at Métis Crossing, Alberta’s first major Métis cultural interpretive destination. The effort is part of a bison education and experience program led by the MNA in partnership with Elk Island.

CONNECTING CANADIANS AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- As Canadians have done their part to limit the spread of COVID-19, Parks Canada has continued to provide opportunities for Canadians to discover national historic sites and national parks – places where people can be together, get fresh air and be active while also following the guidance of public health experts. (Expected visitation of 20 million in 2021.)
- Responded to the feedback received throughout the 2020 Minister’s Round Table, which included virtual engagement sessions and nation-wide online public consultations that generated feedback from more than 13,000 Canadians. The response identified 12 action areas for Parks Canada that will help to advance efforts to protect 25% of Canada’s lands and waters by 2025, strengthen Indigenous leadership in conservation, protect built heritage, ensure Canada’s stories are told from diverse perspectives, and make protected places even more inclusive and accessible.
- Infrastructure investments for Parks Canada’s visitor services and areas in national parks, including:
 - the completion of renewal projects and reopening of three campground totaling close to \$80 million (Jasper’s Whistlers Campground, Waterton’s Townsite Campground and Kejimikujik’s Jeremy’s Bay Campground);

- \$8.7 million towards the design work and first phase of reconstruction for Waterton's Crandell Mountain Campground;
 - \$1.16 million investment for Kejimikujik to rehabilitate critical assets damaged by post-tropical storm Dorian; \$10 million to renew Gros Morne's Visitor Centre and completion of over \$4 million towards Lomond Campground and Day Use Area and three major trails; and,
 - \$700,000 investment for the design and construction of a reengineered, climate resilient Tobey Dock in Georgian Bay.
- Infrastructure investments in national historic sites to protect and conserve Canada's built heritage, including:
 - \$5.6 million, for a major restoration of the heritage buildings at Manoir Papineau.
 - \$2.6 million for Fort Wellington; and,
 - \$613,000 at the Forges du Saint-Maurice.
 - On National Indigenous Peoples' Day, Pacific Rim National Park Reserve highlighted the final phase of construction and soft-opening of ʔapsčiiik ʔašii (pronounced ups-cheek ta-shee), the 25 kilometre pathway that lies in the ʔaahʔuuli, traditional territories and homelands of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Yuuʔuʔiʔaʔ. Pacific Rim National Park Reserve has been working together with First Nations and the community to carefully build ʔapsčiiik ʔašii; a \$51 million federal investment. Construction will be complete in spring 2022.
 - Parks Canada launched an expert panel that will advise the Agency on the development of a long-term framework for the sustainable movement of visitors in the Bow Valley in Banff National Park. The panel will look at emerging solutions and examples of best practices from around the world to consider how people arrive at, move about, and experience the national park.
 - Parks Canada launched the Coastie Initiative, a citizen-centred research project with the University of Windsor to help monitor coastal changes at five national parks. Pictures taken by visitors at these locations will help us monitor coastal change over time.
 - Parks Canada announced its support for Canada's first national nature prescription program, which was started by the B.C. Parks Foundation in November 2020 to help health-care professionals develop a "nature prescription" that encourages patients to spend time outdoors as a way to manage anxiety and improve mental and physical health.
 - Parks Canada and Bow Valley Regional Transit Service Commission (BVRTSC) announced a five-year contribution agreement, valued at \$12.9 million, to help promote long-term, sustainable transit solutions in Banff National Park. Together Parks Canada and the BVRTSC will further the mission of reducing road emissions, personal car use, and traffic by providing the opportunity for Roam Transit to purchase eco-friendly electric buses.



DEPARTMENTAL PLAN

ISSUE

- Parks Canada's 2022-23 Departmental Plan

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada's 2022-23 Departmental Plan was tabled in Parliament on March 2, 2022.
- Parks Canada's 2022-23 Departmental Plan was publically posted on its website on March 3, 2022.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The Departmental Plan provides information on the Agency's plans and expected performance over a three-year period, aligned with the commitments set out in the mandate letter and in-line with government-wide priorities.
- Through the 2022–23 Departmental Plan, the Agency provides information about its priorities as outlined in its Departmental Results Framework (pursuant to the Policy on Results) which sets out three Departmental Results measured by twelve indicators.
- The plan continues to focus on six priorities: Natural Heritage Protection; Cultural Heritage Protection; Connecting to Canadians; Asset Sustainability; Business Innovation; and Workforce Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion and Diversity, and Well Being. The plan has also added a seventh priority, Relationships with Indigenous people, to highlight the Agency's commitment to advancing reconciliation and working collaboratively with Indigenous people.



NATURE LEGACY AND ENHANCED 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. At the time, this was the single largest investment in conserving nature in Canadian history. Through this initiative, Parks Canada received \$220.8 million over five years.
- In Budget 2021, the Government of Canada announced Enhanced Nature Legacy, an additional investment of \$2.3 billion. Through the Enhanced Nature Legacy funding, Parks Canada received \$557.5 million over five years. Additionally, Budget 2021 invested \$976.8 million in marine conservation, with \$53.6 million of that supporting the establishment of national marine conservation areas.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Since 2018, sustained efforts in the effective management of Parks Canada places under Canada's Nature Legacy have led to the following concrete conservation gains and progress towards targets:
 - Parks Canada has developed 23 site-based multi-species action plans for species at risk and surpassed the Nature Legacy target of implementing 50% of recovery actions in *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) Action Plans by 2023. As of March 2022, 57% have been implemented.
 - The Agency initiated new work to increase the ecological connectivity of Parks Canada places with other protected and conserved areas. As of 2020-21, more than 30 conservation initiatives anchored around Parks Canada places are underway to increase connectivity.
 - Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, Canada's largest protected area was established using Nature Legacy funds to complete negotiations of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement and other agreements that deliver infrastructure projects in a whole-of-Government approach to investing in a conservation economy to benefit Inuit communities.
 - Bruce Peninsula National Park was expanded by purchasing 13.2 km² of pristine old-growth forest, species-at-risk habitat, making it the most significant property within the park.
- Building on the foundation of the Nature Legacy investment, the Enhanced Nature Legacy funding through Budget 2021 supports Canada's commitment to protect 25% of Canada's lands and waters by 2025, while working towards 30% by 2030.
 - Parks Canada has a key role to play in contributing to the conservation of 25% of Canada's lands and marine waters by 2025 and 30% of each by 2030, working to halt and reverse nature loss in Canada by 2030, achieve a full recovery for nature by 2050, and champion this goal internationally.



- Parks Canada has identified sites that would contribute 230,000 km² or at least 4% to the 25% by 2025 target. Currently, there are seven active NMCA feasibility assessments, and informal discussions to identify the other three NMCA proposals.
- Two new national park reserves in PEI and BC are currently in negotiation. In the rest of the country, discussions are at different stages with several provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous organizations for the identification and feasibility assessments of five new national parks and inland freshwater conservation areas.
- National urban parks will contribute to Canada's conservation target. To date, Parks Canada has begun exploratory work to assess the potential for national urban park sites in Victoria, BC; Edmonton, Alberta; Meewasin Valley (Saskatoon), Saskatchewan; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Windsor, Ontario; and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Parks Canada has also begun discussions with Montreal.
- Building on the \$1.5 million investment in Nature Legacy funds in 2018 to reduce threats to Southern Mountain caribou and create better conditions for their survival and recovery, the Enhanced Nature Legacy provides funding for a conservation breeding program for Southern Mountain Caribou in Jasper National Park, with a \$24 million investment over 5 years

BACKGROUND

- Canada's Enhanced Nature Legacy Investment will allow Parks Canada to:
 - Continue to enhance biodiversity conservation;
 - Create new national parks, national marine conservation areas, national urban parks and ecological corridors, and acquire lands to complete existing national parks;
 - Enhance current Indigenous Guardians programs aligned with Parks Canada administered places and establish new ones; and
 - Support the recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou in Jasper National Park.

Effective Management of Protected Areas

- Enhanced Nature Legacy funding will continue the Nature Legacy work on effective management until March 2026, providing to Parks Canada \$87.7 million between years 2023-24 to 2025-26, to:
- Continue work to modernize conservation programs by integrating science, Indigenous leadership, climate change, and landscape-scale conservation in the effective management of Parks Canada administered places.

Establishing Protected Areas

- Since 2018, Nature Legacy funding has supported progress towards protected area targets. Enhanced Nature Legacy Funding of \$192.7 million over 5 years will continue to support:
 - The creation of ten new national parks and four new freshwater marine conservation areas, while working to acquire the land needed to expand and complete existing national parks. This will contribute 303,000 km² or 3% to the 25 percent by 2025 target.



- As part of its marine conservation target work, Budget 2021 provided the necessary funding to achieve the government's goal of creating 10 new national marine conservation areas.

National Urban Parks

- On August 4th 2021, the Government of Canada launched a new program to support the creation of a network of national urban parks, with Enhanced Nature Legacy providing a \$130.9 million investment for national urban parks over 5 years.
 - The 2021 budget funded the creation of up to 6 new National Urban Parks by 2026. The Minister's mandate letter from December 2021 strengthened this vision, with a commitment that 15 national urban parks will be created by 2030.

Ecological Corridors

- As part of the 2021 Budget, the Enhanced Nature Legacy provides a \$60.6 million investment for ecological corridors over 5 years to Parks Canada.
 - On April 21 2021, Parks Canada launched a new National Program for Ecological Corridors, which will contribute to the effective management of protected and conserved areas, thereby helping to address the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Key program deliverables are anticipated to include: national evidence-based criteria; a map of priority areas for ecological corridors; and support for on-the-ground projects to enhance ecological connectivity in priority locations.

Indigenous Guardians at Parks Canada Places

- In Budget 2021, Parks Canada Agency received \$61.7 million over 5 years to work with Indigenous partners to design new and enhanced Indigenous Guardians programs within Parks Canada administered places.
 - Indigenous Guardians funding is an important element of enabling increased Indigenous stewardship within Parks Canada administered places.
 - Parks Canada is committed to meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and to maintaining and revitalizing connections with lands, waters, and ice within Parks Canada administered places.



25% BY 2025 AND 30% BY 2030

ISSUE

- Parks Canada has a key role to play in contributing to the conservation of 25% of Canada's lands and marine waters by 2025 and 30% of each by 2030, working to halt and reverse nature loss in Canada by 2030, achieve a full recovery for nature by 2050 and champion this goal internationally. Parks Canada's establishment process ensures that this work remains grounded in science, Indigenous knowledge and local perspectives.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Canada is currently at 13.5% protection of terrestrial areas and inland waters. Parks Canada's 47 national parks and two freshwater National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCAs) contributed 3.5% to Canada's commitment to protect at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water by 2020. This is the largest contribution of any province, territory or federal organization to the terrestrial target.
- Canada currently protects 13.81% of the marine environment. Parks Canada's ocean NMCAs and national parks with a marine component contribute 2.12% to this total, making it the second-largest contributor to the marine target. Contributions by organization are as follows:
 - Department of Fisheries and Oceans contributes 11.04%;
 - Parks Canada contributes 2.12%;
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada contributes 0.54%; and
 - the provinces contribute approximately 0.18%.
- As part of the Government's Enhanced Nature Legacy initiative, Budget 2021 will see the Government create ten new national parks and four new freshwater marine conservation areas, while working to acquire the land needed to expand and complete existing national parks. This will contribute 303,000 km² or 3% to the 25% by 2025 target.
- And as part of its Marine Conservation Target work, Budget 2021 provided the necessary funding to achieve the Government's goal of creating 10 new NMCAs. Parks Canada has identified sites that would contribute 230,000 km² or at least 4% to the 25% by 2025 target. Currently, there are seven active NMCA feasibility assessments, negotiations with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for an additional marine site, and informal discussions to identify the other two NMCA proposals.
- In addition to the percentage targets, Parks Canada's management of these lands contributes to the qualitative targets by ensuring that these areas maintain their ecological integrity and are well-connected. The Agency invests approximately \$15 million a year in innovative and collaborative projects that restore ecosystems in national parks, and contribute to ecological sustainability in national marine conservation areas. This has resulted in improvements to habitats that support species, and to important ecological processes that are essential to ocean health.



- Parks Canada's commitment to enabling Indigenous peoples to fulfill their roles as traditional stewards of lands and waters within protected areas has resulted in many Indigenous Governments and communities expressing a desire to see additional sites established as national parks and NMCAs. Examples include:
 - the Mi'kmaq of Prince Edward Island (PEI) wanting to work with Parks Canada to negotiate an establishment agreement that protects a traditional area and sacred place as a national park reserve;
 - four First Nations entering into a memorandum of understanding to collaborate with Parks Canada and B.C. on an NMCA reserve off the Central Coast of B.C.;
 - the Mushkegowuk Council and Parks Canada launching a feasibility assessment for an NMCA in western Hudson Bay;
 - the Cree Nation Government of Quebec signing a memorandum of understanding with Parks Canada launching a feasibility assessment for an NMCA in eastern James Bay; and
 - the Nunatsiavut Government and Parks Canada working through a memorandum of understanding to designate an Indigenous protected area in northern Labrador under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- In terms of new National Parks and National Parks Reserves, negotiations for formal establishment agreements are underway for 2 national park reserves. Discussions are at different stages with several provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous organizations towards the identification and feasibility assessments for an additional five (5) new national parks. Research, discussions with Indigenous organizations and suggestions from the not for profit community will assist in identifying at least three other candidate national parks.
- For NMCAs, Parks Canada has identified all required candidate sites to meet the commitment. Currently, feasibility assessments that include the participation of provincial, territorial and Indigenous Governments are proceeding for seven candidate NMCAs. Discussions are underway with provincial governments and local communities for three additional potential NMCAs that could result in additional active proposals.



SPECIES AT RISK

ISSUE

- Parks Canada is responsible for the protection and recovery of species in National Historic Sites, National Parks, and National Marine Conservation Areas, and works collaboratively with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Indigenous partners, and adjacent land managers to advance species at risk protection and recovery efforts in Canada.

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 six Priority Species (which include 4 subspecies of Caribou, Greater Sage Grouse, and Wood Bison) occur on Parks Canada lands.
- Parks Canada has developed 23 site-based, multi-Species Action Plans that identify recovery actions for over 250 species of conservation concern (including 202 SARA-listed species) occurring in over 55 places administered by Parks Canada. These action plans identify short-term site-based population and distribution objectives, and identify a variety of measures that are required to achieve those objectives.
- As of March 2022, 57% of actions identified in Parks Canada led *Species at Risk Act* action plans are implemented, surpassing the goal of 50% by end of 2023.
- Parks Canada recently posted 8 Species at Risk Implementation Reports describing progress made in delivering multi-species action plans. These are the first SARA action plan implementation reports published by the Government of Canada.
- Since December 2019, Parks Canada has completed three Critical Habitat Ministerial Orders, thirteen Critical Habitat Descriptions, and one Critical Habitat Protection Statement, with many more of these protection measures underway.
- Parks Canada has invested more than \$20 millions in implementing SARA recovery actions between 2018-19 and 2022-23 through Conservation and Restoration. These projects address 85 SARA-listed species in 38 places administered by Parks Canada, and 302 recovery actions have been completed, while more than 464 actions have been initiated.

