

**Briefing Book**

**Appearance Before the**

**Standing Committee on**

**Environment and Sustainable Development**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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## **PARKS CANADA'S ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **2020-2021**

#### **NATURE CONSERVATION**

- Signing of final federal agreement with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation for the establishment of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.
- Deployment of fire management personnel to assist in wildfire mitigation efforts in the Western United States. Parks Canada fire management personnel also assisted in fighting wildfires in Australia in January 2020.
- Transfer of 30 wood bison from Elk Island National Park to the Republic of Sakha of the Russian Federation to establish a population of wood bison.
- Appointment of Parks Canada's first-ever Parks Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Restoration.
- Investment of \$59.9 million over 3 years to continue implementing federal commitments under the Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site Action Plan.
- Conservation and Restoration Program investments targeted at protecting and restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems and contributing to the recovery of species at risk:
  - protection of important habitats at Sable Island National Park Reserve to better understand the influence of the wild horses on its ecosystems;
  - restoration of three important sockeye salmon streams in the Cheewaht Lake watershed within Pacific Rim National Park Reserve in partnership with Ditidaht First Nation; and
  - restoration of ecosystems and the recovery of species at risk in Fathom Five National Marine Park and Bruce Peninsula, Georgian Bay Islands and Thousand Islands national parks.

#### **HERITAGE CONSERVATION**

- Recognition of the national historic significance of two persons and two events associated with Black History in Canada, including the Enslavement of African People in Canada.
- Recognition of the Residential School System as an important and defining event in Canadian history, and designation of two former residential school sites as national historic sites (former Portage La Prairie Indian Residential School in Manitoba, and former Shubenacadie Indian Residential School in Nova Scotia).
- Awarded \$42 million contract and began construction on Parks Canada's new artifact collection facility that will ensure approximately 25 million artifacts will be safeguarded for future generations.

#### **CONNECTING CANADIANS AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

- After a temporary suspension of visitor services, reopening Parks Canada places to Canadians with adaptive measures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19, keep visitors and staff safe, and help support domestic tourism (visitation of 13.3 million).
- Delivery of critical services to Canadians during COVID-19 pandemic, including avalanche control and highway maintenance, wildlife response and management, law enforcement, search and rescue and water management for watersheds across Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec.



- Support for small businesses paying commercial rent, providing businesses operating in national parks and historic sites access to the same rent relief available to small businesses in Canada.
- Completion of 2020 Minister's Roundtable on Parks Canada, which included virtual engagement sessions with representatives from organizations with an interest in Parks Canada and nation-wide online public consultations and generated feedback from more than 13,000 Canadians.
- Installation of over 170 electric vehicle charging stations available for visitors to use at most popular Parks Canada places.
- Continuing with rehabilitation efforts following the impact of post-tropical storm Dorian at Green Gables Heritage Place and PEI National Park, including Cavendish Campground.
- Partial opening of Georges Island National Historic Site to visitors during 2020 operating season for the first time in generations.
- Completion and reopening of the jetty at the Chambly Canal National Historic Site enabling thousands of visitors to once again use this iconic site each year.
- Infrastructure investment to establish the first front country campground in Mount Revelstoke National Park and partial opening to visitors in 2020. The campground will be fully operational for the 2021 visitor season, pending COVID-19 restrictions.

## **INDIGENOUS**

- Free access to all Parks Canada administered locations in Saskatchewan for Métis Nation – Saskatchewan citizens, and free access to Lower Fort Garry and Riel House national historic sites in Manitoba for Manitoba Metis Federation citizens.
- Symbolic re-naming of day-use area in Point Pelee National Park from "Pioneer" to "Madbin Jina".
- Signing of Terms of Reference with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan agreeing to explore and discuss a full range of options related to the future management of Batoche National Historic Site.
- Government of Canada and Treaty One Nation celebrated at Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site to mark the 149th commemoration of Treaty No. 1 and begin the countdown to the Treaty 150 commemoration which will take place in August 2021.



