

**Briefing Book**

**Appearance Before the**

**Standing Committee on**

**Environment and Sustainable Development**

**And**

**Senate Committee on Energy the**

**Environment and Natural Resources**

**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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## Progress on Mandate Letter Commitments

Commitment	Progress to date
<b>Climate Change Mitigation</b>	
Support colleagues across government to ensure delivery of all policy and fiscal measures outlined in our Strengthened Climate Plan, <b>implement the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act</b> , and, by the end of March 2022, bring forward an updated Emissions Reduction Plan to achieve a 40 to 45 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 from 2005 levels. This will include continuing to engage with Canadians to better communicate the impact of climate changes.	Will table the 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP)—as required by the new Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act—by the end of March 2022
Work with all Canadians and the Net-Zero Advisory Body to <b>identify ways to further accelerate climate action</b> to achieve net-zero emissions as soon as possible and no later than 2050 and to pursue efforts to limit the increase in average global temperatures to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.	Each ERP will explain how the measures and strategies it contains will contribute to Canada achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.  The Net-Zero Advisory Body's advice will be provided to the Minister in an annual report, which will then be made public
With the support of the Minister of Natural Resources, <b>cap oil and gas sector emissions at current levels</b> and ensure that the sector makes an ambitious and achievable contribution to meeting the country's 2030 climate goals. This effort will take into account the advice of the Net-Zero Advisory Body and others, including provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples, industry and civil society, and require the oil and gas sector to reduce emissions at a pace and on a scale needed to align with the achievement of net-zero emissions by 2050, with five-year targets to stay on track.	In November 2021, at COP26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Trudeau announced Canada's commitment to cap and cut emissions from the oil and gas sector and to achieve net-zero emitting electricity in Canada by 2035.  Preliminary consultations underway on the oil and gas sector cap.
Make <b>progress on methane emission reductions</b> by developing a plan to reduce emissions across the broader Canadian economy consistent with the Global Methane Pledge and require through regulations the reduction of oil and gas methane emissions in Canada by at least 75 per cent below 2012 levels by 2030.	Released a report in December 2021 confirming that Canada is on track to meet the goal of reducing methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40–45 percent by 2025  Consultations on reducing methane emissions from Canada's municipal solid waste landfills were launched on January 28 2022 following the publication of the discussion paper.
In collaboration with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, continue <b>Canadian leadership in international efforts to combat climate change</b> .	Canada worked with key partners and allies in the lead-up to and at COP26 to ensure a successful COP focused on enhancing global ambition. Canada made several key commitments to that end. Canada is planning for COP27 in November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.  Canada is advocating for strong climate language and outcomes in fora such as the G7/G20, as well as through trade agreements and bilateral and regional cooperation. Canada has been co-leading the Ministerial on Climate Action and the Powering Past Coal Alliance since 2017, and was one of few donor countries to double its international climate financing in 2021, to \$5.3 billion over the next five years, to support developing countries.

Commitment	Progress to date
<p>Work with the Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development to continue Canada's leadership on the <b>global effort to phase out coal-powered electricity and the mining of thermal coal and ban thermal coal exports</b> from and through Canada as swiftly as possible, and no later than 2030.</p>	<p>In 2018, the Government published regulations requiring the phase-out of conventional coal-fired electricity generation in Canada by 2030.</p> <p>Canada has taken a strong international position opposing international public/private finance for coal power, including through its leadership of the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA).</p> <p>In June 2021, Canada released a policy statement indicating that new thermal coal mining or expansion projects are likely to cause unacceptable environmental effects which will inform federal decision making on thermal coal mining projects</p>
<p>Work with the Minister of International Development to mobilize and provide <b>climate finance</b> in order to support developing country adaptation, mitigation and resilience, including support for small island states at particular risk of climate-related emergencies.</p>	<p>At the 2021 G7 Leaders' Summit, Canada announced a doubling of its international climate finance commitment, to \$5.3 billion over the next five years.</p> <p>At COP26 Canada provided further details on how its \$5.3 billion climate finance commitment will support developing countries as they adapt to climate change and transition to a cleaner economy.</p>
<p>Support the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry in the implementation of the <b>Net Zero Accelerator</b> initiative, with an emphasis on ensuring that investments drive industrial transition and significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on a scale consistent with achieving Canada's climate goals and meaningfully transform Canadian industry to lead and compete in a net-zero emissions future.</p>	<p>The Net Zero Accelerator (NZA) will provide up to \$8 billion in support of projects that will enable Canada to reduce its domestic greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The initiative will support projects that promote the decarbonisation of large emitters, clean technology and industrial transformation, and the development of a Canadian batteries ecosystem</p>
<p>Work with the President of the Treasury Board on the application of a <b>climate lens</b> to ensure climate adaptation and mitigation considerations are integrated throughout federal government decision-making.</p>	<p>The Government is piloting the use of an Integrated Climate Lens (ICL) across six federal departments. An ICL Centre of Expertise at ECCC has been set up to support eventual roll out of this framework across government departments.</p>
<p>Work with industry, labour and other stakeholders to develop a regulated sales mandate that at least <b>50 per cent of all new light duty vehicle sales be zero emissions vehicles in 2030</b> as an interim step toward achieving Canada's mandatory target of <b>100 per cent by 2035</b>, and a regulated sales requirement that 100 per cent of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles sales be zero emission by 2040, where feasible.</p>	<p>In December 2021, the Government launched consultations on commitment to require all new cars sold in Canada be zero emission by 2035.</p> <hr/> <p>In addition, significant measures have been put in place to support increased zero-emission vehicle adoption, including purchase incentives, investments in charging infrastructure, as well as partnerships with auto manufacturers to help re-tool and produce zero-emission vehicles right here in Canada</p>
<p>With the support of the Minister of Natural Resources, introduce a <b>Clean Electricity Standard</b> to achieve a net-zero clean electricity grid by 2035 and achieve a 100 per cent net-zero emitting electricity future.</p>	<p>A Clean Electricity Standard is being developed to achieve a net-zero clean electricity grid by 2035.</p> <p>Canada's strengthened climate plan already includes a number of measures to reduce emissions from the electricity sector.</p>

Commitment	Progress to date
Support efforts to advance the <b>Atlantic Loop</b> initiative to connect surplus clean power to regions transitioning away from coal and to help transform how we power our economy and communities.	Canada's Strengthened Climate Plan announced the Government's objective of working with provinces and territories to help build key intertie projects with support from the Canada Infrastructure Bank, including the "Atlantic Loop".  PCO-led negotiations underway.
Continue to put a rising price on pollution and protect Canadian jobs and competitiveness through smart <b>carbon pricing</b> design.	Since 2019, every jurisdiction in Canada has had a price on carbon pollution.  In 2021, announced that the carbon price will increase annually at a rate of \$15 per tonne from 2023-2030. The Government has also updated the minimum national standards for the 2023-2030 period to make sure they are fair, consistent and effective.
Work with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and with the support of the Minister of Natural Resources, to accelerate our G20 commitment to <b>eliminate fossil fuel subsidies</b> from 2025 to 2023, and develop a plan to phase out public financing of the fossil fuel sector, including by federal Crown corporations.	Along with G20 partners, Canada committed to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.  The government has already phased out or rationalized eight tax preferences. Work is continuing on reviewing additional tax and non-tax measures.  At COP26, Canada announced its commitment to end new direct public support for the international unabated fossil fuel sector by the end of 2022
(ECCC) Support the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in working with provinces and territories to move toward <b>mandatory climate-related financial disclosures</b> based on the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures framework, and in requiring federally regulated institutions, including financial institutions, pension funds and government agencies, to issue climate-related financial disclosures and net-zero plans.	Sustainable Finance Action Council launched in May 2021. The council's early emphasis will be on enhancing climate-related financial disclosures in Canada's private and public sector, aligned with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.  The <i>Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act</i> also requires the publication of an annual report on action the federal government has taken to manage the financial risks and opportunities related to climate change.
Climate Change Adaptation	
(ECCC) Finalize Canada's first <b>National Adaptation Strategy</b> in 2022, setting clear goals and indicators to measure progress and strengthen the business case for adaptation.	Canada released an update on progress towards the release of Canada's National Adaptation Strategy, including engagement with stakeholders and partners that began in early 2021.  The Government of Canada will continue to engage with stakeholders and partners, as well as the broader public, with a view to releasing the finalized National Adaptation Strategy in fall 2022.

Commitment	Progress to date
(ECCC) Work with the Minister of Public Safety and the President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Emergency Preparedness, with support of the Minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry and the Sustainable Finance Action Council, to develop a <b>climate data strategy</b> to ensure that the private sector and communities have access to data to inform planning and infrastructure investments.	The Sustainable Finance Action Council, launched in May 2021, will provide input on the development of foundational market infrastructure including climate data and analytics.
(ECCC) In collaboration with the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and the Minister of Indigenous Services, continue to <b>work in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and the Métis Nation to address climate change and its impacts</b> , and chart collaborative strategies.	<p>The Government of Canada already announced more than \$1.3 billion in climate action funding targeted to Indigenous peoples through Canada's strengthened climate plan, and additional investments through Budget 2021.</p> <p>Three distinctions-based senior bilateral tables foster a collaborative approach and support Indigenous climate leadership.</p>
(ECCC) Invest in the <b>Meteorological Service of Canada</b> to upgrade infrastructure, including information technology, to ensure it continues to effectively perform its vital functions of monitoring changes in the weather, climate, water, ice and air quality, and predicting weather and environmental conditions.	Preparation of materials for government consideration underway
Environmental Protection	
(ECCC) With the support of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, establish a <b>Canada Water Agency</b> and implement a strengthened <b>Freshwater Action Plan</b> , including a historic investment to provide funding to protect and restore large lakes and river systems, starting with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System, Lake Simcoe, the Lake Winnipeg Basin, the Fraser River Basin and the Mackenzie River Basin. Invest in the <b>Experimental Lakes Area</b> in northern Ontario to support international freshwater science and research.	<p>Consultations with PTs, ENGOs, the public, and other stakeholders were completed in spring 2021. The report "Toward the Creation of a Canada Water Agency: Stakeholder and Public Engagement – What We Heard" synthesized the input received.</p> <p>Budget 2021 committed \$17.4M over 2 years, starting in 2021-22, to ECCC to support its work on launching a new Canada Water Agency.</p>
(ECCC) Following the establishment of a Canada Water Agency, advance the <b>modernization of the Canada Water Act</b> to reflect Canada's freshwater reality, including climate change and Indigenous rights.	Work underway to plan for modernization of Canada Water Act following establishment of the Canada Water Agency.
(ECCC) Enact a <b>strengthened Canadian Environmental Protection Act</b> to protect everyone, including people most vulnerable to harm from toxic substances and those living in communities where exposure is high.	<p>Bill to strengthen CEPA introduced in the Senate in February 2022.</p> <p>The bill introduces a right to a healthy environment for the first time in a federal statute in Canada, and includes enhanced requirements to consider vulnerable populations in decision making under the Act.</p>
(ECCC) Identify, and prioritize the <b>clean-up of contaminated sites in areas where Indigenous Peoples, racialized and low-income Canadians live</b> .	The existing Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP), a long-standing horizontal initiative, is used to clean up contaminated sites Reserve Lands and in the North.
(ECCC) Recognize the <b>"right to a healthy environment"</b> in federal law and introduce legislation to require the development of an environmental justice strategy and the examination of the link between race, socio-economic status and exposure to environmental risk.	Bill to strengthen CEPA introduced in the Senate in February 2022. The bill introduces a right to a healthy environment for the first time in a federal statute in Canada.