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.
- Using additional resources and capacity from *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

- In 2020, The Minister of Environment and Climate Change formed the opinion that Wood Bison are facing threats to their recovery due to imminent threats to the Ronald Lake and Wabasca herds, which occur in close proximity to Wood Buffalo National Park.
- Two imminent threats were identified for the Ronald Lake herd: the presence of disease and associated risk of disease transmission from diseased bison herds in Wood Buffalo National Park, and industrial development proposed at the time, which would have exacerbated the risk of disease transmission, and caused significant habitat and range loss if the proposed project had been approved and built. The imminent threat to the Wabasca herd, which has fewer than 20 individuals, is unregulated hunting.
- Parks Canada is developing a National Bison Strategy is being developed and will strengthen Parks Canada's leadership in bison conservation, identify agency-wide bison objectives and priorities, ensure national cohesion for the management of bison herds on lands administered by Parks Canada, and support informed decision making.

Southern Mountain Caribou

- Parks Canada has taken concrete steps to reduce threats to Southern Mountain Caribou and create better conditions for their survival and recovery including an investment of \$1.5 million in Nature Legacy funds in 2018.
- Conservation actions implemented include changes to elk and roadkill management to help prevent predator population growth; reduced speed zones; restrictions on dogs in caribou habitat; flight guidelines to prevent direct disturbance to caribou; and winter access restrictions designed to prevent facilitated predator access and sensory disturbance to caribou from winter recreation activities.
- A Budget 2021 investment of \$24 million over 5 years will support Parks Canada's work to establish a conservation breeding program in a purpose-built facility for Southern Mountain Caribou, a key priority species that is at risk of extinction and that is of cultural significance to many Indigenous peoples. A detailed Impact Assessment, Indigenous and public consultations and detailed design are important steps in this process.
- The recovery of the local population units of Southern Mountain Caribou 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 collaborating with the province of British Columbia to determine next steps for recovery planning, including the identification of landscape corridors to improve long-term connectivity among herds.

Southern Resident Killer Whale

- 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 DFO, Transport Canada and Environment and ECCC 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.

St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga

- Parks Canada contributes to the protection of St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga and their critical habitat found in the waters of Saguenay-St. Lawrence Marine Park. A third (37%) of St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga critical habitat is found within these boundaries administered by Parks Canada and the Province of Québec.
- Parks Canada works jointly with DFO, Transport Canada, ECCC and other partners to implement, increase awareness of, and compliance with, St. Lawrence Estuary Beluga management measures.



WOOD BISON

ISSUE

- In 2020, The Minister of Environment and Climate Change formed the opinion that Wood Bison are facing threats to their recovery, specifically two herds in northeastern Alberta: the Ronald Lake and Wabasca herds. Several Wood Bison herds occur in Wood Buffalo National Park, including the disease-free Ronald Lake herd in the southeastern area of Wood Buffalo National Park. The disease-free Wabasca herd occurs close to, but outside the southwestern boundary of Wood Buffalo National Park.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The Government of Canada is continuing to work towards the conservation and recovery of Wood Bison and to support the goals and objectives of the federal *Wood Bison Recovery Strategy*.
 - A *National Bison Strategy* is currently under development and will strengthen Parks Canada's leadership in bison conservation, identify agency-wide bison objectives and priorities, ensure national cohesion for the management of bison herds, and support informed decision making.
- On February 25, 2021 the Imminent Threat Assessment for Wood Bison was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry.
- To address the Imminent Threat Assessment, Wood Buffalo National Park is researching the movement patterns, distribution, and range of Wood Bison that have been in contact with bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis. This will improve understanding of the species and better determine how best to ensure they do not come in contact with disease-free herds.
- Other activities being undertaken to address the Wood Bison Imminent Threat assessment include:
 - Development of a more sensitive test for bovine tuberculosis in bison;
 - Development of a combined brucellosis / tuberculosis vaccine;
 - Development of a test for plains bison introgression in the wood bison genome.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The Minister of Environment and Climate Change, in his role as 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. In his role as Minister of Environment and Climate Change, he is the competent Minister for the species outside of Parks Canada lands. Environment and Climate Change Canada is leading Wood Bison recovery.
- Wood Bison were listed in 2003 as Threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*. The final federal Recovery Strategy was posted on the Species at Risk Public Registry in 2018. There



are an estimated 9,000 wood bison in Canada, approximately half of which reside in three herds affected by cattle-derived diseases (bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis). The remaining individuals live in nine disease-free herds.

- Two imminent threats were identified for the Ronald Lake herd:
 - the presence of disease and associated risk of disease transmission from diseased bison herds in Wood Buffalo National Park, and
 - industrial development, which could significantly reduce habitat and range..
- The imminent threat to the Wabasca herd, which has fewer than 20 individuals, is unregulated hunting. Disease may also represent a threat to the Wabasca herd, but information on herd movements is lacking.
- Harvesting restrictions are in place to address imminent threats facing the Wabasca and Ronald Lake herds.
- Wood bison in and around Wood Buffalo National Park have been infected with bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis since the 1920s and pose an ongoing risk of disease spillover to cattle and ranched bison in Alberta, as well as to non-diseased conservation herds in Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The percentage of the bison that are infected has remained relatively consistent since the 1950s.
- Wood Bison was 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 committed to minimizing the risk of transmission of bovine diseases to adjacent disease-free Wood Bison.



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WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK WORLD HERITAGE SITE ACTION PLAN

ISSUE

- Canada submitted a progress report on the Action Plan's implementation to the World Heritage Committee in February 2021. The report will be considered at the World Heritage Committee's annual meeting in Summer of 2022. In coordination with Action Plan partners, Canada will host another joint World Heritage Centre / International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Reactive Monitoring Mission in August/September 2022 to review progress achieved since the 2016 mission.

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.
- At the request of the World Heritage Committee, the Government of Canada, in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, Indigenous communities, and stakeholders, developed an Action Plan to ensure the Outstanding Universal Value of Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site will be secured.
- Through Budget 2018, the Government of Canada has demonstrated its commitment to the protection of Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site by investing \$27.5 Million to support the development of the Action Plan and its early implementation. Further, on December 21, 2020, the Government of Canada announced an additional \$59.9 Million to support the Action Plan's on-going implementation.
- By implementing the Action Plan in 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

- 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 World Heritage Committee concerns and includes 142 actions that are focused on:
 - strengthening park management in collaboration with Indigenous partners;



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



- 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 Wood Buffalo National Park; and
 - implementing recovery actions for Whooping Crane and Wood Bison.
- Canada is leading the implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the Governments of Alberta, British Columbia, and Northwest Territories, Indigenous partners of Wood Buffalo National Park, and stakeholders.



WILDLIFE PREPAREDNESS RESPONSE

ISSUE

- Under the *Canada National Parks Act*, Parks Canada is responsible for managing wildland fire activity across the federal lands under its jurisdiction.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is the only federal organization that is an operational wildfire management organization, with similar roles and capabilities as any provincial-territorial wildfire agency. Parks Canada is responsible for managing wildland fire across 350,195 km² of federal Crown lands (approximately the size of Germany or six times the land mass of Nova Scotia). This includes a number of iconic town sites including Banff, Jasper and Waterton.
- 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. To help mitigate these risks, Budget 2021 provided \$100.6 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and no ongoing funding to the Parks Canada Agency to enhance wildfire preparedness in Canada's national parks. However, this amount included existing resources, resulting in an actual net new resources for wildfire of \$52.5 million over five years.
- Parks Canada provides operational wildfire resources to provinces and territories through resource exchange agreements, as well as international partners. As the only federal organization with operational wildfire resources to contribute to requests for support, Parks Canada is proud to have deployed 180 resources in support of 5 provinces and territories in 2021. That includes a total of 143 resources deployed to assist with the British Columbia wildfires. In 2019-20 Parks Canada also deployed 13 team members to Australia and 25 team members to the United States (Oregon state).
- For the 2022 fire season, Parks Canada has 22 four-person fire crews across Canada (over 80 personnel total), and a roster of five 20-person National Incident Management Teams (over 100 personnel total) dispatched to manage all aspects of high complexity fires or incidents.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Both Parks Canada and NRCAN are voting members of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) Board of Directors; together with NRCAN, we represent the federal Government. CIFFC coordinates the sharing of resources for wildfire response across Canada and internationally.
- 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, municipal, Indigenous 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.

FIRE STATISTICS

- From 2014 to 2021 there was an average of **104 wildfires/year** on Parks Canada administered lands, with an **average of 141,978 hectares burned/year**. Year over year:

YEAR	No of Wildfires
2014	83
2015	122
2016	70
2017	167
2018	146
2019	77
2020	93
2021	73

- Between 2014 and 2021 there was an average of **18 prescribed fires/year completed** on Parks Canada administered lands.
- From 2014 to 2021, an average of **36 prescribed fires were planned/year**. Year over year:

No of Prescribed Fires		
YEAR	Planned	Completed
2014	29	22
2015	46	28
2016	44	24
2017	36	13
2018	38	18
2019	31	13
2020	33	8
2021	27	17



ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

ISSUE

- As part of the 2021 Budget, Parks Canada received \$60.6 Million over five years to develop a National Program for Ecological Corridors to help prevent biodiversity loss. Through this program, Parks Canada will provide a leadership role, working with experts and a wide array of partners, to identify criteria for ecological corridors and priority areas for their creation, and to support action on the ground.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is launching a new National Program for Ecological Corridors. The aim of ecological corridors is to improve ecological connectivity, which is the unimpeded movement of species and ecological processes across the landscape.
- Ecological corridors can be established at the local, regional, continental and transboundary scale. Parks Canada will work with multiple partners and stakeholders to identify and support ecological corridors, based on science and Indigenous knowledge. The work will involve mapping, promoting and supporting work in priority areas for the creation of ecological corridors in Canada.
- The National Program for Ecological Corridors will contribute to the effective management of protected and conserved areas, thereby helping to address the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Key program deliverables are anticipated to include: national evidence-based criteria; a map of priority areas for ecological corridors; and support for on-the-ground projects to enhance ecological connectivity in priority locations.
- The best available evidence and analysis from science and Indigenous knowledge will be used to assess where in Canada ecological corridors would achieve the greatest positive effects for biodiversity.
- Parks Canada will not own ecological corridors. Rather, the Agency will act collaboratively and inspire others to support ecological connectivity and the creation of ecological corridors, taking into account provincial, territorial and Indigenous jurisdictions, and priorities for action on biodiversity conservation.
- Parks Canada began national and regional consultations with diverse groups in March 2022 to obtain advice on key elements for the design and delivery of the National Program for Ecological Corridors.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Experts agree that the world is losing species at unprecedented rates. According to a 2019 global study, approximately one million species are now threatened with extinction, more than ever before in human history.
- Habitat loss is the primary reason for the biodiversity crisis and consequent declines in species. However, the fragmentation of habitat is an important contributing factor, especially in regions with high levels of human development.



- In a changing climate, it is increasingly important to facilitate the movement of species across landscapes to allow adaptation and permit species recovery.
- People are also affected by declining biodiversity and habitat fragmentation. Ecosystems offer important services to people, by providing clean water, moderating climate, and cleaning the air.
- An ecological corridor is a clearly defined area governed and managed over the long term to maintain or restore effective ecological connectivity. Ecological corridors contribute to ecological networks that support the effective ecological functioning of protected and conserved areas.
- Parks Canada's work on ecological corridors will support the Government of Canada in its efforts to achieve commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.



NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA ESTABLISHMENT

ISSUE

- The creation of ten new National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA) will contribute over 4% towards the target of protecting 25% of Canada's coastal and marine areas by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Canada currently protects 13.8% of the marine environment. Parks Canada's ocean NMCAs and national parks with a marine component contribute 2.12% to this total, making it the second-largest contributor to the marine target. Contributions by organization are as follows:
 - Department of Fisheries and Oceans contributes 11.04%;
 - Parks Canada contributes 2.12%;
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada contributes 0.54%; and
 - the provinces contribute approximately 0.18%.
- Parks Canada currently manages five (5) national marine conservation areas that represent six (6) of Parks Canada's 29 marine regions that constitute the national marine conservation area system. In passing the *Parks Canada Agency Act (1998)*, Parliament declared it in the national interest "to include representative examples of Canada's land and marine natural regions in the systems of national parks and national marine conservation areas."
- As part of the Government's historic investment of \$1.06 billion over five years to reach its ambitious marine conservation target of protecting 25% by 2025, Parks Canada was allocated \$53.6 million to undertake feasibility assessments and negotiations leading to the establishment of 10 new national marine conservation areas. Parks Canada has identified sites that would contribute 230,000 km² or at least 4% to the 25% by 2025 target. Currently, there are seven active NMCA feasibility assessments, negotiations with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for an eighth active site, and informal discussions to identify the other two NMCA proposals.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada's current marine establishment priorities include working collaboratively with provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments on feasibility assessments for NMCAs in eastern James Bay and western James Bay, off the Central Coast of BC and in the Southern Strait of Georgia in BC, 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. Some of the active national park and NMCA proposals include the following:
- **Tuvaijuittuq:** Commonly referred to as the Last Ice, the Tuvaijuittuq area extends 200 nautical miles north and west of northern Ellesmere Island (Nunavut) in the Arctic Ocean. Located next to Quttirniipaaq National Park, it would represent the Arctic Basin and Arctic



Archipelago NMCA marine regions. This region is significant due to the presence of multi-year pack ice. As sea ice continues to decline, the ice in this region is expected to last the longest. The area was given interim protection under the *Oceans Act* in 2019 and a Canada-Nunavut-Inuit committee is working to undertake community consultations and finalize the designation of the area as a combination NMCA and *Oceans Act* marine protected area.

- **Northern Labrador:** The Nunatsiavut Government, representing the Labrador Inuit, have proposed a marine protected area offshore the Torngat Mountains National Park. In 2022, Canada and the Nunatsiavut Government signed a memorandum of understanding to guide a feasibility assessment for an Indigenous protected area under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*. It would represent the Labrador Shelf Marine Region, which includes a transition between Arctic and Atlantic habitats and communities ranging from scenic fjords to long beaches and mudflats. The area encompasses a variety of marine mammal species and important concentrations of breeding and migrating seabirds and waterfowl. Community engagement is scheduled for spring 2022.
- **Magdalen Islands:** Parks Canada and the Quebec Government are collaborating to assess the feasibility of establishing a marine park off the banks of les Îles-de-la-Madeleine, a small archipelago in the Gulf of Saint Lawrence with a land area of 205 km². The area is representative of the Magdalen Shallows marine region and is highly productive due to an abundance of plankton. The rich maritime culture and amazing landscape make Îles-de-la-Madeleine a major tourism destination. Canada and Quebec are working with a local advisory committee to advance this project.
- **Central Coast:** Located off BC's central coast within Queen Charlotte Sound, this area is characterized by scenic fjords, long sand beaches, and an archipelago that opens up to the sea. Adjacent to the Great Bear Rainforest, it is home to a high concentration of marine mammals and some of the largest kelp beds in BC. For millennia, the wellbeing of the First Nations depended on this marine environment. The origins of village sites date as far back as 14,000 years, some of the oldest continually occupied sites in Canada. Four First Nations invited Parks Canada and the BC Government to work with them to protect the area as a national marine conservation area and a feasibility assessment was launched in 2021.