## **2020-2021 PARKS CANADA SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (C)**

### **ISSUE**

- The Supplementary Estimates C is the third and final opportunity for Parks Canada to make adjustments to its 2020-21 reference levels. Parks Canada is seeking to increase its reference levels in the amount of \$54,195,000 through these Supplementary Estimates.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Through the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates (C), the Agency is seeking to increase its reference levels in the amount of approximately \$54.2 million.
- The majority of this amount – up to \$54 million – will help sustain Agency operations by partially covering the potential shortfall in revenue for the last six months of the 2020-21 fiscal year due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The revenue shortfall is primarily due to reduced visitation to Parks Canada places, as well as reduced sales of permits and services.
- The Supplementary Estimates (C) also includes a transfer of \$95,000 from Fisheries and Oceans Canada in support of work related to the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan.
- Finally, there are other adjustments, that do not change the Agency's reference level, in relation to a vote transfer in the amount of \$9.3 million to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account to support the establishment of the following national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas: Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve, Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, Lake Superior National Marine Protected Area, Qausuittuq/Bathurst National Park, Wreck of HMS Erebus & HMS Terror National Historic Site, Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area and Akami-Uapishk<sup>U</sup>-KakKasuak-Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve; and a transfer of a grant funding of \$10 million from the current named grant "Grant to the Dehcho First Nations" to the new named grant "Grant to implement the Impact and Benefit Agreements for Nahanni National Park Reserve".

### **BACKGROUND / DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS**

#### **Total Estimates to Date (Main Estimates plus Supplementary Estimates A, B and C)**

- Parks Canada's total Current Authorities for 2020-21, including Main Estimates, Supplementary Estimates A, B and C and funding received through other standard technical adjustments total \$1.6 billion.
- The \$1.6 billion broken out by Main Estimates and the Supplementary Estimates is as follows:
  - Main Estimates total \$1.1 billion
  - Supplementary Estimates A total \$141.2 million which is new funding to support capital program investments
  - Supplementary Estimates B total \$83.9 million which is mainly new funding to replace revenue shortfall in order to sustain Agency operations – COVID-19.
  - Supplementary Estimates C total \$54.2 million, primarily to partially replace revenue shortfall and sustain Agency operations (referred above and page proofs attached)
  - Funding received through standard technical adjustments (2019-2020 carry-forward and compensation allocations relating to collective bargaining agreements) total \$214.1 million.



## **DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS**

### **1- Funding to sustain Operations (COVID-19): \$54.1 million**

- In Supplementary Estimates C, Parks Canada is seeking new funding to partially cover the Agency's potential revenue shortfall in the last six months of the 2020-21 fiscal year, relating primarily to visitation revenue, as well as other revenues that are at risk of not being generated (i.e., permits and sales of services). This is an "up to" amount as the Agency will only have access to the amount of the actual revenue shortfall and will be required to absorb some of the shortfall within existing reference levels.
- This is the second injection of funding for the Agency this fiscal year to address its revenue shortfall. The first injection was accessed in Supplementary Estimates B which included funding of up to \$74.1 million to address shortfalls for the first six months. Of this, \$35.4 million was provided to the Agency.
- By way of background, Parks Canada is a special operating agency and retains the revenues earned from fees. These revenues are reinvested in service delivery and help Parks Canada provide greater opportunities for visitors across the country.
- Parks Canada generates between \$170 million to \$175 million in revenue annually, primarily from visitor services, commercial real property agreements, and the sale of permits and other goods and services, to support core and ongoing operations.
- In support of government efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve of the pandemic, Parks Canada temporarily suspended visitor services and access at all national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas from March 19 to June 1, 2020, to align with the guidance of public health authorities.
- This action was unprecedented, as were measures implemented by the Agency to ensure that critical services such as avalanche control, search and rescue, highway maintenance, law enforcement, and key municipal services continues and were adapted to keep our employees safe in the context of the pandemic.
- Beginning June 1, the Agency gradually and partially restored visitor services at select locations with modifications to mitigate health and safety risks, while providing Canadians access to the health and wellness benefits of being outdoors in nature.
- Since then, as the Agency manages through the pandemic, it continues to ensure the health and safety of its employees, visitors and all Canadians, to follow public health measures (social distancing, restriction on indoor and group activities, travel restrictions) and to monitor efforts to flatten the curve and progress regarding vaccinations with a view to being ready, as appropriate, to adjust operations.
- Between April 1 and September 30, 2020, visitation to Parks Canada's places remained relatively high and it reached approximately 13.3 million visitors or 65% of 2019 levels. An additional 1.9 million visitors came between October 1 and December 31, 2020, resulting in an estimated 15.1 million visitors for the full April to December 2020 operating period (68% of 2019 levels).
- While visitation remained relatively high during the period of April to December 2020, visitation revenues were negatively and disproportionately impacted for the same period, representing \$36 million or 42% compared to 2019 levels, because only locations that could be operated safely were open to visitation, combined with a preference among visitors for safer, low cost and autonomous outdoor activities (e.g. hiking and enjoying day-use areas). All factors that are impacting the Agency's annual revenues for 2020-21.