Commitment	Progress to date
(ECCC) Work with the Minister of Health to implement a comprehensive action plan to <b>protect Canadians, including firefighters, from exposure to toxic flame retardants</b> found in household products.	<p>Plan to protect firefighters from harmful chemicals released during household fires released in august 2021.</p> <p>The Government has already assessed more than 150 flame retardants, taken action to restrict or phase out twelve harmful flame-retardant substances, and proposed to take action on an additional six flame retardants.</p>
<b>Plastics and Circular Economy</b>	
(ECCC) Continue to implement the national <b>ban on harmful single-use plastics</b> .	<p>December 2021 - Publication of proposed <i>Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations</i> in <i>Canada Gazette</i>, Part I – public consultation ended on March 5 2022.</p> <p>Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution published in October 2020, and order to add "plastic manufactured items" to Schedule 1 of CEPA in spring 2021, giving Government the ability to regulate plastics.</p>
(ECCC) Require that all <b>plastic packaging in Canada contain at least 50 per cent recycled content by 2030</b> .	<p>Consultation on the development of new regulations that will set minimum percentage recycled content requirements for certain items made of plastic started in February 2022 and will close March 14, 2022..</p> <p>Publication of proposed regulations as early as the end of 2022</p>
(ECCC) Accelerate the implementation of the <b>zero plastic waste action plan</b> , in partnership with provinces and territories.	Canada has provided considerable leadership on the delivery of the items on the Phase 1 & 2 Action plans. A number of action plan deliverables have been completed and several are nearing completion. These forthcoming deliverables cover a range of topics including extended producer responsibility as well as single use and disposable plastics).
(ECCC) Continue to work with provinces and territories to ensure that <b>producers, not taxpayers, are responsible for the cost of managing their plastic waste</b> .	Publication of final CCME approved Guidance for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is expected to be completed before the end of the month (March 2022).
(ECCC) Work with provinces and territories to implement and enforce an ambitious <b>recycling target of 90 per cent</b> – aligned with Quebec and the European Union – <b>for plastic beverage containers</b> .	Policy development is underway. Meetings have been held with key stakeholders and provinces. Initial discussions have focused on data, terminology and potential options for increasing the collection and recycling of plastic beverage containers.
(ECCC) Introduce labelling rules that <b>prohibit the use of the chasing-arrows symbol unless 80 per cent of Canada's recycling facilities accept, and have reliable end markets for, these products</b> .	Policy development underway
(ECCC) Support provincial and territorial producer responsibility efforts by establishing a federal public registry and <b>requiring producers to report annually on plastics</b> in the Canadian economy.	Policy development underway
(ECCC) Work with the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry on the creation of a new <b>infrastructure and innovation fund</b> that will scale-up and commercialize made-in-Canada technologies and solutions for the reuse and recycling of plastics.	ECCC and ISIED exploring key design elements of the proposed fund. Full implementation details are still to be determined.

Commitment	Progress to date
(ECCC) Build on the Ocean Plastics Charter by working with leading countries on the <b>development of a new global agreement on plastics</b> .	<p>On March 2, 2022, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) agreed to a mandate aimed at ending plastic pollution globally by launching an ambitious process to develop an international legally binding agreement based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics, by 2024.</p> <p>Canada played a key role in delivering this outcome, both as one of the co-facilitators guiding the UNEA negotiations, and in our national capacity.</p>
(ECCC) Work with the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry to implement a “ <b>right to repair</b> ” to extend the life of home appliances, particularly electronics, and require businesses to <b>inform Canadians of the environmental impacts of consumer products</b> .	ECCC and Health Canada have launched national consultations on improved and mandatory labelling for certain consumer products, including cosmetics, cleaning products, and flame retardants in upholstered furniture. The consultations will also seek views on how the Government can take action to improve information about chemicals in product supply chains. The consultations will take place through a series of workshops and interactive events until summer 2022.
Nature	
(ECCC and PCA) Continue to work with the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and partners to ensure Canada meets its goals to <b>conserve 25 per cent of our lands and waters by 2025 and 30 per cent of each by 2030</b> , working to <b>halt and reverse nature loss by 2030</b> in Canada, achieve a <b>full recovery for nature by 2050</b> and champion this goal internationally. You will ensure that this work remains grounded in science, Indigenous knowledge and local perspectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conserving 30% by 2030 is an ambitious goal—as of December 2021, approximately 13.5% of terrestrial and almost 14% of ocean areas have been conserved or protected in Canada. Budget 2021 investments set the stage to meet the 25% by 2025 domestic target and support efforts to achieve 30% protection by 2030. This work has already begun.</li> </ul> <p>Parks Canada’s 47 national parks, one national urban park and two freshwater national marine conservation areas (NMCAs) contribute 3.53% of the total of 12.5% protected lands and freshwater areas.</p>

Commitment	Progress to date
<p>(ECCC and PCA) Work with First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners to support new <b>Indigenous Guardians programs</b> and establish new Indigenous Guardians Networks, and support Indigenous communities to build capacity to establish more <b>Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas</b>.</p>	<p>As part of the Enhanced Nature Legacy, the Government of Canada announced \$340 million to support Indigenous-led conservation. This includes up to \$173 million over five years to support new and existing Indigenous Guardians initiatives and the development of Indigenous Guardians Networks for First Nations, Inuit and Métis through existing distinctions-based governance structures.</p> <p>The Government of Canada will also work with Indigenous partners at Parks Canada-administered places to enhance current Guardian initiatives and co-create new ones. Additionally, the Government of Canada will invest \$166 million to support Indigenous-led area based conservation.</p> <p>A First Nations call for proposals for funding closed at the end of January, and Inuit and Metis directed calls for proposals closed at the end of February.</p> <p>A first round of Indigenous-led area based conservation funding for 2022-23 is being directed to Indigenous groups who had originally submitted requests for funding under the Nature Legacy's Target 1 Challenge fund in 2019.</p> <p>Parks Canada received \$61.7M in Budget 2021 to advance Indigenous Guardians Programs at Parks Canada-administered places.</p>
<p>(PCA) Establish <b>10 new national parks and 10 new national marine conservation areas (NMCAs) in the next five years</b>, working with Indigenous communities on co-management agreements for these national parks and NMCAs.</p>	<p>Currently, Parks Canada has two active national park and seven active NMCA establishment projects. Recent achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- signing a memorandum of understanding with the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils to establish a new national park reserve in Pitumkek/Hog-Island Sandhills (January 2022).</li> <li>- Signing a memorandum of understanding with the Nunatsiavut Government to launch feasibility assessment for a proposed NMCA and Indigenous Protected Area in Northern Labrador (February 2022).</li> </ul> <p>In 2021, Parks Canada, First Nations and the Province of British Columbia announced the launch of a feasibility assessment for a new NMCA reserve for the Central Coast; a second feasibility study was launched with Indigenous communities for an NMCA in Western James Bay and Southwestern Hudson Bay.</p>

Commitment	Progress to date
<p>(PCA) To ensure all Canadians have access to green space, <b>establish at least one new national urban park in every province and territory, with a target of 15 new urban parks by 2030</b>. You will also invest in existing national parks, with more Canadians than ever before visiting these sites.</p>	<p>On August 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Government of Canada launched the new program to support the creation of a network of national urban parks.</p> <p>Statements of collaboration to explore the potential for national urban park sites have been signed with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- City of Colwood, British Columbia</li> <li>- Meewasin Valley Authority in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan</li> <li>- City of Winnipeg, Manitoba</li> <li>- City of Windsor, Ontario</li> <li>- Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia</li> <li>- City of Edmonton, Alberta</li> </ul> <p>Parks Canada has also begun exploratory discussions with Montreal.</p>
<p>(PCA) Support the Minister of Tourism and Associate Minister of Finance in developing a <b>national trails tourism strategy</b>.</p>	<p>Parks Canada is working in collaboration with Innovation and Science and Economic Development Canada to provide support and also to facilitate connections to trails organizations and destination marketing partners across Canada to help advance Trails Tourism.</p>
<p>(ECCC) Work with the Minister of Natural Resources to help protect <b>old growth forests</b>, notably in British Columbia, by reaching a nature agreement with B.C., establishing a \$50 million <b>B.C. Old Growth Nature Fund</b>, and ensuring First Nations, local communities and workers are partners in shaping the path forward for nature protection.</p>	<p>The Department has begun preliminary discussions with the Province of British Columbia with the intent to move the initiative forward quickly</p> <p>Canada and BC launch nature agreement in Feb 2021.</p>
<p>(PCA) Continue to build and connect the <b>Trans Canada Trail</b> and create new opportunities for Canadians to access it, by increasing annual funding and growing the trail network to help create 10,000 jobs over the next five years.</p>	<p>The Government of Canada has provided financial support to the Trans Canada Trail since the initiative was launched in 1992. Current funding to the Trail concludes this fiscal year. Parks Canada has been working closely with officials of the Trans Canada Trail to develop a business case for the Trail's ongoing development and for increasing access to the Trail so that it can be used and enjoyed by even more Canadians.</p>
<p>(ECCC) Work with partners to <b>curb illegal wildlife trade and end elephant and rhinoceros tusk trade</b> in Canada.</p>	<p>Threat risk assessment on international illegal wildlife trade that will shape the analysis on proposed strategy and engagement of key partners and stakeholders.</p> <p>Public consultation on potential trade controls on elephant ivory held from July 24 to September 22, 2021.</p>
<p>(ECCC) Introduce <b>legislation to protect animals in captivity</b>.</p>	<p>Policy development underway</p>
<p>(PCA) Introduce comprehensive <b>legislation to protect federally-owned historic places</b>.</p>	<p>Parks Canada advances work required to introduce legislation for the transparent designation and sustainable protection of over 300 federally-owned historic places.</p> <p>Budget 2021 pages 205-206; 221; 376; 539</p>