NATIONAL PARK ESTABLISHMENT AND EXPANSION

ISSUE

- The investments from Budget 2021 include \$192.7 million over five years to create 10 new national parks and 4 new freshwater marine conservation areas, while working to acquire the land needed to expand and complete existing national parks, among other projects. This will contribute 303,000 km² or 3% to the 25% target

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The Budget 2021 funding to create ten new national parks and four new freshwater marine conservation areas, while working to acquire the land needed to expand and complete existing national parks will contribute 303,000 km² or 3% to the Government of Canada's 25% by 2025 conservation target.
- A roadmap to achieve the target has been established. The negotiations for establishment of two new national parks in BC and PEI are underway. Five additional sites have been identified and discussions are underway with provincial/territorial governments and Indigenous groups. Indigenous groups and non-governmental organizations are also expected to identify three additional prospective sites. Four freshwater national marine conservation area sites have also been identified.
- Work is underway to develop a strategy for investment in land acquisition to expand targeted national parks, as identified in Budget 2021.
- Parks Canada's approach to creating new protected areas is grounded in science and Indigenous knowledge and founded upon collaboration with Indigenous governments and communities, and provincial and territorial governments.
- When considering a specific area as a candidate site for a new national park, Parks Canada considers a range of factors, including interest from Indigenous peoples, the extent to which a natural region is already represented or underrepresented in the national parks system, its ecological processes and diversity, and its role in landscape connectivity. Parks Canada places a priority on working in partnership with Indigenous peoples to establish and manage protected areas.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada's current terrestrial establishment priorities are advanced in PEI and the South Okanagan region of BC:
 - **Pituamkek:** In January 2022, the Government of Canada signed a memorandum of understanding with the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils for a new national park reserve in Pituamkek (Bee-doo-um-gek)/Hog-Island Sandhills, in northwestern PEI. The signing of this MOU declared that a national park reserve was feasible and launched negotiations on a final establishment agreement, which should conclude by spring of 2023. These barrier islands are of high cultural and historical significance to the Mi'kmaq people, who approached Parks Canada to work with them to protect and present the area.



- **South Okanagan – Similkameen:** In July 2019, Canada, BC and the First Nations determined a national park reserve was feasible and launched negotiations on a final establishment agreement, which should conclude by summer or fall of 2023. 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, and advance reconciliation with the syilx/Okanagan Nation. Parks Canada undertook extensive consultations with local residents and stakeholders to obtain their views on the proposed national park reserve.



URBAN PARKS

ISSUE

- Parks Canada has launched a new program for the creation of a network of national urban parks, building on over 110 years of history in the creation of national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas. In collaboration with various partners, Parks Canada will create or expand urban parks that are readily accessible to people in Canada's urban centres and provide opportunities to connect to, and learn about, local nature and culture. Budget 2021 provided funding for this priority.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- On August 4, 2021, the Government of Canada launched the National Urban Parks Program, a new program to support the creation of a network of national urban parks across the country. This program is supported by Budget 2021's historic investment of \$2.3 billion in Canada's Nature Legacy to address the biodiversity crisis, protect and conserve nature, and create jobs in nature conservation, with up to \$130.9 million provided specifically toward the creation of a network of national urban parks.
- Parks Canada is working on the development of a national urban parks policy, which will be informed by experience with the initial candidate sites as well as input from municipal, provincial, and Indigenous governments and organizations, as well as other partners and stakeholders. The policy will guide the creation of the network of national urban parks, which will include areas managed under a range of flexible governance models, including federally administered places, third party administered places, and partnership models.
- The National Urban Parks Program will:
 - Contribute to Canada's commitment to protecting biodiversity and conserve 25% of land and inland waters and 25% of marine and coastal areas by 2025, working toward 30% by 2030;
 - Contribute to the protection and conservation of nature, including nature-based solutions for climate change
 - Connect Canadians with nature in large urban centres
 - Support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Urban parks also support:

- Climate resilience and ecosystem services;
- Jobs and other economic benefits;
- The health and wellbeing of millions of Canadians by increasing their access to green space;
- Diversity and inclusion; and



- Meaningful partnerships.
- The 2021 budget funded the creation of up to 6 new national urban parks by 2026. The Minister's mandate letter from December 2021 strengthened this vision, with a commitment that 15 national urban parks will be created by 2030.
- To date, exploratory work to assess the potential for national urban park sites has begun in:
 - Victoria, BC
 - Edmonton, AB
 - Meewasin Valley (Saskatoon), SK
 - Winnipeg, MB
 - Windsor, ON
 - Halifax, NS

Pre-feasibility studies are underway in four of them (Edmonton, Meewasin Valley, Windsor and Halifax). Parks Canada has also begun discussions with Montreal.

- Proponents of potential sites are reaching out to Parks Canada to express interest, and additional sites will continue to be identified, as resources permit.
- Urban parks are critical to Canadians' health and wellbeing, as evidenced even more during the current pandemic. In a survey of over 1,600 Canadians conducted by Park People, 70% said they appreciate parks more since physical distancing began. Additionally, a survey of over 50 municipalities had over half reporting an increase in park use since the pandemic began.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Currently Canada has only one national urban park: the Rouge National Urban Park, in the Greater Toronto Area. This park, which is within a one-hour drive for 20% of Canada's population, helps to protect biodiversity in densely populated southern Canada and is home to almost 1,700 species, including 27 species at risk.
- In a 2020 survey of 27 cities by Park People, 63% of cities reported protecting biodiversity and enhancing natural areas as a top challenge. Yet this survey also found that, on average, only 45% of urban park systems in Canada are natural areas.
- Other studies have highlighted inequities in access to parks, noting for example that parks in underserved communities, which have poorer health outcomes, are also the parks that have fewer amenities (e.g., they are often flat, grassy expanses that lack playgrounds, shade, and benches). Evidence suggests that access to more natural parks is associated with more positive health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Urban parks support the economy, create jobs, and result in avoided costs such those associated with health care and crime.
 - Estimates from Philadelphia demonstrated benefits such as tax revenue from increased property values of \$689 million, income from tourism of \$40.3 million, savings in medical



costs of \$69.4 billion, and community cohesion values such as reduced crime of \$8.6 million.

- The Rouge National Urban Park is estimated to have created at least 200 additional direct jobs in areas such as trail building, conservation/restoration projects, housing restoration, archaeological fieldwork, and building new park assets and infrastructure.



ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK

ISSUE

- After six years of delays, land assembly for Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) is now 95% complete, and work to build and establish the national urban park and implement the 2019 RNUP Management Plan is substantially underway, with many key milestones achieved the past two years, including opening dozens of kilometres of new trails and several park amenities and visitor areas. As such, to fulfil key public commitments to fully establish and build RNUP, the Agency reprofiled \$14.6 million from 2021-22 into future years, allowing Parks Canada to complete foundational infrastructure and ecological restoration projects, such as building the park's net-zero emissions visitor, learning and community center, and the completion of dozens of kilometres of park trails and foundational amenities.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The first national urban park in Canada, RNUP is the only Parks Canada site situated in the Greater Toronto Area. The park is known for its exceptional biodiversity and has a mandate to protect and promote Canada's natural, cultural and agricultural heritage and landscapes. The park is approximately 23 times larger than Central Park in New York and is one of the largest urban protected areas in the world.
- Since 2012, Parks Canada has worked closely with the RNUP First Nations Advisory Circle, encompassing 10 Indigenous communities, on all aspects of the park's establishment and programming, including co-designing park trails and infrastructure, and working together on ecological restoration, archaeology and visitor programs and operations. Parks Canada also works closely with a wide range of community partners, stakeholders, conservationists, farmers and residents in designing trails, facilities and restoration projects.
- Although work to build and establish the park was delayed by six years due to land transfer delays from multiple jurisdictions (meaning Parks Canada had to postpone plans to build the park and implement the management plan), with land transfers now 95% concluded, Parks Canada has made significant progress to complete the park's establishment phase and is expected to complete all foundational projects and key public commitments by 2025-26.
- To this end, by 2025-26, a significant amount of new trails, visitor amenities, safe pedestrian road crossings and ecological restoration projects are expected to open or be completed in RNUP, including the addition of over 50 kilometers of new trails and planting of over 300,000 native tree and shrub species as part of the Government of Canada's Two Billion Trees program, as well as the creation of over 120 hectares of forest and wetland habitat. Moreover, in 2021, Parks Canada published RNUP's multi species at risk action plan, an ambitious 5-year plan with 76 actions designed to protect and improve outcomes for 50 species-at-risk.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The RNUP Management Plan was tabled in Parliament on January 16, 2019. In completing the plan, over seven years 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, the City of Toronto, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and the Toronto Zoo announced an agreement regarding the location of the future RNUP visitor, learning and community centre, which will be built on land formerly part of a Toronto Zoo naturalized overflow parking, and now part of RNUP. The facility will provide basic amenities such as washrooms and water and is envisioned as an important regional tourism destination where visitors, residents and students may learn about Canada's environment and protected areas. Over 1400 public comments were received on the initial concepts for the centre. Final schematic designs are in preparation, with construction expected to begin in 2023 with a targeted opening date of 2025.
- With ecological integrity enshrined as RNUP's first legislative priority via the *Rouge National Urban Park Act*, 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 500 threatened turtles back into the park, planted over 179,000 trees and shrubs, created approximately 100 hectares of forest and wetland habitat, and published the park's multi species at risk action plan. Re-profiling of park funds allows Parks Canada to complete foundational conservation and restoration work for the park and fulfill associated management plan commitments.



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 mountain pine beetle, reducing future outbreak potential, conducting annual surveys of beetle populations in National Parks, and 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 funding announced in October 2020, 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 forest ecosystems.
- This work is underway. Specifically, Parks Canada has:
 - expanded the 'FireSmart' program, in partnership with the Municipality of Jasper, including forest thinning and other community measures to reduce the fire hazard created through mountain pine beetle-killed trees near the community and along egress/access corridors;
 - conducted hazard tree removal in the three largest Jasper National Park campgrounds;
 - conducted 'FireSmart' treatments for Jasper's Cultural Use Area in collaboration with the Jasper Indigenous Forum partners; and,
 - contracted the engineering design of a high volume fire protection sprinkler system for the community of Jasper.
- Ongoing work includes:
 - vegetation surveys and partnering with the University of Lethbridge to conduct fuels assessment and landscape fuel classification and vegetation in mountain pine beetle affected forests;
 - application of prescribed fire to enhance the fire risk reduction work previously completed adjacent to communities; and,
 - advance planning for further fire risk reduction through further prescribed fire and forest thinning or removal, based on ignition risk modelling conducted by Natural Resources Canada.



BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Jasper National Park has been monitoring and managing mountain pine beetle since they were first recorded in the Miette River valley near the town of Jasper in 1999.
- Recent research shows that the leading edge of the infestation may have been slowed by control efforts, and that extended cold temperatures during winters of 2019 and 2020 provided mass mortality events for mountain pine beetle populations throughout Alberta, including in Jasper National Park. The last 2 years of mountain pine beetle surveys by Canadian Forest Service specialists have indicated that the mountain pine beetle populations in Jasper National Park have collapsed, with only small pockets of mountain pine beetle still active.
- Overall mountain pine beetle populations in Banff are decreasing and many areas in Banff with live beetles are located within planned fuel management and prescribed fire units. While the research and survey results are positive, Parks Canada continues to work in the forests surrounding park communities located within the Rocky Mountain national parks (Jasper, Banff, Kootenay, and Yoho), as well as those adjacent to susceptible provincial forests.
- While overall tree mortality in Banff has increased, the overall beetle population in Banff is decreasing due to low brood/reproductive success. This has been confirmed through spring population growth rate surveys (R-value surveys).
- Mechanical fuel removal and prescribed fire has been completed and is being planned in the Bow Valley to remove suitable habitat in the areas adjacent to the Banff National Park boundary with Alberta provincial lands and the Towns of Banff and Canmore.



SOUTHERN RESIDENT KILLER WHALE RECOVERY

ISSUE

- The Southern Resident Killer Whale is an iconic, critically endangered species that faces significant threats to its survival and recovery. The Government of Canada in collaboration with others is working to protect and support the recovery of the Southern Resident Killer Whale population in the Salish Sea around Southern Vancouver Island.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada continues to work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Transport Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Indigenous and other community partners on actions for the conservation and recovery of the Southern Resident Killer Whale.
- Parks Canada is actively implementing its Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery program. This work includes law enforcement, compliance promotion, science and monitoring, and engagement with Indigenous partners to support Indigenous-led marine stewardship and conservation programs in and around Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands national park reserves.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The Southern Resident Killer Whale is listed as Endangered under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). The Ministers of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard (DFO) and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (as Minister responsible for Parks Canada), are the “competent Ministers” under the SARA for Southern Resident Killer Whale. DFO is the lead SARA-competent department for Southern Resident Killer Whale.
- The Southern Resident Killer Whale (population as of March 2022 consists of 72 individuals) inhabits the Salish Sea around Southern Vancouver Island, frequenting the waters in Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands national park reserves. Parks Canada is also undertaking a feasibility assessment for a national marine conservation area reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia, which would encompass part of the critical habitat for Southern Resident Killer Whale.
- Killer whales are culturally, spiritually, and economically important to the Salish Sea & Barclay Sound. They are featured prominently in the stories and art of the Coastal BC First Nations, and their presence is important for local tourism.
- Marine ecosystems are culturally, economically, and traditionally important to Coastal BC First Nations. They refer to the marine ecosystems as their ‘marine gardens’, much of their livelihood and community connections are linked to the marine ecosystems. Marine management is a vital part of what the Coastal BC First Nations see as shared governance.
- The key threats to Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery are: lack of availability of prey (mainly Chinook salmon), acoustic (noise) and physical disturbance from marine vessels, and contaminants.



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- In October 2018, the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$61.5 Million over five years to address the threats to Southern Resident Killer Whales including \$18 Million for Parks Canada.
- In May 2019, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport announced enhanced management measures (building upon existing measures) to mitigate key threats to the Southern Resident Killer Whale, including prey availability and disturbances from marine vessels.
- These interim management measures have been implemented each year, beginning in 2019, including fishery closures, interim sanctuary zones, increased vessel approach distances, public awareness, and voluntary measures for fish harvesters and vessels on the water in the presence of whales.
- Parks Canada funding supports the implementation of measures at Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands national park reserves, including compliance promotion efforts through initiatives aimed at increasing public awareness, scientific monitoring (i.e, forage fish studies), enhanced law enforcement, and Indigenous-led marine stewardship and conservation programs in and around Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands national park reserves.