- This financial support to partially address Parks Canada's revenue shortfall allows the Agency to effectively sustain operations, including permanent and seasonal staffing levels, manage COVID-19 risks for visitors and employees, and continue to address uncertainty by continually adapting visitor services and operations so that Canadians can safely enjoy the wellness benefits of access to the outdoors in national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas.

## **2- Transfer– Total increase of \$0.1 million**

### **Transfer from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in support of work related to the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan: \$95,000**

- The funds from the transfer are to be used in support of the project entitled Aquatic Contaminated Site Assessment and Monitoring in Yoho National Park, Waterton Lakes National Park and Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.
- The project objective is to support the collection of data on potential contaminants that may cause concerns in specific aquatic ecosystems in those three national parks. This work enhances Parks Canada's on-going research of aquatic ecosystems.
- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has an interest in having Parks Canada undertake these activities to assist DFO in meeting its mandate to provide scientifically sound, nationally consistent advice on the risks to aquatic ecosystems, including fish and fish habitat, posed by contaminated sites.

### **3- Internal Reallocation of Resources (Vote transfer) to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account (NPHS Account) to support the creation and expansion of new National Historic Sites, National Parks and National Marine Conservation Areas:**

- The amount of the vote transfer via Supplementary Estimates C is \$9.3 million and does not change the Agency's overall reference levels.
- Parks Canada is seeking approval to transfer resources from its program operating/expenditures vote (Vote 1) to the New Parks and Historic Sites vote (Vote 5) in order to set aside funds for the future establishment of national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas.
- As per the Treasury Board Secretariat's guidance, transfers between votes within an organization are to be included in the Supplementary Estimates.
- The NPHS Account is a special purpose account that provides the Agency with the ability to set aside capital funds for new historic sites, parks and national marine conservation areas. Funds are deposited into the New Parks and Historic Sites Account in order to protect the funding required, for use in the future, to honour 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.



- These specific funds (\$9.3 million) relate to the following national historic site, national parks and national marine conservation areas:

	Requested funding
Naats’ihch’oh National Park Reserve	\$600,000
Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve	\$2,000,000
Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area	\$2,000,000
Qausuittuq/Bathurst National Park	\$1,900,000
Wrecks of HMS Erebus & HMS Terror National Historic Site	\$100,000
Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area	\$2,100,000
Akami-Uapishk <sup>U</sup> -KakKasuak-Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve	\$600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,300,000</b>

**4- Internal reallocation of resources from the Grant to the Dehcho First Nations to the new Grant to implement the Impact and Benefit Agreements for Nahanni National Park Reserve:**

- Parks Canada has authority for a grant in the amount of \$10 million in order to support the completion of the Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) for Nahanni National Park Reserve. This current authority is a named grant to the Dehcho First Nation.
- It is now expected that the Agency will proceed with the negotiation of two agreements with the Dehcho First Nations and the Nahanni Butte Dene Band.
- Amending the grant recipient requires approval through the Estimates process. As such, Parks Canada seeks to transfer the grant funding of \$10 million from the named grant “Grant to the Dehcho First Nations” to the new named grant “Grant to implement the Impact and Benefit Agreements for Nahanni National Park Reserve”.



Parks Canada Agency

Organization Summary				
	Authorities To Date	These Supplementary Estimates		Proposed Authorities To Date
		Transfers	Adjustments	
		(dollars)		
<b>Budgetary Voted</b>				
1c      Program expenditures	1,312,611,680	(9,205,000)	54,100,000	1,357,506,680
5c      Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account	9,992,000	9,300,000	.....	19,292,000
<b>Total Voted</b>	<b>1,322,603,680</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>54,100,000</b>	<b>1,376,798,680</b>
Total Statutory	224,146,220	.....	.....	224,146,220
<b>Total Budgetary Expenditures</b>	<b>1,546,749,900</b>	<b>95,000</b>	<b>54,100,000</b>	<b>1,600,944,900</b>
Note: Additional details by organization are available on the Treasury Board Secretariat website – <a href="http://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat.html">http://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat.html</a> .				