## Progrès sur les engagements de la lettre de mandat

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
<b>Atténuation du changement climatique</b>	
Aider vos collègues de l'ensemble du gouvernement à concrétiser toutes les mesures stratégiques et financières décrites dans notre plan climatique renforcé et <b>mettre en œuvre la Loi canadienne sur la responsabilité en matière de carboneutralité</b> . Et d'ici la fin mars 2022, présenter un Plan de réduction des émissions actualisé, visant la réduction des émissions de 40 à 45 % d'ici 2030 par rapport au niveau de 2005. Pour cela, il faudra continuer de discuter avec les Canadiens et expliquer plus efficacement les effets des changements climatiques.	Déposera le Plan de réduction des émissions (PRE) 2030 - comme l'exige la nouvelle Loi canadienne sur la responsabilité en matière de carboneutralité - avant la fin du mois de mars 2022.
Travailler avec tous les Canadiens et le Groupe consultatif pour la carboneutralité afin de <b>trouver des moyens d'accélérer nettement l'action climatique</b> qui nous permettra d'atteindre l'objectif de la carboneutralité dès que possible, mais au plus tard en 2050, et de limiter l'augmentation des températures moyennes du globe à 1,5°C par rapport aux températures de l'ère préindustrielle.	Chaque Plan de réduction des émissions expliquera comment les mesures et les stratégies qu'il contient contribueront à ce que le Canada atteigne des émissions nettes zéro d'ici 2050.  Les recommandations du Conseil consultatif pour la carboneutralité seront présentées au ministre dans un rapport annuel, qui sera ensuite rendu public.
Avec l'aide du ministre des Ressources naturelles, <b>plafonner les émissions dans le secteur du pétrole et du gaz aux niveaux actuels</b> et veiller à ce que le secteur apporte une contribution ambitieuse et réalisable à l'atteinte des objectifs climatiques du pays pour 2030. Cet effort tiendra compte des conseils du Groupe consultatif pour la carboneutralité et d'autres intervenants, y compris les provinces et les territoires, les peuples autochtones, l'industrie et la société civile, et exigera que le secteur pétrolier et gazier réduise ses émissions au rythme et à l'échelle nécessaires pour atteindre la carboneutralité d'ici 2050, avec des objectifs quinquennaux pour rester sur la bonne voie.	En novembre 2021, lors de la COP26 à Glasgow, le Premier ministre Trudeau a annoncé l'engagement du Canada à plafonner et à réduire les émissions du secteur pétrolier et gazier et à atteindre une électricité à émission nette zéro au Canada d'ici 2035.  Les consultations préliminaires sur le plafonnement du secteur pétrolier et gazier sont en cours.
Réaliser <b>des progrès en ce qui a trait à la réduction des émissions de méthane</b> en élaborant, à l'intention de l'ensemble de l'économie canadienne, un plan de réduction des émissions cadrant avec l'Engagement mondial sur le méthane, et exiger, au moyen de dispositions réglementaires, la réduction des émissions de méthane provenant du secteur pétrolier et gazier au Canada d'au moins 75 % en deçà des niveaux de 2012 d'ici 2030.	Publication d'un rapport en décembre 2021 confirmant que le Canada est sur la bonne voie pour atteindre l'objectif de réduire les émissions de méthane du secteur pétrolier et gazier de 40 à 45 % d'ici 2025.  Des consultations sur la réduction des émissions de méthane provenant des décharges de déchets solides municipaux du Canada ont été lancées le 28 janvier 2022 à la suite de la publication du document de travail.

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
<p>En collaboration avec la ministre des Affaires étrangères, maintenir <b>le leadership du Canada dans les efforts internationaux de lutte contre les changements climatiques.</b></p>	<p>Le Canada a travaillé avec des partenaires et des alliés clés avant et pendant la CdP26 afin d'assurer le succès de la CdP axée sur le renforcement des ambitions mondiales. Le Canada a pris plusieurs engagements clés à cette fin. Le Canada se prépare pour la COP27 qui aura lieu en novembre 2022 à Sharm el-Sheikh, en Égypte.</p> <p>Le Canada prône un langage et des résultats forts en matière de climat dans des forums tels que le G7/G20, ainsi que dans le cadre d'accords commerciaux et de coopération bilatérale et régionale. Le Canada codirige depuis 2017 la Ministérielle sur l'action climatique et l'Alliance Énergiser au-delà du charbon, et a été l'un des rares pays donateurs à doubler son financement international pour le climat en 2021, pour le porter à 5,3 milliards de dollars sur les cinq prochaines années, afin de soutenir les pays en développement.</p>
<p>Travailler avec la ministre du Commerce international, de la Promotion des exportations, de la Petite entreprise et du Développement économique pour maintenir le rôle de chef de file du Canada dans <b>les efforts internationaux visant à éliminer graduellement la production d'électricité au charbon et l'extraction de charbon thermique, et interdire les exportations de charbon thermique</b> du Canada et par l'intermédiaire du Canada dès que possible, et au plus tard en 2030.</p>	<p>En 2018, le gouvernement a publié des règlements exigeant l'élimination progressive de la production d'électricité conventionnelle au charbon au Canada d'ici 2030.</p> <p>Le Canada a adopté une position internationale ferme s'opposant au financement public/privé international de l'énergie produite à partir du charbon, notamment par son leadership au sein de l'Alliance Énergiser au-delà du charbon.</p> <p>En juin 2021, le Canada a publié un énoncé de politique indiquant que les nouveaux projets d'exploitation ou d'expansion du charbon thermique sont susceptibles d'avoir des effets inacceptables sur l'environnement, ce qui guidera la prise de décision fédérale sur les projets d'exploitation du charbon thermique.</p>
<p>Travailler avec le ministre du Développement international pour mobiliser et fournir un <b>financement climatique</b> afin de soutenir l'adaptation, l'atténuation et la résilience dans les pays en développement, notamment en soutenant les petits États insulaires particulièrement exposés aux urgences climatiques.</p>	<p>Lors du Sommet des dirigeants du G7 de 2021, le Canada a annoncé qu'il doublait son engagement international en matière de financement climatique, le portant à 5,3 milliards de dollars au cours des cinq prochaines années.</p> <p>Lors de la CdP26, le Canada a fourni de plus amples détails sur la manière dont son engagement de 5,3 milliards de dollars en matière de financement climatique soutiendra les pays en développement dans leur adaptation au changement climatique et leur transition vers une économie plus propre.</p>
<p>Soutenir le ministre de l'Innovation, des Sciences et de l'Industrie dans la mise en œuvre de l'initiative <b>Accélérateur net zéro</b>, en veillant à ce que les investissements se traduisent par une transition industrielle et des réductions importantes des émissions de gaz à effet de serre à une échelle compatible avec l'atteinte des objectifs climatiques du Canada et transforment de manière significative l'industrie canadienne pour qu'elle agisse comme chef de file et soit compétitive dans un avenir carboneutre.</p>	<p>L'accélérateur Net Zero (NZA) fournira jusqu'à 8 milliards de dollars pour soutenir des projets qui permettront au Canada de réduire ses émissions nationales de gaz à effet de serre.</p> <p>L'initiative soutiendra des projets qui favorisent la décarbonisation des grands émetteurs, les technologies propres et la transformation industrielle, ainsi que le développement d'un écosystème canadien en matière de production de batteries.</p>

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
Collaborer avec la présidente du Conseil du Trésor en vue d'appliquer une <b>optique climatique</b> pour que les questions relatives à l'adaptation et à l'atténuation soient prises en compte dans le processus décisionnel du gouvernement fédéral.	Le gouvernement pilote l'utilisation d'une optique climatique intégrée dans six ministères fédéraux. Un centre d'expertise pour l'optique climatique a été créé à ECCC pour soutenir le déploiement éventuel de ce processus dans tous les ministères.
Travailler avec l'industrie, la main-d'œuvre et d'autres intervenants pour élaborer une exigence de vente réglementée au titre de laquelle au moins <b>50 % de toutes les nouvelles ventes de véhicules légers seront des véhicules à zéro émission en 2030</b> , comme étape provisoire vers l'atteinte de l'objectif obligatoire du Canada de <b>100 % d'ici 2035</b> . Et exiger, dans la mesure du possible, que 100 % des ventes de véhicules de poids moyen et lourd soient des véhicules à zéro émission d'ici 2040.	En décembre 2021, le gouvernement a lancé des consultations sur l'engagement à exiger que toutes les nouvelles voitures vendues au Canada soient à émission zéro d'ici 2035.  En outre, d'importantes mesures ont été mises en place pour favoriser l'adoption de véhicules à émission zéro, notamment des incitatifs à l'achat, des investissements dans l'infrastructure de recharge, ainsi que des partenariats avec les constructeurs automobiles pour aider à réoutiller et à produire des véhicules à émission zéro ici même au Canada.
Avec l'appui du ministre des Ressources naturelles, instaurer une <b>norme d'électricité propre</b> qui permettra la mise en place, d'ici 2035, d'un réseau d'électricité propre, à 100 % carboneutre.	Une norme sur l'électricité propre est en cours d'élaboration afin de permettre la mise en place d'un réseau électrique net zéro d'ici 2035.  Le plan climatique renforcé du Canada comprend déjà un certain nombre de mesures visant à réduire les émissions du secteur de l'électricité.
Appuyer les efforts visant à faire progresser l'initiative de la <b>Boucle de l'Atlantique</b> pour relier les surplus d'énergie propre aux régions qui délaissent le charbon et pour aider à transformer la façon dont nous alimentons notre économie et nos collectivités.	Le Plan climatique renforcé du Canada a annoncé l'objectif du gouvernement de travailler avec les provinces et les territoires pour aider à construire des projets d'interconnexion clés avec le soutien de la Banque canadienne d'infrastructure, y compris la "boucle de l'Atlantique".  Des négociations dirigées par le BCP sont en cours.
Continuer d'augmenter le prix sur la pollution et de protéger les emplois canadiens et la compétitivité du Canada en établissant une <b>tarification intelligente du carbone</b> .	Depuis 2019, chaque juridiction au Canada dispose d'un prix sur la pollution par le carbone.  En 2021, il a été annoncé que le prix du carbone augmenterait chaque année au rythme de 15 dollars par tonne de 2023 à 2030. Le gouvernement a également mis à jour les normes nationales minimales pour la période 2023-2030 afin de s'assurer qu'elles soient équitables, cohérentes et efficaces.
Travailler avec la vice-première ministre et ministre des Finances et avec l'appui du ministre des Ressources naturelles, pour accélérer notre engagement dans le cadre du G20 d' <b>éliminer les subventions aux combustibles fossiles</b> de 2025 à 2023, et élaborer un plan pour éliminer progressivement le financement public du secteur des combustibles fossiles, y compris par les sociétés d'État fédérales.	Avec ses partenaires du G20, le Canada s'est engagé à éliminer progressivement les subventions inefficaces aux combustibles fossiles.  Le gouvernement a déjà éliminé progressivement ou rationalisé huit avantages fiscaux. Les travaux se poursuivent pour examiner d'autres mesures fiscales et non fiscales.  Lors de la CdP26, le Canada a annoncé son engagement à mettre fin à tout nouveau soutien public direct au secteur international des combustibles fossiles d'ici la fin de 2022.