THE 5TH INTERNATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS (IMPAC5)

ISSUE

- The Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) is being organized, and costs are being shared between Fisheries and Oceans Canada (50%), Parks Canada (40%), and Environment and Climate Change Canada (10%). The Province of British Columbia, First Nations and external stakeholders are also playing key roles in the planning and delivery of the Congress.
- The transfer of \$1,196,616 from the Parks Canada Agency to Fisheries and Oceans Canada will support the delivery of the Congress, which is scheduled to be held in Vancouver from February 3 to February 9, 2023.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- IMPAC5 will be an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Canada's global leadership in marine conservation, and to advocate for international commitments and actions to protect 30% of our planet's marine and coastal ecosystems by 2030.
- IMPAC5 participants include key global leaders, governments, scientists, academics, Indigenous leaders, youth and environmental organizations coming together to further a marine agenda for our planet.
- The Congress, which is convened every four years, brings together a global community of managers and practitioners of marine conservation to exchange knowledge and experience, and strengthen best practices in the application and management of marine protected areas to support the effective conservation of marine biodiversity and the natural and cultural heritage of the oceans.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The International Marine Protected Areas Congress has been an important platform for promoting marine protected areas as a key instrument of ocean sustainability since 2005.
- Canada was awarded the role of host country for IMPAC5 during the closing ceremonies of IMPAC4 in La Serena-Coquimbo, Chile in 2017. IMPAC5 will be jointly hosted by the host First Nations (Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation), together with the Province of British Columbia, the Government of Canada, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The hosting of IMPAC5 will support a number of the Government of Canada's priorities



THE NATIONAL COST-SHARING PROGRAM FOR HERITAGE PLACES

ISSUE

- The National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places, supports the conservation and presentation of national historic sites, heritage lighthouses and heritage railway stations not administered by the federal government. These irreplaceable sites reflect the rich and varied heritage of our country and provide an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about our diverse history.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Funding under the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places supports conservation and presentation projects and is available to heritage places that have been formally recognized, but are not administered, by the federal government. The program ensures the protection of heritage places and helps to foster healthy local economies and a thriving tourism industry.
- The most recent intake received diverse project proposals from across the country, including work at two federally designated former Indian Residential Schools, and to prepare a flood mitigation and adaptation plan (related to climate change) for a coastal historic district National Historic Site.
- The Program addresses real needs in the heritage community:
 - For 2022-2023 \$2.0 million is available for the cost-sharing program. This program is consistently oversubscribed, for example in the most recent call for proposals, 51 applications were received for a total of \$6 million requested.
 - For every \$1 invested by the federal government, an additional \$2.70 in direct project spending was contributed from other sources.
 - The number of applications varies from year to year, with the average of 52 applications per year over the last 13 years.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The last call for proposals under the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places was launched on November 29, 2021 via ministerial news release, and closed on January 7, 2022. Applicants were notified of funding decisions on April 11, 2022.
- Eligible applicants include not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous organizations, and provincial, territorial, regional, or municipal governments who are either owners or long-term lessees of heritage places that have been formally recognized by the federal government.
- For 2022-23, a total of \$2.0 million is available to support projects that: represent the diversity and complexity of Canadian history; address the effects of climate change; or advance accessibility or inclusion at heritage places.



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- An example of a recent project supported by the program is the conservation of the rooftop cupolas at the Kiever Synagogue, in Toronto. Situated within Kensington Market National Historic Site, the synagogue remains a witness to the vibrant Jewish life that has filled this neighbourhood for over a hundred years. As the congregation prepares to celebrate the centennial of the building, Parks Canada is contributing up to \$100,000 through the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places to secure the roof of this magnificent building for the next hundred years.
- The next call for project proposals is anticipated to take place in the fall of 2022. Information will be posted on the Parks Canada website, and social media channels, as well as being shared through stakeholder networks such as the National Trust for Canada and provincial and territorial networks.



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 June 2019, Parks Canada released its *Framework for History and Commemoration: National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan 2019*. This new framework prioritises the history of diversity, including diversity of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, language and religion.
 - The Inclusive Commemorations Initiative launched in winter 2022 consists of a series of virtual engagement sessions designed to build relationships, generate new nominations for the National Program of Historical Commemoration, increase awareness of the program, and involve communities in improving how diversity is reflected in telling and commemorating history in Canada.
 - Parks Canada, in support of the Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada, is undertaking the review of some of the over 2,200 existing designations of national historic persons, places and events. These reviews aim to redress issues like outdated language and absence of significant perspectives on designated subjects.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- In implementing the *Framework for History and Commemoration: National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan 2019*, 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, 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.
- Parks Canada features information about diverse subjects on its web-site and social media channels. For example, special content was mounted for Black History Month in 2022 (<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/culture/clmhc-hsmbc/pleins-feux-spotlight>).
- Currently 40 designations under the National Program of Historical Commemoration focus on subjects related to Black History, including four which were announced on July 31, 2020 and one announced on December 21, 2021. Some examples of Black History designations 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
 - George Dixon National Historic Person (designated 2021) was widely regarded as one of the top boxers of the late 19th century. He was renowned for his stamina, speed and defence, and was the first Black athlete and first Canadian to win a world title. <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/culture/clmhc-hsmbc/res/information-backgrounder/george-dixon>
 - The Enslavement of Africa People in Canada (c.1629-1834) National Historic Event (designated 2020) acknowledges the participation of Canada in the enslavement of Africans and its long-term negative repercussions. https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=16072



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REVIEW OF DESIGNATIONS

ISSUE

- The Review of Designations aims to address historical issues and controversies in the Government's commemoration of persons, events and sites of national historic significance via the National Program of Historical Commemoration.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Designations of persons, sites and events provide an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about the rich and varied history of Canada, its breadth and depth.
- Parks Canada recognizes the need to ensure that the National Program of Historical Commemoration, and all of the Agency's public history programs, are based on the principles of integrity, inclusiveness and relevance. Major shifts in historical understanding have occurred over the past century, and attention must be given to these shifts.
 - In June 2019, Parks Canada released its *Framework for History and Commemoration: National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan 2019*. This framework included direction for the careful review of existing designations.
- Through the review of designations, the commemorations which tell the history of Canada will better acknowledge the contributions of Indigenous peoples and the diversity of historical experiences of all Canadians, as well as address existing controversies associated with major historical figures.
- Information about the review process has been posted to the Parks Canada web-site to ensure transparency about this work. Subjects under review have been flagged in the Directory of Designations. Guidance on how to request a review has also been posted.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada is the Minister's advisory board for the National Program of Historical Commemoration and provides the Minister with recommendations for new designations as well as reviews of existing designations and their plaque texts.
- The review of all existing designations was initiated at the request of the Minister through a mandate letter to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in October 2017. The approach was approved by the Minister in the *Framework for History and Commemoration* (2019). Additional guidance and clear processes for review via the Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada have been established and presented to the Minister.
- An important consideration for this review is the Government's endorsement of the Calls to Action of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission, more specifically Call to Action 79.
- There are more than 2,220 existing designations under the National Program of Historical Commemoration which reflect 100 years of evolving perspectives and interpretations,



associated with the times in which each was designated. Of this number, 205 have been identified as requiring a review at this time.

- Priorities were set by taking into account public requests for reviews, public controversies, subjects identified as urgent by an Indigenous consultant, requests from Parks Canada field units, and plaques already on the list to be replaced as part of the general program update.
- The designations and plaques which require review have been assessed as relating to four issues: colonial legacy, absence or erasure of a significant layer of history, outdated or offensive terminology, and controversial beliefs and behaviors. For example, offensive terminology relates to the use of the terms “Indian” or “Eskimo” in existing plaque texts. The scope of what will be reviewed includes designations associated with residential school history, major political figures such as Egerton Ryerson and John A. Macdonald as well as people associated with the eugenics movement.
- External engagement is being led by Parks Canada historians, seeking input from the requestor of the review when applicable, any implicated community, including Indigenous ones, subject-matter experts and local stakeholders, where relevant. The review process is in keeping with public history practices and with processes used for new nominations and plaque texts.
- Parks Canada’s Directory of Federal Heritage Designations currently identifies some of the designations identified for review. The Directory and the website of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board will be used to communicate the process and results of the review to the public.



CONSOLIDATION OF THE COLLECTION UNDER PARKS CANADA'S CARE

ISSUE

- The Government of Canada is investing \$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% 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 52 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 \$405,000. 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. Pomerleau was awarded the contract and construction commenced in late 2020. Subject to the construction schedule, it is anticipated the collection will be moved by 2025.

¹ Stable temperature and humidity control allowing for gradual fluctuations.



- Some Indigenous communities are concerned that Indigenous artifacts from current regional locations will be moved to the new facility. Parks Canada continues to engage and work with interested First Nations to find solutions that address individual concerns.
- 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.



TRUTH, RECONCILIATION AND HISTORY

ISSUE

- Parks Canada is addressing Call to Action 79 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which calls for development of a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage and commemoration.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Through its public history and interpretation programs, Parks Canada is uniquely positioned to advance reconciliation and to confront the legacies of colonialism in Canada. Parks Canada is committed to addressing Call to Action 79 and developed a *Framework for History and Commemoration* in 2019 that prioritizes the history of Indigenous peoples.
- Through the Stories of Canada program, Parks Canada is working with Indigenous partners to ensure that the voices, histories and cultures of Indigenous peoples are reflected in Parks Canada heritage places and programming.
- Designations under the National Program of Historical Commemoration can also play an important role in recognizing the contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canada's history and acknowledging and building awareness of the national historical significance of the residential school system in Canada and its tragic consequences.
- Building on the September 1, 2020 announcement of the designation of the Residential School System as a national historic event, Parks Canada is continuing to work with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in order to support the commemoration of former residential school sites through commemorative markers and healing gatherings.
- To date, four former residential schools have been designated as national historic sites, including Shubenacadie Indian Residential School in Nova Scotia, Portage-La-Prairie Indian Residential School in Manitoba, Muskowekwan Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan, and Shingwauk Indian Residential School in Ontario.
 - These nominations were initiated by Indigenous partners and survivor groups who wanted to seek formal recognition under the National Program of Historical Commemoration.
- Parks Canada will continue to work with Indigenous partners and survivor groups to commemorate the history and legacy of former residential schools. Budget 2022 proposed to provide \$25 million over three years, starting in 2022-23. Parks Canada also remains committed to working with other partners who wish to nominate additional subjects associated with this tragic history.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

Designations under the National Program of Historical Commemoration

- Budget 2018 provided \$23.9 million in funding to Parks Canada to implement Call to Action 79, which calls on the Government of Canada to: i) include First Nations, Inuit, and

Métis representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat; ii) revise the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values and memory practices; and iii) develop and implement a national heritage plan and strategy to commemorate residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canada's history.

- Since then, the Agency has worked in partnership with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to designate the Residential School System as a national historic event, and to commemorate former residential school sites through culturally appropriate markers and healing gatherings.
- In September 2020, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change announced the designation of the Residential School System as a national historic event, during a virtual event organized by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. The designation of two former residential schools as national historic sites was also announced at the same time (Shubenacadie Indian Residential School in Nova Scotia and Portage-La-Prairie Indian Residential School in Manitoba). Two additional former school sites were designated in 2021, including Muskowekwan Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan, and Shingwauk Indian Residential School in Ontario.
- Parks Canada is continuing to work directly with Survivor groups and site owners interested in nominating additional subjects associated with the history of Residential Schools in Canada. Several nominations are currently being advanced, including one for the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. Additional nominations are expected, however Survivor communities need to submit nominations in their own time, due to the traumatic nature of residential school subject matter. Over the past two years, COVID-19 has impacted the Agency's ability to conduct visits for site nominations.
- In addition, the Agency is working with federal partners, including Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs and Canadian Heritage, to share information and coordinate federal responses to those Calls to Action that touch on residential school commemorations.
- More recently, Budget 2022 proposed to provide \$25 million over three years, starting in 2022-23, to Parks Canada to support the commemoration and memorialization of former residential schools sites.

Framework for History and Commemoration

- The Agency's Framework for History and Commemoration, released in 2019, identified four new strategic priorities for the National Program of Historical Commemoration, including a focus on the histories of Indigenous Peoples.
- In addition, the Agency is working to renew key aspects of the National Program of Historical Commemoration and other public history programs to support diversity and inclusion, acknowledge the contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canada's history, and enable Indigenous perspectives and voices to be shared at places administered by Parks Canada.
- As part of the Agency's efforts to implement the new Framework for History and Commemoration, we are working to review existing designations, support new nominations, and update historical interpretation through the "Stories of Canada" program.



ARCHAEOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF THE WRECKS OF HMS *EREBUS* AND HMS *TERROR* NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

ISSUE

- Parks Canada's archaeological exploration and study of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*, in collaboration with Inuit, is one of the largest, most complex underwater archaeological undertakings in Canadian history.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*, from the legendary Franklin Expedition of 1845, were discovered in Nunavut, in 2014 and 2016 respectively. The Wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* National Historic Site of Canada is the first national historic site to be co-managed by Inuit and Parks Canada.
- Budget 2021 provided funding to accelerate archaeological and conservation work to ensure important resources are not lost to the elements, to maximize the impact of the Franklin story, and to ensure Inuit have the resources required to manage what will be one of Canada's premier national historic sites.
- In 2022, two expeditions to the wreck sites are being planned, working collaboratively with the Inuit:
 - An on-ice investigation using remotely operated vehicles in the late spring, which will be the first opportunity to see the condition of the ships, after the two-year hiatus due to COVID-19.
 - A late summer investigation, including diving, based from the RV David Thompson
- The Guardians will play a key role in the logistics for the 2022 operations at the Wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* National Historic Site of Canada, including transport, camp set-up, wildlife monitoring and participation in archaeological activities.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* are some of the best-preserved wooden wrecks in the world. They contain clues that can help unravel one of the world's greatest maritime mysteries regarding the fate of the Franklin expedition. The ongoing work for Parks Canada underwater archaeologists, Inuit knowledge-holders and other experts revolves around researching, documenting and preserving the shipwrecks.
- As a requirement of the Nunavut Agreement, an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for the Wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* National Historic Site is currently under negotiation. Negotiation of the IIBA began in 2016 and is now near completion. Its goal is to ensure that Inuit realize benefits as a result of the establishment of the national historic site and its ongoing operations including conservation activities and archaeological research. In the interim, the Franklin Interim Advisory Committee, comprised of community members and representatives from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Inuit Heritage Trust, Government of



Nunavut, the heritage and tourism industry and Parks Canada, advises on the management of the wrecks and ensures benefits are realized for Inuit.

- In summer 2017, acting on the recommendation of the Franklin Interim Advisory Committee, Parks Canada worked with local Inuit to establish an Inuit Guardians program for the wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*. Inspired by similar initiatives at other Parks Canada places, including the successful Haida Gwaii Watchmen program, the Inuit Guardians program involves Inuit in the protection and monitoring of the wreck sites and contributes to further integrating Inuit knowledge into Parks Canada's operations.