Explanation of Requirements

<b>(dollars) Budgetary Voted Appropriations</b>			
Funding to sustain operations (COVID-19)		Vote 1c	<b>54,100,000</b>
<b>Total Voted Appropriations</b>			<b>54,100,000</b>
<b>Transfers</b>			
Transfers from Other Organizations			
From the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to Parks Canada Agency for the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan		Vote 1c	<b>95,000</b>
Internal Transfers			
Internal reallocation of resources to support the creation and expansion of New National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas		Vote 1c	(9,300,000)
		Vote 5c	9,300,000
Total			.....
Internal reallocation of resources from Grant to the Dehcho First Nations (\$10,000,000) to Grant to implement the Impact and Benefit Agreements for Nahanni National Park Reserve		Vote 1c	.....
<b>Total Transfers</b>			<b>95,000</b>
<b>Total Budgetary</b>			<b>54,195,000</b>

Listing of Transfer Payments

	Estimates to Date	These Supplementary Estimates	Revised Estimates
		(dollars)	
<b>Grants</b>			
Grant to implement the Impact and Benefit Agreements for Nahanni National Park Reserve	.....	10,000,000	10,000,000

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

Vote No.	Items	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
1c	PARKS CANADA AGENCY  – Program expenditures – Capital expenditures – The grants listed in any of the Estimates for the fiscal year – Contributions, including (a) expenditures on other than federal property; and (b) payments to provinces and municipalities as contributions towards the cost of undertakings carried out by those bodies		54,100,000
			54,100,000

SUPPLEMENTARY  
ESTIMATES (C),  
2020–21

Expenditures by Program or Purpose

Budgetary	Estimates to Date	These Supplementary Estimates				Total	Revised Estimates
		Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments	Revenues and other reductions		
		(dollars)					
Parks Canada Agency							
Protecting and Presenting Canada’s Natural and Cultural Heritage	1,224,430,105	52,431,638	.....	.....	.....	52,431,638	1,276,861,743
Internal Services	108,201,616	1,763,362	.....	.....	.....	1,763,362	109,964,978
Total	1,332,631,721	54,195,000	.....	.....	.....	54,195,000	1,386,826,721
Total Budgetary	1,332,631,721	54,195,000	.....	.....	.....	54,195,000	1,386,826,721

# SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (C), 2020–21

## Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

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

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

### Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

	Personnel	Transportation and communications	Information	Professional and special services	Rentals	Purchased repair and maintenance	Utilities, materials and supplies	Acquisition of land, buildings and works	Acquisition of machinery and equipment	Transfer payments	Public debt charges	Other subsidies and payments	Less: Revenues and other reductions	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Parks Canada Agency	.....	1,403,065	637,262	13,629,632	1,677,626	2,062,856	3,650,434	29,376,282	1,757,843	.....	.....	.....	.....	54,195,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>1,403,065</b>	<b>637,262</b>	<b>13,629,632</b>	<b>1,677,626</b>	<b>2,062,856</b>	<b>3,650,434</b>	<b>29,376,282</b>	<b>1,757,843</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>54,195,000</b>



2021-2022 PARKS CANADA  
MAIN ESTIMATES

ISSUE

- The Agency’s reference levels for the 2021-22 Main Estimates are presented at \$1,129.1 million.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Approximately \$1,129.1 million in total funding is anticipated through the 2021-22 Main Estimates, which represents an increase of \$21.6 million or 2% compared to the 2020-21 Main Estimates.
- The \$1,129.1 million is composed of:
  - A voted spending authority amount of \$924.3 million (82%) and consist of \$916.9 million in program expenditures (Vote 1) and \$7.4 million for the New Parks and Historic Sites Account (Vote 5).
  - A statutory amount of \$204.8 million (18%) and consist of \$54.8 million for the Employee Benefit Plan and \$150 million for expenditures equivalent to revenues.
- The increase in funding is primarily due to the funding received for the ratification of the collective agreements<sup>1</sup>.
- With the funding received in Main Estimates, Parks Canada will continue to protect, present, and manage Canada’s national urban park, national historic sites, national parks, heritage canals and national marine conservation areas for the benefit and enjoyment of Canadians.

Main Estimates – Description of new items

1. Funding to support Capital Assets in Canada’s National Historic Sites, National Parks and National Marine Conservation Areas - Budget 2019 Measure: \$222.1 million

- [REDACTED]

An amount of \$140.9 million was received through the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates A and \$222.1 million through the 2021-22 Main Estimates.
- This funding will allow the Agency to continue addressing its highest priority capital asset projects and thereby mitigate risks to public health and safety, halt irreversible loss of iconic sites and avoid higher long-term costs.
- Budget 2019 funding will address the most immediate pressures on Parks Canada’s current high priority projects. The selection of projects will align with Parks Canada’s Investment Plan and will allow the Agency to leverage existing specialized internal capacity in engineering and project management, which has been built through the Federal Infrastructure Initiative (FII) program, to manage its infrastructure needs on a large scale.