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
<p>(ECCC) Aider la vice-première ministre et ministre des Finances, en travaillant avec les provinces et territoires, à rendre <b>obligatoire la divulgation de renseignements financiers liés au climat</b>, en se fondant sur le cadre établi par le Groupe de travail sur les divulgations financières liées au climat, exiger des établissements sous réglementation fédérale, y compris les institutions financières, les fonds de pension et les organismes gouvernementaux, qu'ils publient les renseignements financiers liés au climat et aux plans de carboneutralité.</p>	<p>Le Conseil d'action en matière de finance durable a été lancé en mai 2021. Le conseil mettra d'abord l'accent sur l'amélioration des divulgations financières liées au climat dans les secteurs privé et public du Canada, conformément aux recommandations du Groupe de travail sur les divulgations financières liées au climat.</p> <p><i>La Loi canadienne sur la responsabilité en matière de carboneutralité exige également la publication d'un rapport annuel sur les mesures prises par le gouvernement fédéral pour gérer les risques et les opportunités financières liés au changement climatique.</i></p>
Adaptation aux changements climatiques	
<p>(ECCC) Achever la toute première <b>stratégie nationale d'adaptation</b> du Canada d'ici la fin de 2022, qui permettra d'établir des objectifs et des indicateurs clairs de mesure des progrès en matière d'adaptation, et d'en renforcer l'analyse de rentabilité.</p>	<p>Le Canada a publié une mise à jour sur les progrès réalisés en vue de la divulgation de la Stratégie nationale d'adaptation du Canada, y compris l'engagement avec les parties prenantes et partenaires qui a débuté au début de 2021.</p> <p>Le gouvernement du Canada poursuivra sa collaboration avec les parties prenantes et les partenaires, ainsi qu'avec le grand public, en vue de publier la version finale de la Stratégie nationale d'adaptation à l'automne 2022.</p>
<p>(ECCC) Travailler avec le ministre de la Sécurité publique et le président du Conseil privé de la Reine pour le Canada et ministre de la Protection civile, et avec le soutien du ministre des Ressources naturelles, du ministre de l'Innovation, des Sciences et de l'Industrie ainsi que le Conseil d'action en matière de finance durable, à l'élaboration <b>d'une stratégie relative aux données climatiques</b> pour s'assurer que le secteur privé et les communautés ont accès à des informations utiles sur le climat et pour orienter la planification et les investissements en infrastructure.</p>	<p>Le Conseil d'action pour la finance durable, lancé en mai 2021, apportera sa contribution au développement de l'infrastructure de marché fondamentale, y compris les données et les analyses climatiques.</p>
<p>(ECCC) En collaboration avec le ministre des Relations Couronne-Autochtones et la ministre des Services aux Autochtones, continuer de <b>travailler en partenariat avec les Premières Nations, les Inuits et la Nation métisse afin de lutter contre les changements climatiques et leurs répercussions</b>, et d'élaborer des stratégies collaboratives.</p>	<p>Le gouvernement du Canada a déjà annoncé plus de 1,3 milliard de dollars de financement d'actions climatiques destinées aux peuples autochtones dans le cadre du plan climatique renforcé du Canada, ainsi que des investissements supplémentaires dans le cadre du budget 2021.</p> <p>Trois tables bilatérales distinctes de hauts responsables favorisent une approche collaborative et soutiennent le leadership autochtone en matière de climat.</p>
<p>(ECCC) Investir dans le <b>Service météorologique du Canada</b> pour moderniser l'infrastructure, y compris la technologie de l'information, afin qu'il puisse continuer à remplir efficacement ses fonctions vitales de surveillance des changements météorologiques, du climat, de la qualité de l'eau, de la glace et de l'air et de prévision des conditions météorologiques et environnementales.</p>	<p>Préparation de documents pour examen par le gouvernement en cours</p>

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
<b>Protection Environnementale</b>	
(ECCC) Avec l'appui de la ministre de l'Agriculture et de l'Agroalimentaire, établir <b>une agence canadienne de l'eau</b> et mettre en œuvre <b>un Plan d'action sur l'eau renforcé</b> , notamment un investissement historique visant à fournir des fonds pour protéger et restaurer les grands lacs et les réseaux fluviaux à commencer par l'écosystème des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent, le lac Simcoe, le bassin du Lac Winnipeg, le bassin du Fraser et le bassin du Mackenzie. Investir dans la <b>Région des lacs expérimentaux</b> du nord de l'Ontario pour soutenir la science et la recherche internationales sur l'eau douce.	<p>Les consultations avec les PT, les ONGE, le public et d'autres intervenants ont été achevées au printemps 2021. Le rapport " Vers la création d'une Agence canadienne de l'eau : mobilisation des intervenants et du public – ce que nous avons entendu" synthétise les commentaires reçus.</p> <p>Le budget 2021 a engagé 17,4 millions de dollars sur deux ans, à partir de 2021-22, pour ECCC afin de soutenir son travail de lancement d'une nouvelle Agence de l'eau du Canada.</p>
(ECCC) Suivant la création d'une agence canadienne de l'eau, promouvoir <b>la modernisation de la Loi sur les ressources en eau du Canada</b> pour qu'elle reflète la nouvelle réalité en matière d'eau douce au pays, y compris les changements climatiques et les droits des Autochtones.	Travail de planification en cours pour la modernisation de Loi sur les ressources en eau du Canada suite à la création de l'Agence canadienne de l'eau.
(ECCC) Adopter une <b>Loi canadienne sur la protection de l'environnement</b> renforcée afin de protéger tout le monde, y compris les personnes les plus vulnérables aux substances toxiques et les personnes vivant dans les communautés où l'exposition est élevée.	<p>Projet de loi visant à renforcer la LCPE présenté au Sénat en février 2022.</p> <p>Le projet de loi introduit un droit à un environnement sain pour la première fois dans une loi fédérale au Canada, et comprend des exigences renforcées pour prendre en compte les populations vulnérables dans la prise de décision en vertu de la Loi.</p>
(ECCC) Définir et prioriser <b>les sites contaminés devant être nettoyés dans les régions où vivent des Peuples autochtones, des canadiens racisés et à faible revenu</b> .	L'actuel Plan d'action pour les sites contaminés fédéraux (PASCf), une initiative horizontale de longue date, est utilisé pour nettoyer les sites contaminés sur les Terres des réserves et dans le Nord.
(ECCC) Reconnaître le « <b>droit à un environnement sain</b> » dans la loi fédérale. Présenter des mesures législatives en vue d'exiger l'élaboration d'une stratégie de justice environnementale et l'examen des liens entre l'origine ethnique, la situation socioéconomique et l'exposition aux risques environnementaux.	Projet de loi visant à renforcer la LCPE présenté au Sénat en février 2022. Le projet de loi introduit un droit à un environnement sain pour la première fois dans une loi fédérale au Canada.
(ECCC) Travailler avec le ministre de la Santé pour mettre en place un plan d'action visant à <b>protéger les Canadiens, y compris les pompiers, contre l'exposition à des produits ignifuges toxiques</b> que l'on retrouve dans les produits ménagers.	<p>Plan de protection des pompiers contre les substances chimiques nocives libérées lors d'incendies domestiques publié en août 2021.</p> <p>Le gouvernement a déjà évalué plus de 150 substances ignifuges, pris des mesures pour restreindre ou éliminer progressivement douze substances ignifuges nocives, et proposé de prendre des mesures pour six autres substances ignifuges.</p>
<b>Plastiques et Économie Circulaire</b>	
(ECCC) Continuer à mettre en œuvre <b>l'interdiction nationale d'articles en plastique à usage unique</b> .	<p>Décembre 2021 - Publication du projet de Règlement sur l'interdiction des plastiques à usage unique dans la Gazette du Canada, Partie I - la consultation publique s'est terminée le 5 mars 2022.</p> <p>Publication de l'évaluation scientifique de la pollution par les plastiques en octobre 2020, et décret visant à ajouter les " articles manufacturés en plastique " à l'annexe 1 de la LCPE au printemps 2021, donnant au gouvernement la capacité de réglementer les plastiques.</p>

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
(ECCC) Exiger que tous <b>les emballages en plastique au Canada contiennent au moins 50 % de matières recyclées d'ici 2030.</b>	La consultation sur l'élaboration d'un nouveau règlement qui fixera des exigences minimales en contenu recyclé pour certains articles en plastique a commencé en février 2022 et se terminera le 14 mars 2022....  Publication du projet de règlement dès la fin de 2022
(ECCC) Accélérer la mise en œuvre du <b>plan d'action zéro déchet plastique</b> , en partenariat avec les provinces et les territoires.	Le Canada a fait preuve d'un leadership considérable dans la livraison des éléments des plans d'action des phases 1 et 2. Un certain nombre de ces éléments ont été achevés et plusieurs sont sur le point de l'être. Ces réalisations à venir couvrent une série de sujets, notamment la responsabilité élargie des producteurs ainsi que les plastiques à usage unique et jetables.
(ECCC) Continuer de travailler avec les provinces et les territoires pour s'assurer que <b>les producteurs, et non les contribuables, sont responsables du coût de la gestion de leurs déchets plastiques.</b>	La publication du guide final approuvé par le CCME sur la responsabilité élargie des producteurs (REP) devrait être achevée avant la fin du mois (mars 2022).
(ECCC) Travailler avec les provinces et les territoires pour mettre en œuvre et pour faire respecter un <b>objectif ambitieux de recyclage pour les bouteilles de plastique de 90 %</b> , objectif qui concorde avec celui du Québec et de l'Union européenne.	L'élaboration de la politique est en cours. Des réunions ont eu lieu avec les principaux intervenants et les provinces. Les premières discussions ont porté sur les données, la terminologie et les options potentielles pour accroître la collecte et le recyclage des contenants de boissons en plastique.
(ECCC) Adopter des règles d'étiquetage qui <b>interdisent l'utilisation du symbole des flèches courbes, à moins que 80 % des installations de recyclage du Canada l'acceptent et aient des marchés finaux fiables pour ces produits.</b>	L'élaboration de la politique est en cours
(ECCC) Appuyer les efforts provinciaux et territoriaux en matière de responsabilité des producteurs en établissant un registre public fédéral et <b>exiger que les producteurs présentent des rapports annuels sur les plastiques</b> dans l'économie canadienne.	L'élaboration de la politique est en cours
(ECCC) Collaborer avec le ministre de l'Innovation, des Sciences et de l'Industrie à la création d'un <b>nouveau fonds d'infrastructure et d'innovation</b> qui permettra l'expansion et la commercialisation de technologies et de solutions fabriquées au Canada pour la réutilisation et le recyclage de plastiques.	ECCC et ISDE explorent les aspects principaux de la conception du fonds proposé. Les détails complets de la mise en œuvre restent à déterminer.
(ECCC) S'appuyer sur la Charte des plastiques océaniques en travaillant avec les principaux pays sur <b>le développement d'un nouvel accord mondial sur les plastiques.</b>	Le 2 mars 2022, l'Assemblée des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (UNEA-5.2) a adopté un mandat visant à mettre fin à la pollution par les plastiques à l'échelle mondiale en lançant un processus ambitieux d'élaboration d'un accord international juridiquement contraignant fondé sur une approche globale qui tient compte du cycle de vie complet des plastiques, d'ici 2024.  Le Canada a joué un rôle clé dans l'atteinte de ce résultat, à la fois en tant que co-facilitateur des négociations de l'UNEA et à titre de représentant national.