ADVANCING FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR HISTORIC PLACES

ISSUE

- Introduction of comprehensive legislation to protect federally-owned historic places.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Places, persons and events of national historic significance are markers that help to tell Canada's diverse stories, advance reconciliation and create an inclusive and resilient society for everyone.
- Budget 2021 announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation to establish a transparent designation framework and provide for the sustainable protection of over 300 federally-owned historic places.
- Budget 2021 also indicated that legislation would include distinct Indigenous representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, in keeping with Call to Action 79 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Federal institutions administer over 300 historic places. However, the vast majority of them do not benefit from legal protection, including the Parliament Buildings and those owned by the Parks Canada Agency. Canada is the only G7 country without comprehensive legislation to protect historic places within its jurisdiction and the federal government lags behind provinces and territories on this issue.
- Historic places administered by the Parks Canada Agency contribute over \$600 million annually to Canada's GDP, and support 6,100 jobs directly and indirectly, including in rural, remote and Indigenous communities.
- Parks Canada has advanced work required to introduce legislation to establish a transparent designation framework and to provide for the sustainable protection of over 300 federally-owned historic places.
- The planned legislation would provide for First Nations, Inuit and Métis representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, in keeping with Call to Action 79(i) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- Budget 2021 earmarked the funding required to implement such legislation, if enacted: \$28.7 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$5.8 million ongoing.
- The planned legislation is informed by engagement with key stakeholders, the Minister's Round Table 2017 and 2020, Indigenous groups, provinces and territories as well as recommendations received from:
 - Auditor General of Canada, Conserving Federal Heritage Properties (Fall 2018); and,



- Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, Preserving Canada's Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow (2017).



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INUIT AND IMPACT BENEFIT AGREEMENT FOR THE WRECKS OF HMS *EREBUS* AND HMS *TERROR* NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

ISSUE

- The Nunavut Agreement legally binds Canada to enter into Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements (IIBA) for National Historic Sites in the Nunavut Settlement Area. IIBA negotiations between Parks Canada and Kitikmeot Inuit Association for the Wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* NHS IIBA began in 2016 and is now near completion. Its goal is to ensure that Inuit realize benefits as a result of the establishment of the national historic site and its ongoing operations including conservation activities and archaeological research.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The discovery of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* has provided Parks Canada and Inuit with an opportunity to work together to better understand one of the greatest Canadian maritime mysteries of all time.
- Parks Canada expects negotiations for the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement with the Kitikmeot (Key-tick-me-oot) Inuit Association will be completed in 2022. The IIBA supports establishment and implementation of the first Inuit-led and operated, cooperatively managed national historic site with direct benefits to Inuit.
- Concurrent to Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement negotiations, an accelerated archeology and conservation program is being undertaken to manage and protect the exceptional gift of the Wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* and artifacts received from the United Kingdom. Since 2014, the wreck of HMS *Erebus* has been studied by Parks Canada underwater archaeologists in consultation with Inuit. Archaeological study of the wreck of HMS *Terror* began in 2016.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Upon discovery of the HMS *Erebus* in 2014, the Government of Canada relied on an emergency provision of the Nunavut Agreement to bring the wreck under legal protection prior to negotiating an Impact and Benefit Agreement. The second ship, HMS *Terror*, found in 2016 was brought under legal protection in 2017 relying on the same provision. Accordingly, and pursuant to the Nunavut Agreement, Parks Canada is required to negotiate and finalize an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement.
- The Franklin Interim Advisory committee was established in June 2016 to ensure Inuit benefited from and participated in the initial planning related to the establishment of the National Historic Site and archaeological investigations on the Wrecks during the time the IIBA was being negotiated.
- In Summer 2017, acting on the recommendation of the Franklin Interim Advisory Committee, Parks Canada worked with local Inuit to establish an Inuit Guardians program for the wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror*. Inspired by similar initiatives at other Parks Canada places, including the successful Haida Gwaii Watchmen program, the Inuit Guardians program involves Inuit in the protection and monitoring of the wreck sites and contributes to further integrating Inuit knowledge into Parks Canada's operations.



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- In 2022, the Guardians will play a key role in the logistics for the April 2022 on-ice operations at the Wrecks of HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* National Historic Site of Canada, including transport, camp set-up, wildlife monitoring and participation in archaeological activities.



IMPLEMENTATION OF RIGHTS AND RECONCILIATION AGREEMENTS IN EASTERN CANADA

ISSUE

- Parks Canada has a mandate to negotiate Rights Reconciliation Agreements (RRAs) with the Peace and Friendship Treaty Nations (the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati First Nations).

POINTS TO REGISTER

- RRAs are legally binding, time-limited, contract-like agreements intended to address the rights, needs and interests of the Peace and Friendship Treaty Nations in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the Gaspé region of Quebec, with respect to national heritage places and fish.
- With respect to places under Parks Canada's administration, the RRAs represent stepping-stones to growing the Crown-Indigenous relationship and advancing reconciliation in Eastern Canada. Discussions are focused on cooperative management, shared stewardship of natural and cultural heritage, and economic and employment opportunities.
- Negotiations are ongoing. Parks Canada and Crown Indigenous Relations are actively negotiating at seven Parks-related RRA tables; several are at an advanced stage. Implementation funding will be transferred once an agreement has been ratified and signed by all parties.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- In the 1999 Marshall decision, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed a treaty right to hunt, fish and gather for the purposes of earning a "moderate livelihood" stemming from the Peace and Friendship Treaties of 1760-61. The Marshall decision affects approximately 43,000 Registered Indians and 35 Indigenous communities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the Gaspé region of Quebec. Over the years, Canada has secured various mandates to negotiate with these communities as the modern day successors to the treaties.
- Upholding roles and responsibilities as stewards and guardians of the lands has been central to the survival and well-being of Indigenous peoples, including with respect to Indigenous knowledge, governance and cultural heritage. Prior to 1982, the establishment of national heritage places did not recognize these roles and responsibilities, and effectively separated Indigenous communities from traditional territories, and severing ties that had helped to sustain the lands and people since time immemorial.



REPROFILING IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS FOR THE INUIT IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENTS FOR AUYUITTUQ, QUTTINIRPAAQ AND SIRMILIK NATIONAL PARKS (BAFFIN IIBA) AND UKKUSIKSALIK NATIONAL PARK TO 2023-24

ISSUE

- Parks Canada is reprofiling \$832,000 implementation funds from 2021-22 fiscal year to extend through 2023-24 fiscal year for the purpose of continuing to fulfill obligations of the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements for Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaaq and Sirimilik National Parks (Baffin IIBA) and the Ukkusiksalik Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (UNP IIBA).

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Implementation funds support fulfilling obligations in the Baffin and Ukkusiksalik IIBAs, including requirements for Joint Inuit /Government Park Planning and Management Committees to provide advice on park management and scheduled reviews of the agreements.
- Specifically, funds were reprofiled to implement face-to-face meetings of Joint Inuit /Government Park Planning and Management Committees and Inuit Knowledge Working Groups (\$391,000), conduct engagement and consultation sessions for management plans in development (\$141,000) and to conduct a review of the Baffin IIBA with the Designated Inuit Organization (estimated at \$300,000 based on previous reviews).
- The COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to travel and in-person meetings in Nunavut for two years over serious concern for the spread of the disease through the small communities, which resulted in substantial underspending.
- The Designated Inuit Organization for the Baffin IIBA, the Qikiqtani Inuit Organization (QIA) has not prioritized the joint review with Parks Canada.
- As all COVID-19 restrictions related to travel and group size gatherings in Nunavut have been lifted, we expect 2022-23 to be a return to business as usual. Furthermore, Parks Canada is enhancing the committee communication opportunity through IT and communication investments.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Joint Inuit/Government Park Planning and Management Committees are required under Article 8 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and established through the IIBAs. These committees provide advice to the Minister, their designates, and any other agency they deem appropriate, on all matters related to park management. Committees require two in-person meetings and up to eight teleconferences annually.
- Meetings of Joint Inuit/Government Planning and Management Committees and Inuit Knowledge working groups support the goal of ensuring Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Inuit knowledge and world view) infuses all aspects of planning and management of four national parks in Nunavut.



- Eleven Nunavut communities are associated with these two IIBAs and will receive benefits through this funding: Naujaat, Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet and Coral Harbour (Ukkusiksalik IIBA) and the communities of Resolute, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Qikiqtarjuaq and Pangnirtung (Baffin IIBA).
- Parks Canada and QIA signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly undertake a review of the Baffin IIBA in 2018. QIA immediately put the project on hold, saying they did not have the capacity at that time, and efforts on the part of Parks Canada to reinstate the review in a manner that addressed their lack of capacity have been unsuccessful. Parks Canada is now ready to initiate the review and QIA will be invited to participate as they are able.



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IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENT FOR NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

ISSUE

- In 2018, Parks Canada accessed \$7 million earmarked in Budget 2018 to support the completion of the of the Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) with the Dehcho First Nations and Nah?ą Dehé Dene Band in relation to the establishment and enlargement of Nahanni National Park Reserve.
- Negotiations on the IBA were postponed due to internal political differences between the Dehcho First Nations and the Nah?ą Dehé Dene Band but resumed on a tri-partite basis with Parks Canada in January 2022.
- In the 2022-23 Main Estimates for the Agency, a total of \$11.1 million in funding was re-profiled to future years, including the \$7 million in grant funding for the IBA.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- On March 31, 2021, Parks Canada entered into the “Interim Agreement on Economic Opportunities Related to Nahanni National Park Reserve” with the Nah?ą Dehé Dene Band.
- Parks Canada hopes to conclude negotiations for the full IBA for Nahanni National Park Reserve with both Dehcho First Nations and Nah?ą Dehé Dene Band by August 2022. The \$7 million grant will be a benefit within the agreement.
- Parks Canada values the on-going partnership with the Dehcho First Nations and Nah?ą Dehé Dene Band and appreciates their significant contribution to the conservation of the spectacular South Nahanni River and surrounding lands.

BACKGROUND

- 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 grant of \$3 million payable for the Nahanni National Park Reserve IBA. This grant was paid out as a benefit to Nah?ą Dehé Dene Band in the March 2021 interim agreement. The grant is considered part of the overall benefit, for a total of \$10 million in economic benefits upon completion of the full IBA.



BATOCHÉ NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

ISSUE

- The Métis Nation - Saskatchewan has long expressed its interest to the Government of Canada in the return of Batoche to the Métis and in having a greater say in the day-to-day management of the site.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Reconciliation and improved relationships with all Indigenous peoples, including the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, is a priority of the Government of Canada.
- Parks Canada and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan are currently discussing a full range of options related to the future management of Batoche National Historic Site. These discussions are taking place as part of the Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation.
- The Agency is committed to strengthening cooperative management structures to enhance Indigenous peoples' voices in management decisions.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Batoche National Historic Site commemorates the armed conflict between the Métis Provisional Government and the Canadian Government in 1885, the Métis community at Batoche and the Métis river lot land use patterns.
- Parks Canada and Métis Nation – Saskatchewan have a long history of collaboration at Batoche National Historic Site.
- On December 18, 2020, Parks Canada and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan signed a Terms of Reference for negotiations. The announcement related to Batoche is seen as an overall positive development, and generally supported.
- In January 2021, Parks Canada also began discussions with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan regarding a renewed cooperative management agreement for the site, and these are ongoing.



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INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP

ISSUE

- Through Indigenous Stewardship initiatives, Parks Canada works collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to support reconciliation and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada works with Indigenous peoples to advance stewardship and conservation priorities for both natural and cultural heritage.
- Parks Canada supports Indigenous Stewardship approaches that reflect the rights, priorities, and aspirations of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis partners. For example, Indigenous Stewardship initiatives are integrated into the park establishment process, through early discussions on guardians programs and cooperative management approaches. The following are other examples of Indigenous Stewardship in action at Parks Canada:
 - Over 30 cooperative management arrangements or boards with Indigenous peoples at Parks Canada administered places;
 - Seven on-the-land guardians programs that provide a variety of supports for park operations as well as training and career opportunities for Indigenous peoples within their traditional territories;
 - ongoing collaboration with Indigenous Governments and communities to facilitate harvesting of plants for medicinal and traditional purposes;
 - working with Indigenous knowledge holders 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 Governments and communities at Parks Canada places to provide economic opportunities such as the current development of the ʔapsčiiik ʔašii (ups-cheek ta-shee) multi-use pathway project in Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.
- The 2020 Response to the Minister's Round Table on Parks Canada included the commitment to develop a framework to support Indigenous stewardship in Parks Canada administered places, through processes of collaboration and dialogue with Indigenous peoples and partners.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada currently works within the traditional territories, treaty lands, and ancestral homelands of approximately 300 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities.
- Past and present actions in many protected areas have impacted the relationships and responsibilities Indigenous peoples have with and to the lands, waters and ice they have

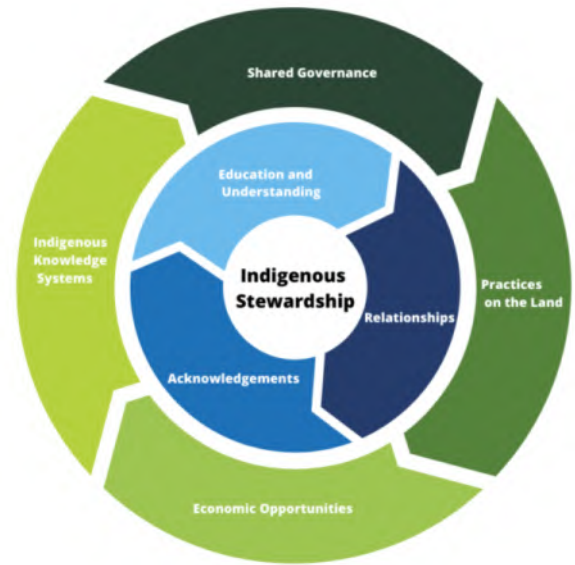


stewarded for millennia. Parks Canada has played a role in promoting the idea that nature or “wilderness” needs to be protected from humans. In some cases, Indigenous peoples were forcefully removed from Parks Canada administered places; such actions have contributed to lasting harms which continue to impact relationships to place, access and use of lands, waters and ice, the exercising of Indigenous rights and responsibilities, the intergenerational transfer of knowledge, and language transmission, which all have detrimental effects on Indigenous cultural continuity.

- Today, in recognition of this history and the important roles and responsibilities of Indigenous peoples in protecting and conserving lands, waters and ice, Parks Canada has undertaken preliminary policy work to advance Indigenous Stewardship across Parks Canada administered places with an approach that:
 - Strengthens re-connections to the lands, waters, and ice,
 - Empowers Indigenous voices,
 - Supports Indigenous leadership and self-determination,
 - Respects Indigenous rights and responsibilities, Indigenous knowledge and knowledge systems, and
 - Builds a greener and more equitable future for future generations.
- Parks Canada’s current understanding of the work to be done is represented in an Indigenous Stewardship Framework (Framework). The proposed Framework identifies key areas of work to advance a process of renewal for the Agency centred around a vision of protected area management and governance that is respectfully aligned with Indigenous ways of stewarding lands, waters, and ice, and supports implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The proposed Framework (see illustration) includes both core and enabling elements that reflect Indigenous responsibilities and worldviews, as well as conditions necessary for success in working together. Progressive change and action is required to address barriers to stewardship across all of these elements, although elements of work may proceed at difference paces. The proposed Framework advances a commitment to a renewed working relationship that recognizes and facilitates joint approaches to conservation and stewardship. Framework elements may evolve over time as we continue to engage and work with Indigenous peoples on the overall approach.



- **Proposed Core Elements (shown in green):**
four interconnected elements are understood to be central components of Indigenous Stewardship: Indigenous knowledge systems; shared governance; practices on lands, waters and ice; and economic opportunities.
- **Proposed Enabling Elements (shown in blue):**
three additional interconnected elements are considered to be foundational to Indigenous Stewardship: broader efforts to build and maintain strong relationships between Indigenous peoples and Parks Canada; the need to acknowledge and apologize for past and present actions, coupled with reconciliatory actions; and education and understanding, including among Parks Canada employees and Canadians.