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

- [REDACTED]

An amount of \$2.1 million was received through the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates B, \$2.2 million through this 2021-22 Main Estimates and another \$2.2 million will be reflected in 2022-23 Estimates.

<sup>1</sup> The increase of \$21.6 million is largely attributable to the ratification of the collective agreement, offset by other adjustments to last year’s Main Estimates.



- Jasper National Park has been monitoring and managing mountain pine beetle since they were first recorded in the park in 1999.
- Recent research shows that the leading edge of the infestation was likely slowed by control efforts, and that extended cold temperatures during winters of 2019 and 2020 provided a further control effect on mountain pine beetle populations. While the research results are welcome, there is still much work to do to mitigate mountain pine beetle-related impacts, particularly in the forests surrounding communities located within the Rocky Mountain national parks (Jasper, Banff, Kootenay and Yoho), as well as those that abut susceptible provincial forests.
- Funding will support research to enhance beetle management practices and allow government, academia, industry and other stakeholders to continue working together to protect Canada’s forests and communities, and support the economy.
- There is work underway. Specifically, Parks Canada is:
  - in partnership with the Municipality of Jasper, expanding the ‘FireSmart’ program to reduce the fire hazard created through mountain pine beetle-killed trees;
  - establishing contracts to work on hazard tree removal in two large Jasper National Park campgrounds;
  - in collaboration with the Jasper Indigenous Forum, beginning to work on the action plan to reduce fire risk at Jasper’s Cultural Use Area, and;
  - undertaking the engineering on further fire suppression and protection methods for affected national park communities (e.g., high volume fire suppression systems).

3. Transfers – Total increase of \$0.9 million

A. Transfer from the Treasury Board Secretariat to various organizations for innovative approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in government operations: \$814,400

This transfer is part of the Greening Government Fund that was established to provide funding for departments to explore and share innovative approaches to reducing GHG emissions in government operations. The funding is for three separate projects, as follows:

Project	2021-22
Northern Housing Greening Initiative	\$200,000
Ya Ha Tinda Horse Ranch	\$80,000
Kejimikujik Campground Solar Array	\$534,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$814,400</b>

**Project 1: Northern Housing Greening Initiative - \$200,000**

*Funding of a project to design replicable, single and multi-unit houses that are highly energy efficient while being practical for arctic communities.*

The objective of this project is to build a Net Zero Carbon ready, highly efficient residential unit that supports the Parks Canada’s carbon reduction goals. An outcome of the project will be a sustainable and resilient design that is replicable and practical in the northern context. This project will serve to demonstrate the practicality of implementing high efficiency design standards that improve occupant comfort and health, and delivers real lifecycle cost benefits. Ultimately, this project will inform the Agency’s strategy for the replacement of the aging and inefficient housing stock and meeting the increasing demand for staff housing. The findings will be shared with all Federal Departments operating in the North and other levels of government (including Indigenous, Territorial, and Municipal) that have staff housing requirements.



**Project 2: Ya Ha Tinda Horse Ranch - \$80,000**

*Funding of a project to install a solar microgrid to supplement the power supply to the buildings at Ya Ha Tinda Ranch giving the facility a hybrid solar/generator power system.*

To operate this active working ranch, including its 4 houses, work shed, historic cabin, and barn, electricity is supplied by a diesel generator, which currently runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days per year. The Banff Field Unit Asset Management team will install renewable solar energy to reduce the reliance on power supplied by the diesel generator, while maintaining the continuous supply of electricity to the ranch buildings. For this unique off-grid location, the project includes generating enough renewable solar power to meet the estimated electrical demand from the facility during the spring and summer months to significantly reduce GHG emissions (offset scope 1 emissions). This proposal provides additional benefits such as reduced diesel fuel consumption, and associated delivery expenses, which are significant due to logistical challenges of supplying fuel to this remote location. Estimates indicate that the renewable solar energy project would save approximately \$21,000 per year in fuel consumption and fuel delivery expenses. Other advantages include reducing the need for repair and maintenance on the generator and cutting down on the associated noise pollution. The generator, which provides safe and reliable electricity, shall be retained to overcome the challenges associated with the intermittency of solar power.