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
<p>(ECCC) En collaboration avec le ministre de l'Innovation, des Sciences et de l'Industrie, mettre en œuvre un « <b>droit à la réparation</b> » pour prolonger la durée de vie des appareils ménagers, et plus particulièrement des appareils électroniques, et obliger les entreprises à <b>informer les Canadiens des impacts environnementaux des produits de consommation</b>.</p>	<p>ECCC et Santé Canada ont lancé des consultations nationales sur l'étiquetage amélioré et obligatoire de certains produits de consommation, notamment les cosmétiques, les produits de nettoyage et les ignifugeants dans les meubles rembourrés. Les consultations permettront également de recueillir des avis sur les mesures que le gouvernement peut prendre pour améliorer l'information sur les produits chimiques dans les chaînes d'approvisionnement. Les consultations se dérouleront dans le cadre d'une série d'ateliers et d'événements interactifs jusqu'à l'été 2022.</p>
Nature	
<p>(ECCC et PCA) Continuer de travailler avec la ministre des Pêches, des Océans et de la Garde côtière canadienne et les partenaires pour veiller à ce que le Canada atteigne ses objectifs de <b>conservation de 25 % de ses terres et de ses eaux d'ici 2025 et de 30 % d'ici 2030</b>, en travaillant à <b>freiner et à inverser la perte de milieux naturels d'ici 2030</b> au Canada, à <b>récupérer entièrement ces milieux d'ici 2050</b> et à promouvoir cet objectif sur la scène internationale. Vous veillerez à ce que ce travail soit continuellement fondé sur la science, les connaissances autochtones et les perspectives locales.</p>	<p>Conserver 30 % d'ici 2030 est un objectif ambitieux - en décembre 2021, environ 13,5 % des zones terrestres et près de 14 % des zones océaniques ont été conservées ou protégées au Canada. Les investissements prévus dans le budget de 2021 ouvrent la voie à l'atteinte de l'objectif national de 25 % d'ici 2025 et soutiennent les efforts visant à atteindre une protection de 30 % d'ici 2030. Ce travail a déjà commencé.</p> <p>Quarante-sept parcs nationaux, un parc urbain national et deux aires marines nationales de conservation (AMNC) de Parcs Canada contribuent à hauteur 3,53 % de la cible totale de 12,5 % de conservation des terres et des eaux.</p>

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
<p>(ECCC et PCA) Travailler avec les partenaires des Premières Nations, des Inuits et de la Nation métisse afin de soutenir les nouveaux programmes des <b>gardiens autochtones</b> et d'établir de nouveaux réseaux de gardiens autochtones. Aider les communautés autochtones à renforcer leurs capacités d'établir davantage <b>d'aires protégées et de conservation autochtones</b>.</p>	<p>Dans le cadre de Patrimoine naturel bonifié, le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé l'octroi de 340 millions de dollars pour soutenir les efforts de conservation menés par les Autochtones. Cela comprend jusqu'à 173 millions de dollars sur cinq ans pour soutenir les initiatives nouvelles et existantes de gardiens autochtones et la création de réseaux de gardiens autochtones pour les Premières nations, les Inuits et les Métis par le biais des structures de gouvernance existantes basées de les particularités des collectivités.</p> <p>Le gouvernement du Canada travaillera également avec des partenaires autochtones dans les lieux administrés par Parcs Canada afin d'améliorer les initiatives actuelles des gardiens et d'en co-crée de nouvelles. De plus, le gouvernement du Canada investira 166 millions de dollars pour soutenir la conservation de zones gérées par des Autochtones.</p> <p>Un appel à propositions de financement des Premières nations s'est terminé à la fin de janvier, et les appels de propositions destinés aux Inuits et aux Métis se sont terminés à la fin de février.</p> <p>Un premier cycle de financement de la conservation de zones gérées par des autochtones pour 2022-23 est destiné aux groupes autochtones qui avaient initialement soumis des demandes de financement dans le cadre du fonds Défi de l'objectif 1 de Patrimoine naturel en 2019.</p> <p>Parcs Canada a reçu 61,7 millions de dollars du budget de 2021 dans le but de développer le programme des Gardiens autochtones dans les lieux administrés par Parcs Canada.</p>
<p>(PCA) Créer <b>dix parcs nationaux et dix aires marines nationales de conservation (AMNC)</b> au cours des cinq prochaines années, et collaborer avec les communautés autochtones sur des accords de gestion commune de ces parcs nationaux et AMNC.</p>	<p>Présentement, Parcs Canada travail sur deux projets de parc national et sept d'établissement de AMNC. Les réalisations récentes sont :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Signature d'un protocole d'entente avec l'Assemblée des conseils d'Epekwitk en vue de la creation d'une nouvelle reserve de parc national dans la région de Pitumkek/île Hog et dunes Sandhills (janvier 2022);</li> <li>- Signature d'un protocole d'entente avec le gouvernement du Nunatsiavut pour démarrer une étude de faisabilité pour une reserve d'AMNC et Aire de protection Autochtone dans le nord du Labrador (février 2022).</li> </ul> <p>En 2021, Parcs Canada, les Premières Nations et la province de la Colombie-Britannique ont annoncé le lancement d'une étude de faisabilité pour une nouvelle réserve d'AMNC pour la côte centrale de la Colombie-Britannique; une seconde étude de faisabilité a été entreprise avec les communautés Autochtones pour une réserve d'AMNC pour la Baie-James Oues ainsi que la région sud-ouest de la Baie d'Hudson;</p>

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
<p>(PCA) Pour que tous les Canadiens aient accès à un espace vert, <b>créer au moins un parc national urbain dans chaque province et territoire; l'objectif est d'avoir 15 nouveaux parcs urbains d'ici 2030.</b> En outre, vous investirez dans les parcs nationaux actuels : il y a plus de Canadiens que jamais qui s'y rendent.</p>	<p>Le 4 août 2021, le gouvernement du Canada lançait le nouveau programme pour supporter la création d'un réseau de parcs urbains nationaux.</p> <p>Des ententes de collaboration pour évaluer le potentiel pour la création de sites de parc urbain national ont été signées avec :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- La ville de Colwood, Colombie-Britannique;</li> <li>- Le "Meewasin Valley Authority" à Saskatoon, Saskatchewan;</li> <li>- La Ville de Winnipeg, Manitoba;</li> <li>- La Ville de Windsor, Ontario;</li> <li>- L'autorité régionale municipale de Halifax, Nouvelle-Écosse;</li> <li>- La ville d'Edmonton, Alberta;</li> </ul> <p>Parcs Canada a également entamer des discussions exploratoires avec la Ville de Montréal.</p>
<p>(PCA) Soutenir le ministre du Tourisme et la ministre associée des Finances dans l'élaboration d'une <b>stratégie nationale de tourisme sur les sentiers.</b></p>	<p>Parcs Canada et Innovation, Sciences et Développement économique Canada travaillent en collaboration afin de supporter et faciliter les liens avec les organisations de sentiers et les partenaires de marketing de destination à travers le Canada pour aider à faire progresser le tourisme de sentiers.</p>
<p>(ECCC) Travailler avec le ministre des Ressources naturelles pour contribuer à la protection <b>des forêts anciennes</b>, notamment en Colombie-Britannique, en concluant un accord sur la nature avec la Colombie-Britannique. Créer un <b>fonds de la nature britanno-colombien</b> pour la protection des forêts anciennes, de 50 millions de dollars, et faire participer les Premières Nations, les communautés locales et les travailleurs à la définition des prochaines étapes relatives à la protection de la nature.</p>	<p>Le ministère a entamé des discussions préliminaires avec la province de la Colombie-Britannique dans le but de faire avancer rapidement l'initiative.</p> <p>Le Canada et la Colombie-Britannique ont établi un accord sur la nature en février 2021.</p>
<p>(PCA) Continuer de bâtir et de relier <b>le sentier Transcanadien</b>, et créer de nouvelles occasions pour les Canadiens d'y accéder en augmentant le financement annuel et en faisant croître le réseau de sentiers, ce qui contribuera à la création de 10 000 emplois au cours des cinq prochaines années.</p>	<p>Le gouvernement du Canada soutient financièrement le sentier Transcanadien depuis le lancement de l'initiative en 1992. Le financement actuel se terminera à la fin de la présente année fiscale. Parcs Canada travaille étroitement avec les représentants du sentier Transcanadien dans le but de développer un plan d'affaires pour assurer le développement continu et améliorer l'accès au sentier pour en assurer l'utilisation et l'appréciation par encore plus de canadiens.</p>
<p>(ECCC) Travailler avec des partenaires pour <b>contrer le commerce illégal des espèces sauvages et pour mettre fin au commerce de l'ivoire de l'éléphant et de la corne de rhinocéros</b> au Canada.</p>	<p>Évaluation des risques en matière de commerce international illégal d'espèces sauvages, qui orientera l'analyse de la stratégie proposée et l'engagement des principaux partenaires et parties prenantes.</p> <p>Consultation publique sur les contrôles potentiels du commerce de l'ivoire d'éléphant tenue du 24 juillet au 22 septembre 2021.</p>
<p>(ECCC) Présenter un <b>projet de loi pour protéger les animaux en captivité.</b></p>	<p>L'élaboration de la politique est en cours.</p>

Engagement	Progrès à ce jour
(PCA) Présenter un <b>projet</b> de loi exhaustif <b>pour protéger les lieux patrimoniaux appartenant à l'État</b> .	Parcs Canada poursuit le travail nécessaire au dépôt d'une législation permettant d'établir un cadre de désignation transparent et assurer la protection de plus de 300 lieux historiques de propriété fédérale. Budget 2021 pages 205-206; 221; 376; 539



## **OVERVIEW PARKS CANADA 2021-22 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (C)**

### **ISSUE**

- The Supplementary Estimates (C) is the last opportunity for Parks Canada to make adjustments to its 2021-22 reference levels.
- Parks Canada is seeking to increase its reference levels in the amount of \$14,772,949 through these Supplementary Estimates.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Through the 2021-22 Supplementary Estimates (C), the Agency is seeking to increase its reference levels in the amount of approximately \$14.8 million.
- The \$14.8 million is composed of:
  - A voted spending authority amount of \$13.1 million (89%) in program expenditures (Vote 1);
  - A statutory amount of \$1.7 million (11%) for the contributions to employees benefit plans.
- Items included in these Estimates are:
  - \$7.5 million for the wildfire and flood preparedness and response capacity
  - \$2.1 million for the archeology and conservation of the Wrecks of HMS Terror National Historic Site;
  - \$1.5 million for the Indigenous Affairs Negotiations;
  - \$1 million for the government advertising programs capacity;
  - \$0.4 million to advance reconciliation with the Innu of Labrador;
  - \$0.3 million to implement the Inuit and Impact Benefit Agreement for the Wrecks of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site;
  - \$0.4 million in transfers with other organizations; and
  - \$1.7 million for the contributions to employees benefit plans related to new salary funding received.
- These Estimates also include adjustments that do not change the Agency's reference level: a vote transfer in the amount of \$0.9 million to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account to support the establishment of the Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve; and an internal reallocation of resources in the amount of \$1.8 million from contributions to the Grant to implement the establishment agreement related to Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.