NEXT STEPS

- A critical next step is to engage with Indigenous partners on the concept of the Framework. Engagement will be phased over the next two years with a focus on relationships and processes that create space for dialogue that honours and respects Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems and practices. This engagement will inform the components of the Framework itself as well as priorities that will be identified in an action plan for all Parks Canada administered places. The action plan will reflect both Indigenous and Parks Canada perspectives and priorities, while aligning with the broader Government of Canada action plan to be developed as part of efforts to implement the UN Declaration Act.
- As the relationships with Indigenous partners varies across the Parks Canada system, as well as the cultural and legal contexts of these communities, it is envisioned that the framework will be applied variably in protected heritage areas that reflect the varying rights, interests and aspirations of Indigenous peoples as well as the unique operational contexts within which Parks Canada operates.
- The envisioned outcome is a future in which Parks Canada administered places are governed and managed in accordance with shared values and through systems and processes that respect and honour Indigenous and Crown authorities and worldviews.



MEALY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK RESERVE INCREMENTAL TREATY AGREEMENT AND THE PARK IMPACT BENEFIT AGREEMENT WITH THE LABRADOR INNU

ISSUE

- The Incremental Treaty Agreement (ITA) is an agreement that provides funding to the Labrador Innu to implement the Labrador Innu Parks Impacts and Benefits Agreement. This funding will allow the Labrador Innu to carry out their roles and responsibilities as set out in the Parks Impacts and Benefits Agreement, and to support Labrador Innu businesses and individuals to take advantage of economic opportunities related to the Park.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Signing the ITA on August 12, 2021 was an important step to meeting Labrador Innu rights, needs and interests with respect to the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve, and supporting Labrador Innu capacity towards taking up their roles and responsibilities for the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve in accordance with the Innu Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement signed in 2015. This includes, for example, co-operative management and shared stewardship of the natural and cultural heritage of the Park Reserve.
- The ITA will also support economic opportunities for the Labrador Innu through meaningful employment and government contracting.
- The Park ITA will contribute to meeting several federal interests, including providing for greater operational predictability of the Park, securing the operation of the Labrador Innu Cooperative Management Board, and strengthening and expanding the Crown-Indigenous relationship.
- The ITA has resulted in a strengthened relationship and increased trust between Parks Canada and Innu Nation.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada and the Labrador Innu signed a Parks Impacts and Benefits Agreement for Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve in 2015 following the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle and the establishment of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. All parties expected to conclude the Final Agreement negotiations shortly after signing the Parks Impacts and Benefits Agreement in 2015.
- Final Agreement negotiations, however, are ongoing and therefore the Innu were without funding to facilitate their capacity development and involvement in the establishment, planning and management of the Park where implementation funding for the Parks Impacts and Benefits Agreement, for example, was tied to the effective date of the final treaty agreement.
- The Park and the Fisheries Incremental Treaty Agreements mark the first incremental treaty agreements to be signed by Canada in the history of section 35 negotiations. The ITAs also mark the first time that Canada advances a treaty-related benefit to the Labrador Innu in advance of concluding their modern treaty, which has been in negotiation since 1991.



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- For Parks Canada, the ITA is intended to resolve three key issues in the Labrador Innu modern treaty negotiations:
 - advance implementation funding for the Labrador Innu Park Impacts and Benefit Agreement with respect to the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve, which was signed by the Innu and Parks Canada in 2015 to facilitate Labrador Innu to take up their roles and responsibilities for the cooperative management and shared stewardship of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve and support Labrador Innu businesses to take advantage of the economic development opportunities related to the establishment and operation of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve;
 - clarify the status of the Labrador Innu Cooperative Management Board as a “primary body” among stakeholder groups, defined as groups without treaty rights; and
 - address an employment benefit-related interest to provide for preferential hiring of qualified Labrador Innu individuals for jobs located in Happy Valley Goose Bay related to the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve.



INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS NEGOTIATIONS

ISSUE

- Further to funding identified in Budget 2021, Parks Canada Agency is increasing its Indigenous Affairs Negotiations capacity to better meet the demands arising from the federal approach to recognition of Indigenous rights and self-determination, and the aspirations of Indigenous partners with regard to Parks Canada-administered places.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada rights-based negotiations have approximately doubled to 66 relationships since 2015, with the new negotiation tables arising from the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination approach. At the same time, resources dedicated to these negotiations have remained roughly steady.
- The evolving Crown-Indigenous relationship has led to higher expectations for closer relationships and support for the exercise of rights. Addressing these expectations has led to an increasingly complex negotiating environment with implications for the operation of Parks Canada sites across the country.
- In Budget 2021 the Government committed \$10.6 million over five years and \$2.2 million ongoing to increase negotiation capacity and implement a sound policy, governance and project management approach to support the Agency in reaching its reconciliation goals, support the field, and to manage risk.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- An externally advertised hiring process for Negotiators and Negotiations Managers is now complete and hiring is underway to staff a regionally-oriented negotiation team capable of meeting the level of effort required by a Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs-led whole of Government approach to resourcing rights-based negotiations.
- The new team will be in place early in fiscal year 2022-23 with a goal of meeting Agency goals for increasing co-operative management arrangements and reaching more timely, implementable agreements in support of Indigenous Stewardship and operational predictability.



FUNDING RENEWAL OF THE NUNAVIK INUIT LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT AND CO-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE TORNGAT MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

ISSUE

- Implementation funding for the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement was increased in 2020 to better facilitate Indigenous partners in carrying out their roles and responsibilities for the joint-cooperative management of the Torngat Mountains National Park.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- 100% of the Torngat Mountains National Park falls within the settlement areas for both Nunavik and Nunatsiavut Inuit governments.
- The park is co-operatively managed by Parks Canada and Nunavik and Nunatsiavut Inuit through a co-operative management board.
- Providing sustainable, ongoing funding to the Nunavik Inuit to implement their Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement for the Torngat Mountains National Park means that the Nunavik Inuit will now be in a position to fully carry out their roles and responsibilities for the co-operative management and shared stewardship of the Torngat Mountains National Park, and that Parks Canada can staff-up and invest in Park infrastructure.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement was signed in 2008, three years after Canada signed the Labrador Inuit Land Claim Agreement with the Nunatsiavut. Establishment of the Torngat Mountains National Park was an important factor in the conclusion of both the Nunavik and Nunatsiavut modern treaties.
- Specific commitments related to the Torngat Mountains National Park include negotiating two separate Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement for the co-operative management of the Park; establishing an administrative office with staff and access point to the Park in Quebec; and establishment of a joint Makivik-Nunatsiavut-Parks Canada co-operative management board.
- In addition to equal membership, Nunavik Inuit and Nunatsiavut have equal roles and responsibilities related stewardship, culture, heritage and archaeology in the Park. The Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement also addresses:
 - service delivery in both Inuit languages;
 - economic opportunities; and
 - cultural resource management, including for Inuit-led visitor experience.



PARKS CANADA INDIGENOUS GUARDIANS PROGRAM

ISSUE

- Indigenous Guardians Programs, co-developed with Parks Canada and led by Indigenous partners help maintain and revitalize connections with lands, waters, and ice that sustain the systems of knowledge, laws, and governance.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Reconciliation and renewed relationships with Indigenous peoples is a priority of the Government of Canada.
- Parks Canada received \$61.7 million in Budget 2021 to advance Indigenous Guardians Programs at Parks Canada administered places.
- Programs within Parks Canada-administered places will be place-based expressions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis culture and are a reflection of their traditional territories, treaty lands and ancestral homelands.
- Guardians programs are Indigenous community/partner-led programs that may operate (in whole or part) at Parks Canada administered places, are co-developed by Parks Canada and are supported financially by Parks Canada.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Advancing Indigenous leadership in conservation is key to achieving ambitious targets, advancing Indigenous reconciliation, and mitigating the impacts of climate change by protecting and restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems and contributing to the recovery of species at risk.
- Indigenous leadership initiatives like Indigenous Guardians are helping Canada adapt to climate change and meet its commitments to protect nature, culture and biodiversity.
- The funding has allowed Parks Canada to support four existing Guardians initiatives in 2021-22. Additional initiatives are in the design phase, which will likely bring the total to 10 or more programs by late 2022.
- Indigenous Guardians programs offer the possibility of culturally meaningful jobs to Indigenous Peoples and further support vibrant and sustainable local economies.
- The programs play a vital role in promoting intergenerational sharing of Indigenous knowledge, helping to train the next generation of educators and nation builders, and provide support for healthy and resilient Indigenous communities by fostering land-based activities.



PARKS CANADA VISITATION 2021

ISSUE

- Visitation in 2021 is rebounding nationally (compared to Year 1 of the COVID-19 pandemic), but it remains below pre-pandemic levels.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada continued to successfully adapt visitor access and services to incorporate measures to keep Canadians safe from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic while allowing them to enjoy the outdoors in national historic sites, parks and marine conservation areas.
- Preliminary year to date figures (April 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022) indicate that 20.8 million visitors enjoyed the health and wellness benefits offered by Parks Canada places across the country. This is 27% more visitors than in the same period of 2020 (16.4 million), but it is 13% below pre-pandemic levels.
- Total annual visitation for the 2021-22 operating year (April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022) is projected to come in between 21.1 and 21.5 million visitors. This would be an improvement over last year (Year 1 of the pandemic), but will still be below pre-pandemic levels (~25 million).
- Visitation was again mainly domestic in 2021-22 as access remained closed to American and foreign tourists until late summer/early Fall. International visitors from every US state and at least 57 foreign countries were present in national parks once borders reopened.
- Visitors continue to have positive experiences despite the evolving challenges of the pandemic. Based on a national survey of visitors in 2021:
 - 93% of visitors enjoyed their visit (↑4% over 2020)
 - 91% of visitors chose to visit because they considered the place to be safe (↑4%);
 - 90% of visitors were satisfied with health and safety measures in place (↑6%); and
 - 87% of visitors felt re-opening of parks/sites provided a sense of normalcy (↑5%).
- In a normal year, Parks Canada attracts millions of visitors annually and is an important economic engine in communities across Canada. National parks/historic sites help create and sustain local jobs and businesses in hundreds of communities across Canada. For example, in 2018-2019, visitors to national parks and historic sites contributed \$3.4 billion to Canada's gross domestic product and supported more than 33,000 jobs across the country.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada maintained a national model of service delivery that was adaptable to variations in local and regional public health requirements during the ongoing pandemic. Parks Canada communicated regularly with the Canadian public to ensure awareness of what is available and what measures visitors should follow when preparing for their visit and being in a Parks Canada place.
- Parks Canada opened normally for the 2021 season (i.e., no system wide closures due to lockdowns). However, some modified offers such as reduced camping availability, limited



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interpretation tours, and some building closures remained in place to address health requirements.

- Preliminary year to date national park visitation (April 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022) is 13.9 million, up 25% over last year at this time, and down 8% from pre pandemic levels (2019).
- Preliminary year to date national historic site visitation (April 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022) is 6.9 million, up 31% over last year at this time, and down 21% from pre pandemic levels.
- Final visitation figures for the 2021-22 operating year will be available by May 2022.

[see attached infographic for regional breakdown of visitation]

Economic Contribution (Summary)

Regional breakdown of impact from total Agency spending (PCA and visitors)

2018-19 Impact (Most recent; pre pandemic)

System

\$5.0 billion to GDP * supported 46,222 jobs *
\$581 million in tax revenue

National parks¹

\$4.1 billion to GDP * supported 38,507 jobs *
\$487 million in tax revenue

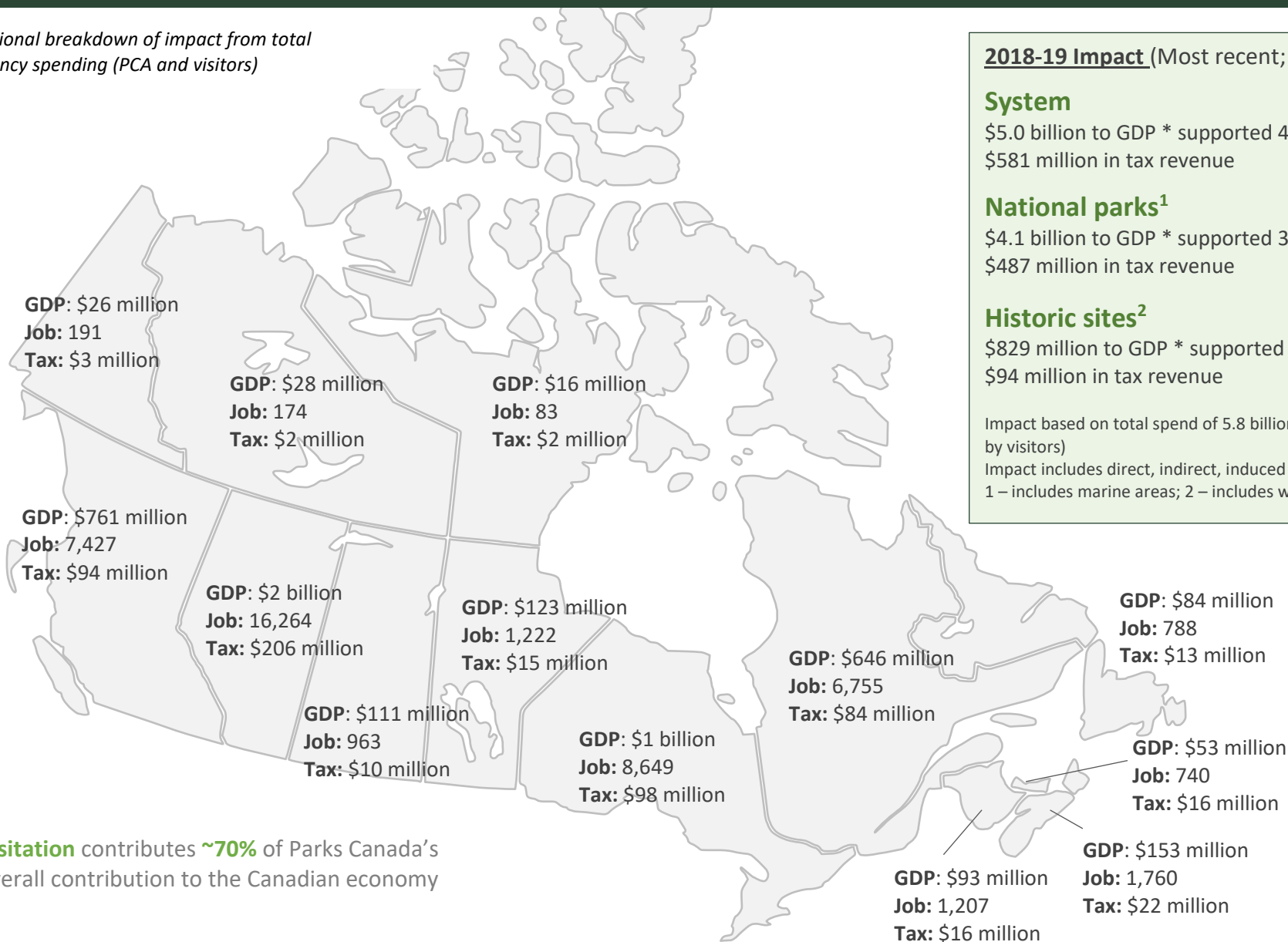
Historic sites²

\$829 million to GDP * supported 7,714 jobs *
\$94 million in tax revenue

Impact based on total spend of 5.8 billion (\$1.5B PCA, \$4.5B by visitors)