**Project 3: Kejimikujik Campground Solar Array - \$534,400**

*Funding of a project to construct a photovoltaic solar array with a net meter at Kejimikujik National Park and Historic Site, to offset electrical consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the park.*

Parks Canada is investing \$8 million in a net metered photovoltaic solar array system at Kejimikujik National Park and Historic Site that will generate solar energy to offset electricity consumption of park visitors at electrified sites, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the park (commenced fall 2019, to be completed in spring 2021).

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

This transfer is related to one of the initiatives under the Trans Mountain Expansion project. The Salish Sea initiative has the purpose of responding to Indigenous concerns regarding cumulative impacts on the Salish Sea. Parks Canada will participate in a DFO-led initiative with the objective to guide and support identification of Valuable Ecosystem Components, and support guidance for identification of immediate projects and capacity needs for Indigenous groups. A Valued Ecosystem Component can be defined as an environmental element of an ecosystem that is identified as having scientific, ecological, social, cultural, economic, historical, archaeological or aesthetic importance.

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



4. Other Adjustments – Total increase of \$20.9 million

A. Compensation Adjustments for Collective Agreements:

The adjustment of \$24,095,842 results in an ongoing permanent increase to the Agency’s reference levels of \$23,034,733 for employees and \$1,061,109 for students, related to recently negotiated collective agreements. The required funding for 2021-22 is as follow:

	Personnel	Employee Benefit Plan	Total Funding
PSAC Collective Agreement *	18,971,216	3,225,106	22,196,322
PE Collective Agreement	716,591	121,820	838,411
Students	906,931	154,178	1,061,109
Total	20,594,738	3,501,104	24,095,842

\*PSAC Collective Agreement included the following classifications: AR, AS, BI, CO, CR, CS, DD, EG, EL, EN, ES, FI, FO, HP, HR, IS, LS, PC, PL, PG, PM, PY, SCDED, SE, SI

B. Final Domestic Demand Implicit Price Index (FDDIPI):

Funding of \$49,898 in 2021-22 to adjust for the effect of inflation on the following agreements for 2021-22: Umbrella Final Agreement and Yukon First Nation Final Agreements; Nunavut Final Agreement; Inuvialuit Final Agreement; and Tlicho Final Agreement. This adjustment is a requirement stated in the Treasury Board submission and is to be done through the ARLU every year.

C. Employee Benefit Plan (EBP) Adjustment:

The adjustment in EBP of \$-3,291,793 is made to reflect the variation in planned personnel expenditures from year to year and to reflect the decrease of 0.5% in EBP rate determined by TBS from 2019-20 to 2020-21.



Parks Canada Agency

Raison d'être

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

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

Organizational Estimates

		2019–20	2020–21		2021–22
		Expenditures	Main	Estimates	Main Estimates
			Estimates	To Date	
		(dollars)			
<b>Budgetary</b>					
<b>Voted</b>					
1	Program expenditures	1,219,082,783	898,652,518	1,163,381,578	916,901,348
5	Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account	26,323,000	9,992,000	19,292,000	7,371,000
<b>Total Voted</b>		<b>1,245,405,783</b>	<b>908,644,518</b>	<b>1,182,673,578</b>	<b>924,272,348</b>
Total Statutory		234,868,873	198,887,333	204,153,143	204,836,381
<b>Total Budgetary</b>		<b>1,480,274,656</b>	<b>1,107,531,851</b>	<b>1,386,826,721</b>	<b>1,129,108,729</b>

**2021–22 Main Estimates by Purpose**

<b>Budgetary</b>	<b>Operating</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Transfer Payments (dollars)</b>	<b>Revenues and other reductions</b>	<b>Total</b>
Protecting and Presenting Canada's Natural and Cultural Heritage	518,007,575	458,904,215	38,360,521	.....	1,015,272,311
Internal Services	111,027,521	2,808,897	.....	.....	113,836,418
<b>Total</b>	<b>629,035,096</b>	<b>461,713,112</b>	<b>38,360,521</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>1,129,108,729</b>