## **BACKGROUND / DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS**

Parks Canada's 2021-22 Supplementary Estimates (C) total \$14.8 million as per table below:

Item	Voted	Statutory - Employee Benefits Plan (EBP)	Total
Funding for wildfire and flood preparedness and response capacity	7,490,879	1,194,696	8,685,575
Funding for the archaeology and conservation of the Wrecks of HMS Erebus and Terror National Historic Site	2,099,601	142,452	2,242,053
Funding for Indigenous Affairs Negotiations	1,476,668	299,565	1,776,233
Funding for government advertising programs (horizontal item)	1,000,000	-	1,000,000
Funding to advance reconciliation with the Innu of Labrador – Incremental Treaty Agreements on Fisheries and Parks	393,121	28,890	422,011
Funding to implement the Inuit and Impact Benefit Agreement for the Wrecks of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site	250,000	-	250,000
Internal reallocation of resources from contributions to the Grant to implement the establishment agreement related to Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve (\$1,750,000)	-	-	-
Internal reallocation of resources to support the creation, expansion and designation of new National Historic Sites, National Parks, National Marine Conservation Areas and other Protected Heritage Areas (\$910,786)	-	-	-
Transfer from the Department of Natural Resources to the Parks Canada Agency to support the planting of 150,000 trees in 2021 in 18 parks from coast to coast	660,410	-	660,410
Transfer from the Parks Canada Agency to the Department of Transport to return unused funds related to the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment (TARA) initiative	-255,000	-	-255,000
Transfer from the Parks Canada Agency to the Treasury Board Secretariat for the Financial Community Developmental Programs and the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility initiative	-8,333	-	-8,333
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,107,346</b>	<b>1,665,603</b>	<b>14,772,949</b>

### **Description of items**



**(A) New funding – Total increase of \$14,375,872:**

**1. Funding for wildfire and flood preparedness and response capacity: \$7,490,879 (plus \$1,194,696 EBP for a total of \$8,685,575)**

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 PCA's protected areas, including the safety of visitors and the protection of built facilities, natural and cultural assets, ecosystems and wildlife, for which PCA has responsibility.

Budget 2021 provided new resources for wildfire of \$52.5 million over five years. The \$8.7 million, composed of \$7.5 million in voted program expenditures and \$1.2 million in EBP, in this Supplementary Estimates (C) represents the first year of this additional investment.

**2. Archaeology and conservation of the Wrecks of HMS Erebus and Terror National Historic Site: \$2,099,061 (plus \$142,452 EBP for a total of \$2,242,053)**

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. Funding is required to increase resources and capacity to ensure the success of one of the largest, most complex archaeological initiatives in Canada's history.

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. All research at both wrecks has required complex logistical fieldwork operations, including diving, under very challenging environmental conditions.

There is an urgent need to act as the impacts on HMS Erebus are becoming more pronounced, with reduced ice cover over the last few years. An accelerated archeology and conservation program is required to mitigate reputational risk to the Government of Canada that accepted the exceptional gift of the Wrecks of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror and artifacts from the United Kingdom with the understanding they would be managed and protected by Parks Canada.

Budget 2021 provided \$15 million over four years in new funding for this initiative. The \$2.2 million, composed of \$2.1 million in voted program expenditures and \$0.1 million in EBP, in this Supplementary Estimates (C) represents the first year of the investments.

**3. Indigenous Affairs Negotiations: \$1,476,668 (plus \$299,565 EBP for a total of \$1,776,233)**

The Government of Canada has committed to a renewed relationship with Indigenous peoples. Negotiations with Indigenous peoples provide an opportunity to implement rights



and advance reconciliation while reducing litigation risks, building partnerships and advancing mutual priorities. As the manager of 88% of federal lands, nearly 36 million hectares, Parks Canada is uniquely positioned to advance reconciliation by supporting Indigenous decision-making in environmental protection, access to significant cultural sites and practices, and intergenerational cultural continuity through protection of and access to natural and cultural heritage.

Since the introduction of the Recognition of Indigenous Rights and Self-Determination processes in 2017, the number of tables demanding Parks Canada's participation has more than doubled. Budget 2021 provided additional funding to Parks Canada of about \$2 million annually to support a more proactive and timely approach to Indigenous negotiations.

#### **4. Funding for government advertising programs (horizontal item): \$1,000,000**

This funding will support Parks Canada's Visitation and Conservation National Campaign which aims to promote visitation to Parks Canada administered places, protection of Canada's heritage places and to support safe and sustainable tourism recovery. The campaign, leveraging the 450 000km<sup>2</sup> of memories tagline, will invite Canadians to experience some of the best outdoor and cultural experiences that our country has to offer and emphasize Parks Canada administered places as prime tourism destinations by presenting the beauty and value in visiting these protected places.

#### **5. Funding to advance reconciliation with the Innu of Labrador – Incremental Treaty Agreements on Fisheries and Parks: \$393,121 (plus \$28,890 EBP for a total of \$422,011)**

This new ongoing funding supports an Incremental Treaty Agreement (ITA) relating to the cooperative management of the Akami-uapishku – KakKasuak - Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve, pending the conclusion of a final Treaty Agreement.

Within the modern treaty negotiations, the Innu signed a Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement (PIBA) with Parks Canada for the cooperative management of the Akami-uapishku – KakKasuak - Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve in 2015. This agreement was based on all parties' expectations that treaty negotiations would conclude shortly thereafter. Treaty negotiations, however, are ongoing and not expected to conclude before 2025, or come into effect prior to 2028. Hence the approach is to proceed with an Incremental Treaty Agreement (ITA) in the interim, until a final agreement is concluded.

#### **6. Funding to implement the Inuit and Impact Benefit Agreement for the Wrecks of HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site: \$250,000**

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. This funding will enable the ratification of the IIBA by April 1, 2022 and support its implementation which include the establishment of a cooperatively managed, Inuit-led and operated national historic site with direct benefits to Inuit.

#### **(B) Transfers with Other Government Departments – Total increase of \$397,077:**

**1. Transfer from the Department of Natural Resources to Parks Canada Agency to support the planting of 150,000 trees in 2021 in 18 parks from coast to coast: \$660,410**

This transfer from Natural Resources Canada will support Government of Canada's commitment to address climate change and protect biodiversity. This funding will help Parks Canada to plant 150,000 trees in Parks Canada administered places in 2021. The initiative contributes to a larger campaign led by NRCan to plant 2 billion trees over the next 10 years.

**2. Transfer from Parks Canada Agency to the Department of Transport to return unused funds related to the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment (TARA) initiative: -\$255,000**

The \$255,000 was originally expected to be used by PCA to undertake projects under the Transport Assets Risk Assessment (TARA) initiative. Due to changing financial profiles and scope modifications of PCA's Tara projects over several years, this surplus remained unused by PCA in the final fiscal year of TARA operations. The amount is to be returned to Transport Canada and used to support other projects and activities under the TARA initiative.

**3. Transfer from Parks Canada Agency to the Treasury Board Secretariat for the Financial Community Developmental Programs and the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility initiative: -\$8,333**

Departmental contributions to the Financial Community Developmental Programs and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) initiative.

**(C) Other Adjustments – No change to reference levels:**

**1. Internal reallocation of resources to support the creation, expansion and designation of new National Historic Sites, National Parks, National Marine Conservation Areas and other Protected Heritage Areas**

Parks Canada is seeking to transfer \$910,786 Vote 1 Program expenditures to Vote 5 Payment to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account. The vote transfer of \$910,786 is related to the purchase of a vessel which will be one of the primary support platforms essential to fulfilling requirements of Parks Canada's operational mandate in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.

The NPHS 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.



## **GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **1. Grant to implement the establishment agreement related to Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve**

The grant funding will fulfill the Agency's commitment under the Establishment Agreement signed with the Yellowknives Dene for the establishment of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, within their territory. Funding will be transferred from existing contributions through Supplementary Estimates (C).



## **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 262 species of conservation concern (including over 214 SARA-listed species) occurring in 42 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 2018-2019 and 2022-2023 through Conservation and Restoration (CoRe). These projects address 85 SARA-listed species in 38 places administered by Parks Canada, and 292 recovery actions have been completed, while more than 463 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



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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 percent of Canada's 622 SARA-listed Species at Risk, despite accounting for less than 5 percent 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 Environment and Climate Change Canada, 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 the 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 (SRKW)**

- Parks Canada protects critical habitat for Southern Resident Killer Whales in the waters of Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands national park reserves.
- Parks Canada works jointly with Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Transport Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to increase awareness of, and compliance with, Southern Resident Killer Whale Management Measures.



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- 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.



## **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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 \$52.5M 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 2019/2020 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:

YEAR	No of Prescribed Fires	
	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



## **NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA ESTABLISHMENT**

### **ISSUE**

- The creation of ten new NMCAs will contribute over four per cent towards the target of protecting 25 percent of Canada's coastal and marine areas by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Canada currently protects 13.8 percent of the marine environment. Parks Canada's ocean NMCAs and national parks with a marine component contribute 2.12 percent 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 percent;
  - Parks Canada contributes 2.12 percent;
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada contributes 0.54 percent; and
  - the provinces contribute approximately 0.18 percent.
- 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 percent 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 km<sup>2</sup> or at least 4 percent to the 25 percent by 2025 target. Currently, there are seven active NMCA feasibility assessments, and informal discussions to identify the other three 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 B.C and in the Southern Strait of Georgia in B.C., 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 Quttirnipaaq 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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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 B.C.'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 kelps beds in B.C. 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 B.C. 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 \$460 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.