Impact includes direct, indirect, induced

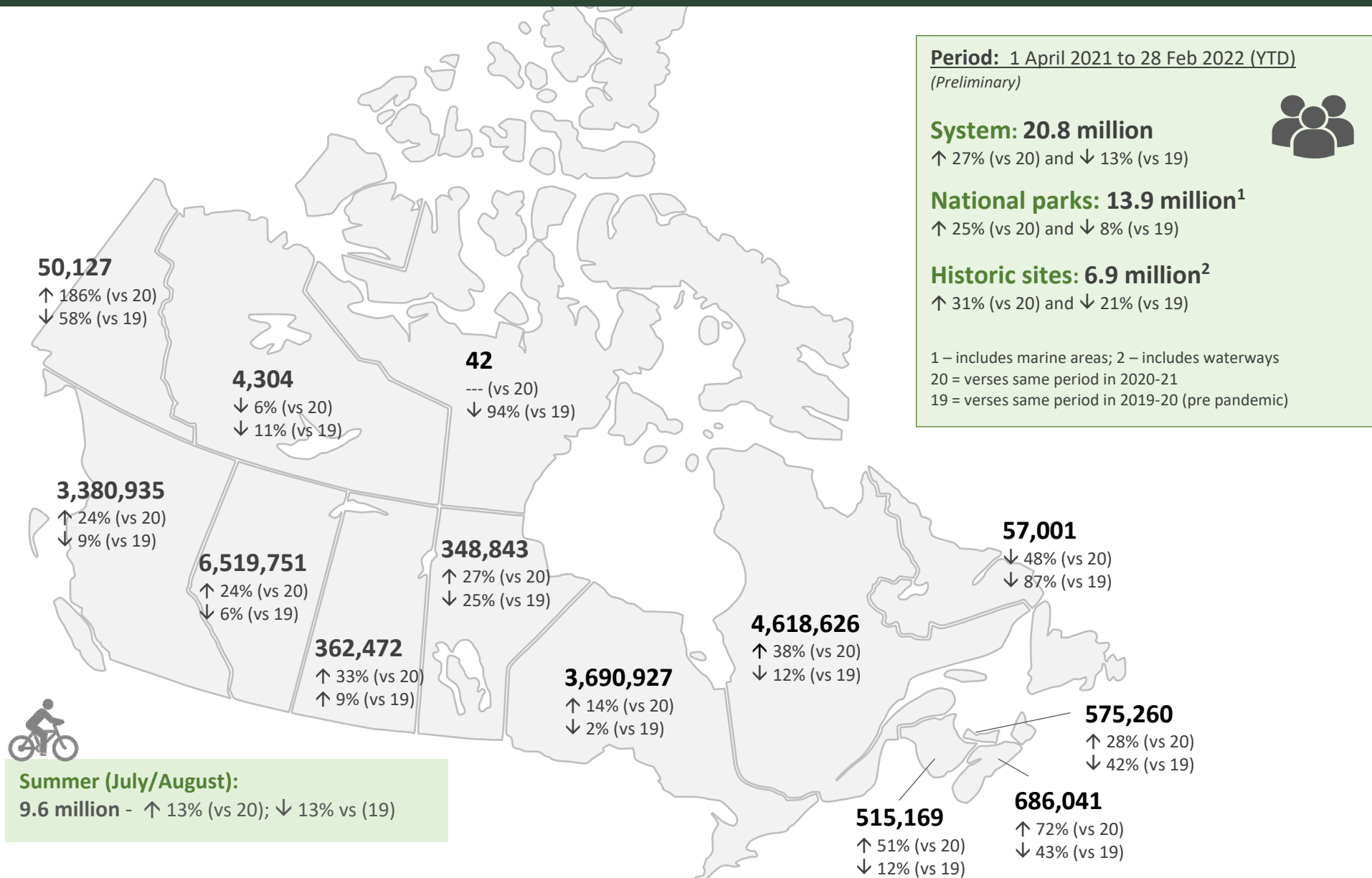
1 – includes marine areas; 2 – includes waterways



Visitation contributes **~70%** of Parks Canada's overall contribution to the Canadian economy

Prepared by: Social Science Branch ERVE (April 5, 2022)

Visitation – Status Update



Prepared by: Social Science Branch (April 4 2022)



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *SERVICE FEES ACT* AT PARKS CANADA

ISSUE

- In January 2021, as part of Parks Canada's ongoing implementation of the 2017 *Service Fees Act*, the Agency communicated that fees for optional value-added services, such as guided programs, access to hot pools, special event permits, and golf will increase in 2023. The Agency also communicated that Consumer Price Index fee adjustments required under the *Service Fees Act* will now take place every two years beginning in 2022.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada fees are reasonable and offer good value for Canadians. The Agency reinvests all revenues earned from fees into operations. Over 20% 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. The consultation supported further adjustments to fees to improve cost recovery and bring some fees into closer alignment with market rates, particularly where these fees inadvertently compete with private sector offers like golf and hot pools.
- 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. Regular adjustments of fees to reflect inflation based on the Consumer Price Index are a further requirement of the Act.

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.
- In January 2021, as part of Parks Canada's ongoing implementation of the 2017 *Service Fees Act*, the Agency communicated that fees for optional value-added services, such as guided programs, access to hot pools, special event permits, and golf will increase in 2023. The Agency also communicated that Consumer Price Index fee adjustments required under the *Service Fees Act* will now take place every two years beginning in 2022.
- The 2017 *Service Fees Act*, requires that departments and agencies adjust service fees for inflation on an annual basis unless an alternative schedule is approved by the responsible Minister. Beginning in 2022, Parks Canada will adjust service fees for inflation only every two years. This provides greater price certainty and predictability for Parks Canada visitors, partners, and clients and offers greater lead time for advising Canadians of the introduction of price changes.



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BOW VALLEY MOVING PEOPLE SUSTAINABLY

ISSUE

- Parks Canada has established an expert panel to assist with the development of a sustainable people-moving system for Banff National Park. The panel will make recommendations to Parks Canada on how to develop a sustainable people moving framework for the park. The scope of the work will include the management and coordination of access, use and infrastructure at key park destinations in, and adjacent to, the Bow Valley.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Visitation in the Bow Valley of Banff National Park has increased dramatically in the last decade. Parking lots at key destinations are often over capacity and traffic congestion has become common at popular nodes. The Panel will be asked, based upon their expertise and Indigenous, public, and stakeholder consultations, to recommend possible innovative solutions for Parks Canada to consider in the development of a people-moving framework.
- The President & Chief Executive Officer of Parks Canada has appointed individuals to the Panel who have experience relevant to the challenges facing Banff National Park. This includes experts from the fields of intelligent transportation systems, transit planning, green transit, tourism, accessibility, and recreation planning, among others.
- The desired outcome of the panel is to provide Parks Canada with recommendations that can be considered in developing a cohesively planned and implemented people-moving strategy, which would include a suite of people moving tools, demonstration projects and research. Recommendations from the Panel will be subject to Indigenous and public engagement.
- Parks Canada has reviewed an interim progress report and provided feedback to the Panel. A final report is expected by July 2022.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada has been implementing mass transit solutions for popular visitation areas in Banff National Park, but these are proving insufficient to meet demand and provide quality visitor experiences. Parks Canada remains committed to mass transit; expert advice is being sought to build on this work and explore innovative new solutions.
- Indigenous, public and stakeholder consultations on the draft Terms of Reference for the Panel were conducted and the Terms of Reference revised to reflect the comments received. Indigenous, public, and stakeholder comments were supportive and constructive. Comments focused on how to further clarify the Panel's role, intent of the project, clear link to the government's 2050 net zero goal, and re-affirming the commitment to environmentally sustainable mass transit.
- Parks Canada announced the Panel membership on May 26, 2021, and regular meetings of the panel have been held.



INVESTMENT IN PARKS CANADA'S INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

ISSUE

- Investing in the Agency's asset base has been a focus of the Government since 2015, and Parks Canada has been delivering on its asset investment commitments with time-limited funding. Budget 2021 provided an additional \$35 million for the Parks Canada Agency in 2022-23 to continue to maintain its internal capacity to manage its capital assets.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The Government of Canada is committed to investing in national historic sites, national parks, national urban parks, and national marine conservation areas.
- Through investment in infrastructure, Parks Canada is conserving these treasured places, supporting rural economic growth, stabilizing the tourism sector, and helping to meet our obligations for reconciliation, greenhouse gas reduction, and universal accessibility.
- By March 2023, the Agency will have invested nearly \$4.2 billion to complete 995 high priority projects to improve the condition of more than a quarter of its assets in national parks and national historic sites in all areas of the country.
- Parks Canada is continuing long-term planning to ensure the effective management and ongoing sustainability of its wide-ranging and diverse portfolio into the future.

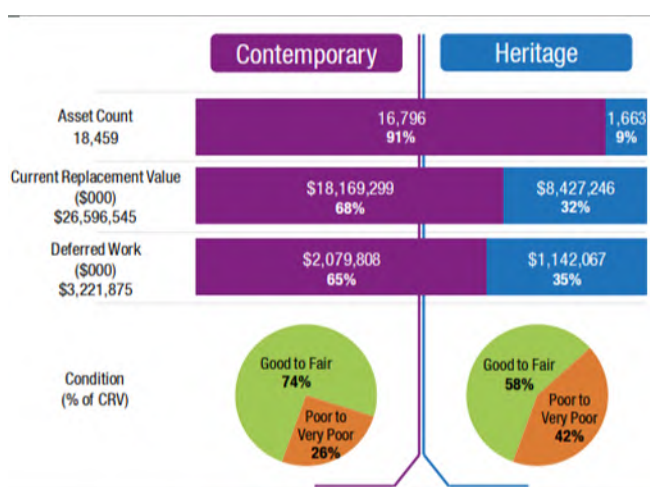
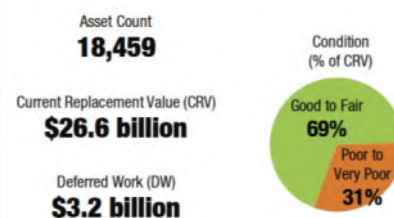
BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada maintains a diverse portfolio of more than 18,000 assets across the country, with a current replacement value of over \$26 billion (see Annex for additional details). Robust governance and prioritization ensures that investments are made where they are most needed.
- 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.
- Since 2015, \$4.2 billion in temporary funding has been provided to the Agency to invest in protecting and restoring capital assets in national parks and national historic sites. As a result of the Agency's capital program, the percentage of assets in good or fair condition has improved from 50% to 69% (as of June 2021) over that same time period.
- To support the development of long-term plans for the Agency's asset portfolio, external experts have been engaged to assist with national reviews of its built asset portfolio to validate the overall condition of the Agency's asset portfolio and the ongoing financial requirements to sustain it.
- With the current program of work set to come to an end in March 2023, Parks Canada continues to strengthen its investment planning and asset management processes, including recent development of a Real Property Portfolio Strategy, planning for a shift to an accrual

budgeting regime, and the development of long-term plans to support the sustainability of Parks Canada's assets into the future.

Annex: Key asset data from 2021 Asset Report Card

- Parks Canada's Asset Report Card is an annual report intended to provide a national picture of the overall condition, health and trends of Parks Canada's built asset portfolio.
- This report is based on data in the Agency's asset information management system, Maximo, which uses standardized asset metrics such as Current Replacement Value (CRV), Overall Asset Condition (OAC), and Deferred Work (DW).



- The information presented in this report includes a breakdown of results by heritage value, portfolio segment, asset category, and region.
- These metrics aid in monitoring the portfolio, prioritizing assets and informing asset management and investment decisions.

Note: Data for the 2021 Asset Report Card was extracted on June 21, 2021.

Results by Portfolio Segment

Portfolio Segment	Asset Count	CRV (\$000)	Good to Fair Condition (% CRV)	Poor to Very Poor Condition (% CRV)	DW (\$000)
Built Heritage	1,433	\$3,954,879	65%	35%	\$538,234
Visitor Experience, Recreation	13,301	\$4,128,154	77%	23%	\$335,606
Land Transportation	1,326	\$8,495,350	76%	24%	\$910,382
Waterways and Marine Assets	1,185	\$9,123,534	60%	40%	\$1,346,175
Utilities and Other	1,214	\$894,627	78%	22%	\$91,478





DELAYED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

ISSUE

- Since 2015, Parks Canada has been delivering the largest federal infrastructure program in its history, with 995 projects across the country worth \$4.2 billion. Given the complexity and size of some of these projects, schedule delays can occur as a project moves from concept through execution.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Nearly 83% of the 995 capital projects undertaken since 2015 are now complete, bringing improved asset condition and safety, high-quality experiences for visitors, and protection for cultural heritage at national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas across the country.
- As with any large infrastructure investment program, many factors can impact the schedule for projects, including: weather impacts that may result in changes to construction season(s); procurement and contracting processes; and, requirements for assets to remain partially in service while construction is underway in order to provide services to visitors or the public (i.e. restoration of bridges, dams and locks.).
- Furthermore, the protection and conservation of cultural and natural resources, habitats, and the environment is a priority for Parks Canada and adjustment of project timelines to help safeguard these important resources is sometimes necessary.
- Similarly, Parks Canada works closely with hundreds of Indigenous communities across Canada who are valued partners. Taking the time necessary to engage and consult with Indigenous partners, as well as with other local and regional stakeholders, is of the utmost importance for Parks Canada and project schedules must sometimes be adjusted to facilitate sufficient prior engagement and dialogue
- Finally, despite the best efforts of all concerned to reduce negative impacts of COVID-19 on Parks Canada's ongoing infrastructure projects, some projects have experienced delays due to the availability of workforce and key materials.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada maintains a diverse portfolio of more than 18,000 assets across the country, with a current replacement value of over \$26 billion.
- Since 2015, Parks Canada has received \$4.2 billion in supplementary capital infrastructure funding in several Federal budgets to allow the Agency to invest in protecting and restoring capital assets in national parks and national historic sites.
- Over this time period, Parks Canada has increased its internal capacity and expertise to deliver complex projects, and has put in place rigorous project management, and financial reporting and monitoring controls to ensure sound stewardship of this historic investment.



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- Projects like the restoration of Province House in Charlottetown, PEI, and renewal of the Trent-Severn Waterway in Ontario and Whistler's Campground in Jasper, represent multi-year projects where costs and schedule tend to require adjustment as asset condition is better understood through project delivery. As a result, the scope of these projects has evolved since 2015.
 - **Province House** is a flag-ship, multi-year project that will see a complete restoration of a 160-year-old heritage building from very poor condition to a ground-up rebuild and refit.
 - The program of work on the **Trent-Severn Waterway** has 29 separate, but interrelated projects to replace century-old structures (locks, weirs, etc.) over 386 km of navigable channels. This work will extend the service life of the assets, while also improving safety features for operators and visitors and enhancing water management capabilities.
 - Redevelopment of **Whistler's Campground** will see restoration of Parks Canada's largest campground (781 sites) including complete replacement of the underground infrastructure (water, sewage, electrical) and a majority of the buildings (registration, shower/washrooms) and roadways in an area with a short and unpredictable construction season.