Listing of the 2021–22 Transfer Payments

	2019–20 Expenditures	2020–21 Main Estimates	2021–22 Main Estimates
	(dollars)		
<b>Grants</b>			
Grants for the Implementation of Rights and Reconciliation Agreements in Atlantic Canada	.....	4,094,700	4,090,400
Tallurutiup Imanga Inuit Stewardship Program Seed Fund	2,927,088	2,400,000	3,100,000
Inuit Research Fund	.....	1,000,000	1,000,000
Grant to the International Peace Garden	22,700	22,700	22,700
<b>Contributions</b>			
Contributions in support of activities or projects related to national parks, national marine conservation areas, national historic sites and historic canals	16,939,187	15,835,443	21,647,421
Support to the Great Trail	7,500,000	7,500,000	7,500,000
Contributions in support of the National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program	846,555	1,000,000	1,000,000

Listing of Statutory Authorities

	2019–20 Expenditures	2020–21 Estimates To Date	2021–22 Main Estimates
	(dollars)		
<b>Budgetary</b>			
Expenditures equivalent to revenues resulting from the conduct of operations pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	176,336,244	150,000,000	150,000,000
Contributions to employee benefit plans	58,532,629	54,153,143	54,836,381

**Items for inclusion in the Proposed Schedule 1 to the Appropriation Bill**  
(for the financial year ending March 31, 2022)

Unless specifically identified under the **Changes in 2021–22 Main Estimates** section, all vote wordings have been provided in earlier appropriation acts.

Vote No.	Items	Amount (\$)	Total (\$)
	<b>PARKS CANADA AGENCY</b>		
1	– Program expenditures	916,901,348	
	– Capital expenditures		
	– The grants listed in any of the Estimates for the fiscal year		
	– Contributions, including		
	(a) expenditures on other than federal property; and		
	(b) payments to provinces and municipalities as contributions towards the cost of undertakings carried out by those bodies		
5	– Amounts credited to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account for the purposes specified in subsection 21(3) of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	7,371,000	
			924,272,348
			924,272,348

# 2021–22 ESTIMATES

## Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

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

Definitions of standard objects available at: <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/recgen/pceaf-gwcoa/2122/7-eng.html>

### Budgetary Expenditures by Standard Object

	Personnel	Transportation and communications	Information	Professional and special services	Rentals	Purchased repair and maintenance	Utilities, materials and supplies	Acquisition of land, buildings and works	Acquisition of machinery and equipment	Transfer payments	Public debt charges	Other subsidies and payments	Less: Revenues and other reductions	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Parks Canada Agency	425,352,470	24,048,412	10,057,992	169,510,543	23,553,327	26,991,890	60,433,581	292,619,329	30,140,590	38,360,521	.....	28,040,074	.....	1,129,108,729
<b>Total</b>	<b>425,352,470</b>	<b>24,048,412</b>	<b>10,057,992</b>	<b>169,510,543</b>	<b>23,553,327</b>	<b>26,991,890</b>	<b>60,433,581</b>	<b>292,619,329</b>	<b>30,140,590</b>	<b>38,360,521</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>28,040,074</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>1,129,108,729</b>

# 2021–22 ESTIMATES

## Statutory Forecasts

	2019–20 Expenditures	2020–21 Estimates To Date (dollars)	2021–22 Main Estimates
<b>Budgetary</b>			
<b>Parks Canada Agency</b>			
Expenditures equivalent to revenues resulting from the conduct of operations pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	176,336,244	150,000,000	150,000,000
Contributions to employee benefit plans	58,532,629	54,153,143	54,836,381
<b>Total Budgetary</b>	<b>234,868,873</b>	<b>204,153,143</b>	<b>204,836,381</b>

# 2021–22 ESTIMATES

## Expenditures by Purpose

Budgetary	2020–21	2021–22 Main Estimates				
	Main Estimates	Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments (dollars)	Revenues and other reductions	Total
Parks Canada Agency						
Protecting and Presenting Canada’s Natural and Cultural Heritage	1,022,207,842	518,007,575	458,904,215	38,360,521	.....	1,015,272,311
Internal Services	85,324,009	111,027,521	2,808,897	.....	.....	113,836,418
Total	1,107,531,851	629,035,096	461,713,112	38,360,521	.....	1,129,108,729

Interim Supply Requirements

Parks Canada Agency

Approved and Pending Items (dollars) (*triage items included*)

Vote No.	Vote wording and explanation(s) of Additional Twelfths	Total Main Estimates	Amount Granted
1	<div>– Program expenditures</div> <div>– Capital expenditures</div> <div>– The grants listed in any of the Estimates for the fiscal year</div> <div>– Contributions, including</div> <div>(a) expenditures on other than federal property; and</div> <div>(b) payments to provinces and municipalities as contributions towards the cost of undertakings carried out by those bodies</div> <div>No additional twelfths beyond the normal three-twelfths</div>	916,901,348	229,225,337
5	<div>– Amounts credited to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account for the purposes specified in subsection 21(3) of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i></div> <div>No additional twelfths beyond the normal three-twelfths</div>	7,371,000	1,842,750