### **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 park will contribute 303,000 km<sup>2</sup> or 3 percent to the Government of Canada's 25 percent by 2025 conservation target.
- A roadmap to achieve the target has been established. The negotiations for establishment of two new National Parks in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island 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 Prince Edward Island and the South Okanagan region of British Columbia:
  - **Pituamkek:** In January 2022, the Government of Canada signed a memorandum of understanding with the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils to establish a new national park reserve in Pituamkek (Bee-doo-um-gek)/Hog-Island Sandhills, in northwestern PEI. 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. The feasibility assessment for the national park reserve is almost complete.



- **South Okanagan – Similkameen:** In July 2019, Canada, British Columbia 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<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Government of Canada launched a new program to support the creation of a network of national urban parks. 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 percent of land and inland waters and 25 percent of marine and coastal areas by 2025, working toward 30 percent by 2030;
  - Contribute to the protection and conservation of nature
  - Connect Canadians with nature
  - Support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Urban parks also support:

- climate mitigation 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

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 percent 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 percent 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 percent of cities reported protecting biodiversity and enhancing natural areas as a top challenge. Yet this survey also found that, on average, only 45 percent 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.



## **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 \$600M 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,



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada



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



## **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.

### **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.
- 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 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 to support recovery as well as 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.



## **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.

## **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.

## **INDIGENOUS**

- Working with W̱SÁNEĆ 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.

## **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 ʔaaʔuuli, traditional territories and homelands of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ. 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.



## **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.

### **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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 percent of Canada's lands and waters by 2025, while working towards 30 percent by 2030.
  - Parks Canada has a key role to play in contributing to the conservation of 25 percent of Canada's lands and marine waters by 2025 and 30 per cent 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 km<sup>2</sup> or at least 4 percent to the 25 percent 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 \$24.0 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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.
  - Parks Canada is launching 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 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 PERCENT BY 2025 AND 30 PERCENT BY 2030**

### **ISSUE**

- Parks Canada has a key role to play in contributing to the conservation of 25 percent of Canada's lands and marine waters by 2025 and 30 percent 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 percent protection of terrestrial areas and inland waters. Parks Canada's 47 national parks and two freshwater national marine conservation areas (NMCAs) contributed 3.5 percent to Canada's commitment to protect at least 17 percent 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 percent of the marine environment. Parks Canada's ocean NMCAs and national parks with a marine component contribute 2.12 percent 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 percent;
  - Parks Canada contributes 2.12 percent;
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada contributes 0.54 percent; and
  - the provinces contribute approximately 0.18 percent.
- 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 km<sup>2</sup> or 3 percent to the 25 percent 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 km<sup>2</sup> or at least 4 percent to the 25 percent by 2025 target. Currently, there are seven active NMCA feasibility assessments, and informal discussions to identify the other three 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 \$15M 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 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 262 species of conservation concern (including over 214 SARA-listed species) occurring in 42 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 2018-2019 and 2022-2023 through Conservation and Restoration (CoRe). These projects address 85 SARA-listed species in 38 places administered by Parks Canada, and 292 recovery actions have been completed, while more than 463 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



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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 percent of Canada's 622 SARA-listed Species at Risk, despite accounting for less than 5 percent 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 Environment and Climate Change Canada, 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 the 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 (SRKW)**

- Parks Canada protects critical habitat for Southern Resident Killer Whales in the waters of Pacific Rim and Gulf Islands national park reserves.
- Parks Canada works jointly with Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Transport Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to increase awareness of, and compliance with, Southern Resident Killer Whale Management Measures.



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- 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 the 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, and;
  - Development of a test for plains bison introgression in the wood bison genome.
- An example of our recent work is the transfer of six plains bison to Waterton Lakes National Park in February 2021, with several Indigenous elders on hand to commemorate the occasion.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- The Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), 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 ECCC, he is the competent Minister for the species outside of Parks Canada lands. ECCC 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.



## **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 / 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;
  - enhancing research, monitoring and management of the Peace-Athabasca Delta using science and Indigenous knowledge;
  - establishing new mechanisms to support improved water management in the Peace Athabasca Delta;
  - increasing the protection and connectivity of ecosystems within and adjacent to WBNP; 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 \$52.5M 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 2019/2020 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:

YEAR	No of Prescribed Fires	
	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.

### **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 process 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 establish 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 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, it will act collaboratively and inspire others to support ecological connectivity and the creation of ecological corridors, taking into account provincial, territorial and Indigenous jurisdiction and priorities for action on biodiversity conservation.
- Parks Canada will soon begin national and regional consultations with diverse groups to obtain advice on key elements for the design and delivery of the ecological corridor program.

### **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 help the Government of Canada to meet its commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.



## **NATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION AREA ESTABLISHMENT**

### **ISSUE**

- The creation of ten new NMCAs will contribute over four per cent towards the target of protecting 25 percent of Canada's coastal and marine areas by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Canada currently protects 13.8 percent of the marine environment. Parks Canada's ocean NMCAs and national parks with a marine component contribute 2.12 percent 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 percent;
  - Parks Canada contributes 2.12 percent;
  - Environment and Climate Change Canada contributes 0.54 percent; and
  - the provinces contribute approximately 0.18 percent.
- 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 percent 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 km<sup>2</sup> or at least 4 percent to the 25 percent by 2025 target. Currently, there are seven active NMCA feasibility assessments, and informal discussions to identify the other three 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 B.C and in the Southern Strait of Georgia in B.C., 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 Quttirnipaaq 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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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 B.C.'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 kelps beds in B.C. 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 B.C. 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 \$460 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.

### **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 park will contribute 303,000 km<sup>2</sup> or 3 percent to the Government of Canada's 25 percent by 2025 conservation target.
- A roadmap to achieve the target has been established. The negotiations for establishment of two new National Parks in British Columbia and Prince Edward Island 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 Prince Edward Island and the South Okanagan region of British Columbia:
  - **Pituamkek:** In January 2022, the Government of Canada signed a memorandum of understanding with the Epekwitk Assembly of Councils to establish a new national park reserve in Pituamkek (Bee-doo-um-gek)/Hog-Island Sandhills, in northwestern PEI. 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. The feasibility assessment for the national park reserve is almost complete.



- **South Okanagan – Similkameen:** In July 2019, Canada, British Columbia 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<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Government of Canada launched a new program to support the creation of a network of national urban parks. 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 percent of land and inland waters and 25 percent of marine and coastal areas by 2025, working toward 30 percent by 2030;
  - Contribute to the protection and conservation of nature
  - Connect Canadians with nature
  - Support reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Urban parks also support:

- climate mitigation 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

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 percent 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 percent 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 percent of cities reported protecting biodiversity and enhancing natural areas as a top challenge. Yet this survey also found that, on average, only 45 percent 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.



## **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 NHS.
- The Program addresses real needs in the heritage community:
  - For 2022-23 \$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 \$6M 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. Funding decisions are expected to be announced before April 1, 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.
- 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 (NHS), 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 (ICI) 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](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](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](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 (HSMBC) 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 (TRC), 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 percent of the collection is under threat due to lack of appropriate environmental and security controls.
- The collection will be safeguarded in a Class A environment<sup>1</sup>, 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 \$405k. Design consultants Moriyama and Teshima Architects + NFOE were hired in January 2018 and design work was completed in fall 2019. In summer 2020 the project was tendered and closed in October 2020. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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 \$23.9M 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 CIRNA and Canadian Heritage, to share information and coordinate federal responses to those Calls to Action that touch on residential school commemorations.

#### 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.
- After a two-year hiatus in archaeological site investigations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Parks Canada is working collaboratively with the Inuit on plans to have RV David Thompson return to the wrecks in 2022.

### **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.
- 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



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program involves Inuit in the protection and monitoring of the wreck sites and contributes to further integrating Inuit knowledge into Parks Canada's operations.

- After a two-year hiatus imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UAT is working collaboratively with the Inuit to discuss plans to have RV David Thompson return to the wrecks in 2022 to support ongoing archaeological site investigations.
- 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.



## **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 \$600M 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,



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



## **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 NHS 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.



## **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.



## **LABRADOR INNU INCREMENTAL TREATY AGREEMENT TO IMPLEMENT 2015 PARK IMPACTS AND BENEFITS AGREEMENT FOR AKAMI-UAPISHKU – KAKKASUAK – MEALY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK RESERVE**

### **ISSUE**

- The ITA is an agreement to implement the Labrador Innu PIBA signed in 2015. Through the ITA agreement, the Labrador Innu will be funded to carry out their roles and responsibilities as set out in the PIBA, and to support Labrador Innu businesses and individuals to take advantage of economic opportunities related to the Park.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Signing the Park ITA on August 12, 2021 was an important step in building Labrador Innu capacity for land and resource governance and supporting their roles and responsibilities for cooperative management of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve.
- The ITA will also help to foster greater self-reliance of the Labrador Innu through economic opportunities in the form of meaningful employment and government contracting.
- At the same time, the Park ITA will contribute to meeting several federal interests, including providing for greater operational predictability and certainty of the Park, securing the operation of the Labrador Innu Cooperative Management Board, and strengthening and expanding the foundation to grow the Crown-Indigenous relationship.
- The Innu Nation and the Cooperative Management Board have expressed satisfaction, and are encouraged by the positive developments. The result has been a strengthened relationship and increased trust between Parks Canada and Innu Nation.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Parks Canada and the Labrador Innu signed a Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement for the Mealy Mountains National Park in 2015 following a double majority community ratification process in 2011 to approve the tripartite signing of the Labrador Innu Comprehensive Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement-in-Principle and the establishment of the Mealy Mountains National Park (the Park). All parties expected to conclude the Final Agreement negotiations shortly after signing the PIBA in 2015.
- Final Agreement negotiations, however, are ongoing. Where implementation resourcing had been tied to the effective date of the Innu Treaty, the Innu were without funding to facilitate their capacity development and involvement in the establishment, planning and management of the Park that is being established and operated independently and irrespective of the status of the Innu treaty final agreement negotiations.
- The Park and the Fisheries Incremental Treaty Agreement (Park ITA) mark the first incremental treaty agreements to be signed by Canada in the history of section 35



negotiations. The ITAs are also historic marking the first time that Canada advances a treaty-related benefit to the Labrador Innu in advance of concluding their modern treaty, an agreement that has been in negotiation since 1991.

- For Parks Canada, the ITA is intended to resolve three key issues in the Labrador Innu modern treaty negotiations:
  - advance both ongoing and one-time implementation funding pre-treaty for the Labrador Innu Park Impacts and Benefit Agreement (PIBA) with respect to the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve signed by the Innu and PCA in 2015 in order to:
    - facilitate Labrador Innu capacity building to take up their roles and responsibilities for the cooperative management and shared stewardship of the Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve per the terms of the Labrador Innu Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement (signed in 2015); 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.
- 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 CIRNA-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.