PARKS CANADA NATIONAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

ISSUE

- Parks Canada has received \$4 million from the Government of Canada central advertising fund for an advertising campaign over two fiscal years (\$1 million in 2021-22 and \$3 million in 2022-23).

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada launched a national advertising campaign to promote the conservation of Canada's heritage places and visitation to Parks Canada administered places to support the safe and sustainable recovery of the tourism industry and the Government of Canada's tourism recovery strategy.
- The campaign, which targets Canadian families and young adults (including culturally diverse persons), launched in mid-February 2022 and will continue until late June 2022.
- Leveraging the *450 000 km² of memories* tagline, the campaign invites Canadians to experience some of the best outdoor and cultural experiences that our country has to offer and emphasizes Parks Canada administered places as prime tourism destinations by presenting the beauty and value in visiting these protected places.
- The campaign is intended to be high-profile with sustained media presence on a variety of digital and social media platforms, out-of-home units, television channels and cinemas.
- Parks Canada's advertising activities will also be complemented by unpaid marketing communications efforts and further supported through tourism relations and collaborations with partners, such as Destination Canada.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada has been receiving annual central advertising funding since 2016-17 (with the exception of 2020-21), totaling \$15 million to date (includes 2022-23 funding).
- The 2018 and 2019 centrally-funded campaign was highly successful and reached an estimated 26 million people. It contributed towards strong visitation and record levels of awareness (90%) compared to roughly 83% prior to significant advertising campaigns which began in 2017.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Parks Canada administered places offered Canadians an outlet for health and wellness and places for safe social connection. While visitation to Parks Canada places in 2020-21 was lower than in previous years (32% decrease from 2019-20), more Canadians than ever before visited Parks Canada places with visitation reaching 17 million by March 31, 2021.
- As the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, Parks Canada is working to adapt to evolving behaviours and public expectations, to develop new and exciting ways to engage with Canadians and to bring the stories of heritage places to them.



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- Parks Canada administered places are located adjacent to some 600 communities across Canada. The Agency works closely with hundreds of tourism partners and enterprises to help advance the achievement of its mandate to conserve and share these iconic places with Canadians and visitors from around the world.
- Promoting Parks Canada destinations and programs not only helps to improve Canadians' awareness and support of their nation's greatest treasures; it also helps to strengthen their connection to nature and the importance of conservation to inspire a new generation of stewards for Canada's protected places.



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STRATEGY (YESS) 2022-23

ISSUE

- Parks Canada's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) funded support to national partner organizations such as the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and Project Learning Tree Canada to hire youth concluded in March 2022. Additionally, Parks Canada's direct hiring through YESS will decline from 1,432 youth in 2021-22 to 615 youth in 2022-23.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is a leader in youth employment for the Government of Canada. The Agency directly employs youth in urban, rural and remote locations across Canada. Between 2016 and 2020, Parks Canada employed an average of 2,250 students per year at national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas.
- In 2021-22 the Government of Canada made historic investments in the YESS program in an effort to mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth. Parks Canada was a participant organization, with \$45.4 million of additional funding provided to support youth facing barriers to employment.
- With this additional funding from YESS, the Agency employed an additional 1 400 youth directly, 44% of whom were youth from equity employment groups. An additional 3 000 youth, over 70% of whom are youth facing barriers to employment, were employed through the Agency's partner organizations based on grants and contribution funding. This funding enabled youth employment in the conservation of nature and forests and helped racialized and Indigenous youth develop career paths in conservation.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada directly employs youth in a wide variety of occupations. Over the past six years, funding for youth employment has come from three sources: the Agency's A-Base (approximately 1 100 students); the Young Canada Works Program (approximately 200 students); and the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (Green Jobs – annual average of 800 students between 2016 and 2020).
- The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy is the federal strategy to help youth gain the skills and work experience needed to make a successful labour market transition. Led by Employment and Social Development Canada and delivered with 11 federal partners, including Parks Canada, YESS provides skills development and job opportunities to youth throughout Canada.
- The YESS funding to be received by Parks Canada in 2022-23 through Budget 2021 (\$6.9 million + \$2 million existing A-Base) is significantly less than what was received in 2021-22 (\$45.4 million).



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 funds for new or expanded national historic sites, national parks, national marine conservation areas and other protected areas. Funds are deposited into the New Parks and Historic Sites Account in order to protect the funding required for use at a future date and honor the Agency's commitment for the establishment, enlargement or designation of national historic sites, national parks, 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 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 historic site, national park, 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

- Parks Canada accesses funding for new or expanded sites through the Treasury Board submission process. The funding accounts for costs associated with the site establishment phase (i.e., land purchase, building visitor center and trails) as well as the ongoing operational phase of sites. The funding acquired through the submission process is placed in the Agency's program expenditures vote (vote 1).
- The Agency expends these funds as needed and also transfers, through the Estimates process, funds from vote 1 (program expenditures) to the New Parks and Historic Sites account (vote 5), in order to set aside establishment related funds for future years. Funds placed in this account remain available until such time as needed for the establishment of the site, which can take place over a number of years.

CURRENT STATUS

- As at March 17, 2022, the balance in the Account is estimated at \$130.6 million. This amount may vary since further expenditures are likely expected until year-end. With the 2022-23 Main Estimates transfer, estimated funds available in the Account for 2022-23 total \$151.8 million and are for the following protected areas:
 - Rouge National Urban Park (\$48.4 million)
 - Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (\$15.7 million)
 - Qausuittuq National Park, Ukkusiksalik National Park, Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, Wrecks of HMS Erebus & HMS Terror National Historic Site (\$20 million)
 - Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve, Nahanni National Park Reserve, Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve (\$13.5 million)



- Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site (\$1.3 million)
- Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (\$1.5 million)
- Akami-Uapishk^u-KakKasuak-Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve (\$4.4 million)
- Land acquisitions to expand and complete existing National Parks (\$47 million)



NATIONAL TRAILS TOURISM STRATEGY

ISSUE

- Minister Guilbeault's mandate letter includes a commitment to support the Minister of Tourism in the development of a National Trails Tourism Strategy that also leverages the creation of new urban parks in order to enhance local opportunities for economic development and youth employment.
- Budget 2022 proposes a total of \$57 million over five years, beginning in 2022-23, to grow Canada's trail network.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The COVID-19 pandemic led to significant declines in international and domestic travel causing severe impacts for Canada's tourism industry. National organizations such as the Tourism Industry Association of Canada and Destination Canada anticipate that it will take up to three years for the industry to regain pre-pandemic levels of revenue and economic activity.
- The Government has been committed to helping the tourism sector through the difficulties of the pandemic and is now also investing in recovery. The Canadian Experiences Fund provided \$58.5 million from 2019 to 2021 to support tourism businesses. Budget 2021 announced \$1 billion over three years in support for tourism, hospitality, arts and culture, including \$500 million in support for small tourism businesses.
- Budget 2022 proposes investments of \$57 million over five years beginning 2022-2023 to grow Canada's trail network, including \$55 million to the Parks Canada Agency to support the Trans Canada Trail, and \$2 million over two years beginning 2022-23 to Parks Canada toward building new trails in the vicinity of Rouge National Urban Park that will improve access to trails within the park and promote tourism and recreational activities.
- Outdoor recreation, including in natural and cultural heritage places, has been an essential part of sustaining Canada's tourism industry during the pandemic. Outdoor experiences will also play an important role in tourism recovery and in the sustainability of the sector. This is why the government will be developing a trails tourism strategy to leverage the thousands of trail networks across Canada to support local, regional and national tourism.
- The Government is also advancing the establishment of additional national urban parks. This work is making good progress with six urban centres already advancing their work on the feasibility of new national urban parks. A key attraction in many of these parks will be their trail networks, which help to contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents as well as to local and regional tourism.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The tourism industry in Canada has experienced significant impacts on revenues and employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic and many tourism businesses and their communities have suffered economic hardship.



- As vaccination efforts achieve success and public health restrictions are gradually lifted, Canada's tourism sector is beginning to recover. At this time, Destination Canada and the Tourism Industry Association of Canada anticipate that the industry will regain pre-pandemic levels of revenue and economic activity by 2025.
- During the pandemic, outdoor recreation in natural and cultural heritage places has contributed significantly to supporting struggling tourism enterprises and their communities. It is anticipated that domestic travel and outdoor experiences will lead Canada's tourism recovery. For this reason, the Government is working to develop a national trails tourism strategy which will help support recovery in rural and urban communities and will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the tourism industry in Canada.
- The Government provided specific support to tourism enterprises during the pandemic. The Canadian Experiences Fund provided \$58 million from 2019 to 2021 exclusively targeting tourism enterprises. This is on top of the estimated \$15.4 billion that supported businesses and workers across the tourism, hospitality, arts and cultural sectors through the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, support for rent and mortgages through the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, and Lockdown Support, as well as support for small businesses through the Canada Emergency Business Account.
- The Government is also investing significantly in tourism recovery. Budget 2021 announced \$1 billion in support to tourism, hospitality, arts and culture over three years. This includes funding for events and festivals as well as a dedicated fund of \$500 million for tourism business through the Tourism Relief Fund. Also, Destination Canada has received \$100 million to be used to advance domestic and international tourism in Canada and to support destination development.
- Parks Canada is advancing the establishment of new national urban parks in Halifax, Montreal, Windsor, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, and Victoria (Collwood). These projects were announced in August 2021 and all are advancing through the pre-feasibility and feasibility stages of establishment. Trails activities would form a key part of visitor experiences in these proposed protected places.



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SUPPORT TO THE TRANS CANADA TRAIL

ISSUE

- Minister Guilbeault's mandate letter includes a commitment to continue to build and connect the Trans Canada Trail, create new opportunities to access the Trail, and create jobs.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The Government of Canada has provided financial support to the Trans Canada Trail since the initiative was launched in 1992. To maintain and enhance Canada's trail network, Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$55 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to the Parks Canada Agency for the Trans Canada Trail.
- The Trans Canada Trail is an important asset for access to nature, active transportation and greenhouse gas reduction, and natural solutions for climate change in thousands of rural and urban communities across Canada. It is also an important asset for tourism in a number of regions of the country.
- Parks Canada is the administrator of federal funding to the Trans Canada Trail. The Agency is working closely with the Trans Canada Trail to develop a business case to expand the Trans Canada Trail network, enhance the quality of the Trail, and improve access and accessibility so that more Canadians can use the trail for recreation and transportation.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The Trans Canada Trail began as a legacy project launched during Canada 125 celebrations in 1992. It is a partnership initiative involving over 15,000 organizations. All segments of the Trail were connected in 2017 to celebrate Canada 150 and the Trail now spans every province and territory, across over 27,000 km of varied terrain, and connects 15,000 rural, urban, and Indigenous communities and all of Canada's major cities.
- The Trans Canada Trail is the longest network of recreational trails in the world and supports multiple recreational uses including biking, walking/hiking, horseback riding, paddling, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.
- The Trans Canada Trail is a community-based initiative. Trail sections are owned, operated and maintained by local organizations, municipalities, Indigenous communities, provincial authorities, and national agencies across Canada and supported by the Trans Canada Trail organization as well as provincial and territorial organizations that are responsible for championing the cause of the Trail in their region. The Trans Canada Trail leverages \$3 in financial and in-kind contributions from partners for every \$1 of federal investment for trail development, infrastructure and maintenance.
- Parks Canada administers federal funding to the Trans Canada Trail. Budget 2017 announced \$30 million to enhance and maintain the Trail and support its use. Minister Guilbeault's mandate letter includes a commitment to renew and enhance funding to the Trans Canada Trail, and Budget 2022 proposes to provide \$55 million over five years, starting in 2022-23, to Parks Canada for the Trans Canada Trail.



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- The Trans Canada Trail is used by millions of Canadians across the country for recreation, community activities, and commuting through active transportation. The Trail is also a national, regional, and local tourism asset, attracting visitors from across Canada and around the world. The Trail passes through, or is immediately adjacent to, seven national parks, two national marine conservation areas, and 35 national historic sites administered by Parks Canada.



FEDERAL CONTAMINATED SITES ACTION PLAN PHASE IV FUNDING

ISSUE

- Budget 2019 allocated \$23.16 million to Parks Canada for the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP) Phase IV 2020-25, including program management, assessment and remediation funding.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- In 2022-23, Parks Canada will receive \$5.49 million in FCSAP funding through the Main Estimates for program management and for conducting remediation activities at 28 sites.
 - Planned work includes risk assessment at multiple sites along the Lachine Canal National Historic Site (Quebec) and on-going remediation at the Sault Ste-Marie Canal National Historic Site (Ontario), at the Cascade Landfill site in Banff National Park (Alberta) and at Grice Bay/Mclean's Point in Pacific Rim National Park (BC).
- In subsequent years during FCSAP Phase IV, Parks Canada will receive \$5.44 million (2023-24) and \$3.63 Million (2024-25) through the Main Estimates. Parks Canada has updated its Program of work for the remainder of FCSAP Phase IV (2022-25) that will help reduce risks to human health and the environment at high priority contaminated sites under Agency responsibility and their associated environmental liability.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada received \$8.60 million in the first two years of FCSAP Phase IV (2020-22) which helped to fund program management work, assessment activities at 7 sites and remediation and risk management activities at 42 sites.
- The FCSAP program is a horizontal initiative established in 2005 to reduce risks to human health and the environment and associated environmental liabilities from federal contaminated sites.
- During the first three phases of FCSAP (2005-20), Parks Canada spent a total of \$75.66 million in FCSAP funds and \$7.88 million in its own funds for program management and for sharing costs of assessment/remediation activities.



CHANGES TO PARKS CANADA'S PARLIAMENTARY VOTE STRUCTURE

ISSUE

- Starting in 2022-23, Parks Canada Agency has a separate vote for capital expenditures.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The Agency is a major assets holder, who incurs significant capital expenditures as part of its normal business.
- The change towards a separate vote aligns the Agency's vote structure with other organizations which are also major assets holder with substantial capital expenditures. This change also provides a greater transparency to the public and parliamentarians.
- The 2022-23 Main Estimates for the Capital vote is \$138,130,184.
- Opportunities exist through the Supplementary Estimates to adjust the capital level based on future information.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Historically, Parks Canada has operated under one vote for Operating and Capital which provided significant flexibility in moving funds between the two.
- Starting in 2022-23, Parks Canada will operate under a new structure which is more consistent to the government-wide vote structure :
 - Vote 1 : Operating expenditure, Grants and Contributions;
 - Vote 5 : Capital expenditures (New);
 - Vote 10: Payments the New Parks and Historic Sites Account.
- Appropriate opening reference level was set based on historical capital expenditures and approved future levels at this time.
- The 2022-23 Main Estimates include necessary adjustments as well as the approved funding profiles of various initiatives.