## **GRANT TO IMPLEMENT THE ESTABLISHMENT AGREEMENT RELATED TO THAIDENE NENE NATIONAL PARK RESERVE**

### **ISSUE**

- Parks Canada is seeking, through the 2021-22 Supplementary Estimates (C), the authority for a grant of up to \$1.75 M to implement the establishment agreement related to Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, as this amount currently exceeds Parks Canada's maximum grant authority under Parks Canada's General Class Grants and Contributions Program

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- This grant fulfills an obligation made within the “Final Agreement Regarding Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, an Agreement Between Yellowknives Dene First Nation and Parks Canada Agency with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation” upon the establishment of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.
- The grant will support the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to protect their traditional sites and facilitate economic development through the development of a tourism strategy. The tourism strategy will build on information compiled on Yellowknives/Tatso t'iné culturally important and traditional sites along a primary water route for boaters in the national park reserve. The strategy will also enhance the Yellowknives Dene role in national park reserve-related tourism activities based in Yellowknife and the region, and provide funding for training and capacity building for Yellowknives Dene members.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Subsequent to the signing of the Final Agreement with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation in September 2020, in order to fulfill the Yellowknives Dene First Nation's desire for the funds for the financial component be delivered through a grant, rather than a contribution agreement, Parks Canada sought authority for the grant from Treasury Board. This authority was received on January 24, 2022.
- The funding source is Budget 2018 (Nature Legacy 1) and will expire March 31, 2022. Funding can flow after Supplementary Estimates C are approved.
- In anticipation of the approval of the Supplementary Estimates and in advance of the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, the approval in principle of Parks Canada's President & CEO is being sought for the grant. Payments will only begin after Supplementary Estimates C approval occurs via Royal Assent of the Appropriations Act.



# **NUNAVIK INUIT – STRENGTHENED CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONSHIP THROUGH THE NUNAVIK COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR THE TORNGAT MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**

## **ISSUE**

- Implementation funding for the Nunavik Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement (PIBA) was increased in 2020 to be both sufficient and ongoing in order to more fully facilitate Makivik taking on their roles and responsibilities for the joint-cooperative management of the Torngat Mountains National Park.

## **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- The Torngat Mountains National Park is entirely Indigenous staffed and managed; this includes an all Inuit co-operative management board. Board recommendations are developed by consensus; Makivik and Nunatsiavut occupy respected and integral seats at the decision-making table with respect to the Park.
- The Board combined with the PIBAs have been instrumental in laying the foundation for collaboration and co-development, as well as for Inuit-knowledge-system approaches, ideas and initiatives.
- Examples include:
  - development of an Inuit management strategy to safeguard the Torngat Mountains caribou population while respecting Inuit culture and values rather than listing the population under the Species at Risk Act;
  - establishment of a unique visitor experience base camp; and
  - development of a new Makivik-led pilot guardian program aimed at addressing illegal activities in the Park, such as unmonitored aircraft activity and poaching
- The opportunities for collaboration and land and resource stewardship are limitless, and the benefits accrue to all Canadians, as well as Makivik and Parks Canada more specifically.

## **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- The Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement, or NILCA, was signed in 2008, three years after Canada signed the Labrador Inuit Land Claim Agreement (LILCA) with the Nunatsiavut. The settlement areas for both Nunavik and Nunatsiavut Inuit Nations overlap with 100% of the Torngat Mountains National Park, and its establishment was an important factor in the conclusion of both the Nunavik and Nunatsiavut modern treaties.
- Similar to the LILCA, the NILCA recognizes a range of rights and benefits with respect to the establishment of any future national heritage places within the Nunavik Inuit Settlement Area generally, and the Torngat Mountains National Park specifically.



- Specific commitments related to the Torngat Mountains National Park included: negotiating a Park Impacts and Benefits Agreement (PIBA) for the cooperative 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 cooperative 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 PIBA also addresses:
  - service delivery in both Inuit languages,
  - economic opportunities, and
  - cultural resource management, including for Inuit led visitor experience
- Parks Canada and Makivik negotiated and signed a PIBA in December 2006 prior to concluding the NILCA and on the heels of Parks Canada and Nunatsiavut signing a similar PIBA in 2005. These were among the first PIBAs that Parks Canada negotiated.
- A series of initiatives were pursued to address NILCA implementation challenges related to insufficient funding to meet Canada's obligations. This included increasing the implementation to Makivik (and Nunatsiavut) and Parks Canada to implement the PIBAs for the Torngat Mountains National Park.
- Providing for sustainable, ongoing funding to the Nunavik Inuit (and Nunatsiavut) to fully implement their PIBA for the Torngat Mountains National Park means: 1) that the Nunavik Inuit will now be in a position to more fully take up their roles and responsibilities for the cooperative management and shared stewardship of the Torngat Mountains National Park, and 2) that Parks Canada is finally able to staff-up and fully invest in the Park infrastructure as originally envisioned, and in the interests of all Canadians.



## **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 \$61.7M 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 with 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 bring the total to 10 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 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 20.7 million visitors enjoyed the health and wellness benefits offered by Parks Canada places across the country. This is 26% more visitors than in the same period of 2020 (16.4 million), but it is 13% below pre-pandemic levels (23.8 million in 2019).
- Total annual visitation for the 2021-22 operating year (April 1 2021 to March 31 2022) is projected to come in at approximately 21 million visitors. This would be a 24% improvement over last year (Year 1 of the pandemic), but will be 17% 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 places.



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- 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 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 7% 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 25% 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.



## **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 percent of Parks Canada's operating budget comes from fee revenues. Providing high quality service and experiences to Canadians requires reasonable cost recovery for fee-based services while being affordable for individuals and families.
- Parks Canada conducted a national consultation on fees in 2019. 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.



## **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 & CEO 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.



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- 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 2022-2023 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 (see key examples in attached annex).
- 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. 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



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



## Annex: PCA capital asset projects from the ridings of ENVI committee members

1. PCA capital asset projects from the ridings of ENVI committee members		
<i>Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI)</i>		
Member	Riding	Highlighted capital projects in, or near, the Riding
Francis Scarpaleggia, Chair	Lac-Saint-Louis (QC)	\$51.8M across 7 projects to improve the safety and visitor experience along the Route de la Promenade within La Mauricie NP. Projects to be completed in 2021-22.
Earl Dreeshen, Vice-Chair	Red Deer-Mountain View (AB)	\$1.9M project at Rocky Mountain House NHS to rehabilitate visitor facilities. Project completed in 2018-19
Monique Pauzé, Vice-Chair	Repentigny (QC)	\$3.9M for Maison Papineau NHS to address the building condition. Project will be complete in 2021-22.
Colin Carrie	Oshawa (ON)	Through the creation of Rouge National Urban Park, more than \$25M has been invested to build over 30 km of new park trails and amenities from Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine. Parks Canada will also be investing \$28.1M into a new Visitor, Learning, and Community Centre, with an expected opening in 2025.
Terry Duguld	Winnipeg South (MB)	\$21.8M across 7 projects to conserve historic building and grounds, rehabilitate infrastructure and improve water and wastewater systems at Lower Fort Garry NHS and the Forks NHS. All projects are complete or will be complete by 2022-23.
Laurel Collins	Victoria (BC)	\$13.2M across 4 projects at Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse NHS. Projects completed in 2019-20.
Taylor Bachrach (often replaces Laurel Collins)	Skeena—Bulkley Valley (BC)	\$1.1M to replace the SGang Gwaay boardwalk in Gwaii Haanas NPR. Project completed in 2019-20.
Dan Mazier	Dauphin-Swan River-Neepawa (MB)	\$16.4M across 7 projects to renew the visitor and operations centre, conserve heritage building, update townscape infrastructure and improve stormwater systems at Riding Mountain National Park. All projects are complete or will be complete by 2022-23.
Lloyd Longfield	Guelph (ON)	



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		\$4.4M across 2 projects for rehabilitation work on the HMCS Haida NHS. Projects completed in 2020-21.
Kyle Seebach	Dufferin-Caledon (ON)	While the riding has no Parks Places within it, Parks Canada has spent over \$4.5M for the implementation of shore protection measures to restore actively eroding Lake Ontario shoreline. This project is substantially completed, with monitoring activities to be completed by the end of 2024-25.
Leah Taylor Roy	Aurora-Oak Ridges-Richmond Hill (ON)	Through the creation of Rouge National Urban Park, more than \$25M has been invested to build over 30 km of new park trails and amenities from Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine. Parks Canada will also be investing \$28.1M into a new Visitor, Learning, and Community Centre, with an expected opening in 2025.
Joanne Thompson	St. John's East (NL)	\$5.6M across 12 projects at Signal Hill NHS. This includes \$1.4M to improve visitor facilities and accessibility at the Visitor Centre Annex, project completed in 2019-20.
Patrick Weiler	West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country (BC)	\$5.2M to install a new fire suppression system at Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site. Project completed in 2021-22. \$3.9M to rehabilitate water, sewer systems at Fort Langley and Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Sites. Project completed in 2019-20.



## **PARKS CANADA NATIONAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN**

### **ISSUE**

- Parks Canada has received \$4M from the Government of Canada central advertising fund for an advertising campaign over two fiscal years (\$1M in 2021-22 and \$3M 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 2016-2017 (with the exception of 2020-21), totaling \$15M to date (includes 2022-23 funding).
- The 2018 and 2019 centrally-funded campaign was highly successful and reached an estimated 26M 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.



## **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.



- 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.

## **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STRATEGY (YESS) 2022-2023**

### **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 will conclude in March 2022. Additionally, Parks Canada's direct hiring through YESS will decline from 1 432 youth in 2021-2022 to 615 youth in 2022-2023.

### **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 2021-2022 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 \$45.4M 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 (ESDC) 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 2022-2023 through Budget 2021 (\$6.9M + \$2M existing A-Base) is significantly less than what was received in 2021-2022 (\$45.4M).



## **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**

With the Supplementary Estimates (C) transfer, funds available in the Account for 2021-22 total \$141 million and are for the following protected areas:

- Rouge National Urban Park (\$52.7 million)
- Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (\$15.1 million)
- Qausuittuq National Park, Ukkusiksalik National Park, Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, Wrecks of HMS Erebus & HMS Terror National Historic Site (\$17.6 million)
- Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve, Nahanni National Park Reserve, Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve (\$14.8 million)



- Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site (\$1.3 million)
- Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (\$1.4 million)
- Akami-Uapishk<sup>u</sup>-KakKasuak-Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve (\$2.9 million)
- Grassland National Park (\$0.2 million)
- Land acquisitions to expand and complete existing National Parks (\$35 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.

### **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.
- 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 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 to support recovery as well as 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.



## **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. Current funding concludes in fiscal year 2021-2022.
- 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 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.
- 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. This funding concludes on March 31, 2022. Minister Guilbeault's mandate letter includes a commitment to renew and enhance funding to the Trans-Canada Trail.
- 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



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada



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.