## **PARKS CANADA DEPARTMENTAL PLAN 2021-22**

### **ISSUE**

- The Departmental Plan 2021-22 was tabled in Parliament on February 25, 2021 and committee members may pose questions on its contents.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks Canada administers one of the finest and most extensive systems of natural and cultural heritage places in the world.
- As the world continues to respond to the challenges of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Canadians have found comfort in the outdoors and nature. Parks Canada's role in protecting nationally significant examples of natural and cultural heritage and facilitating the enjoyment of these treasured places by Canadians has never been more important.
- The Departmental Plan 2021-22 continues to focus on the five priorities established in the 2020-21 plan: Natural Heritage Protection; Cultural Heritage Protection; Connecting to Canadians; Asset Sustainability; and, Business Innovation. It also adds a sixth priority, Workforce Equity, Accessibility, Inclusion and Diversity, and Well Being, in an effort to foster a diverse workforce and to promote inclusion and equity within Parks Canada.
- Through this Department Plan, Parks Canada demonstrates its strengthened commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility, and in addressing climate change.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- The departmental plan provides information on Parks Canada's plans and expected performance over a three-year period, aligned with the commitments set out in your mandate letter and Government-wide priorities.
- Parks Canada will continue to support Canada's commitment to expand the network of protected and conserved areas and contribute to biodiversity and the recovery of species at risk. In collaboration with Indigenous partners, stakeholders, and other levels of government, Canada is committed to protecting biodiversity and conserving 25 percent of land and inland waters and 25 percent of marine and coastal areas by 2025, working toward 30 percent by 2030.
- Parks Canada is committed to ensuring that Canadians have opportunities to learn about the full scope of our shared history, including the difficult periods that are part of our past. Parks Canada administered places strive to provide a comprehensive and balanced overview of Canada's history which incorporates different perspectives.
- The plan underlines Parks Canada's commitment to taking action to ensure that its recruitment and retention plans, policies and programs, and delivery of services to Canadians are guided by the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility.
- In the coming year, Parks Canada will continue to be a key player in providing access to nature and supporting tourism in Canada – working with nearby communities to foster economic opportunities and providing visitor experiences that attract a broad diversity of Canadians, particularly in light of the need to support economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.



## **COVID-19 RELATED IMPACTS ON PARKS CANADA'S REVENUES**

### **ISSUE**

- Parks Canada Supplementary Estimates C includes funding to address the potential revenue shortfall that the Agency anticipates in the last six months of the fiscal year due to the impact of the pandemic on revenues primarily relating to visitation, as well as other revenues that are at risk of not being generated (i.e., permits and sales of services).

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks Canada is a special operating agency and retains the revenues earned from fees. These revenues are reinvested in service delivery and help Parks Canada provide greater opportunities for visitors across the country.
- Parks Canada generates between \$170 million to \$175 million in revenue annually, primarily from visitor services, commercial real property agreements, and the sale of permits and other goods and services, to support core and ongoing operations.
- In support of government efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve of the pandemic, Parks Canada temporarily suspended visitor services and access at all national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas from March 19 to June 1, 2020 to align with the guidance of public health authorities.
- This action was unprecedented, as were measures implemented by the Agency to ensure that critical services such as avalanche control, search and rescue, highway maintenance, law enforcement, and key municipal services continues and were adapted to keep our employees safe in the context of the pandemic.
- Beginning June 1, the Agency gradually restored visitor services at select locations with modifications to mitigate health and safety risks, while providing Canadians access to the health and wellness benefits of being outdoors in nature.
- Since then, as the Agency manages through the pandemic, it continues to ensure the health and safety of its employees, visitors and all Canadians, to follow public health measures (social distancing, restriction on indoor and group activities, travel restrictions) and to monitor efforts to flatten the curve and progress regarding vaccinations with a view to being ready, as appropriate, to adjust operations.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Between April 1 and September 30, 2020, visitation to Parks Canada's places remained relatively high and it reached approximately 13.3 million visitors or 65% of 2019 levels. An additional 1.9 million visitors came between October 1 and December 31, 2020, resulting in an estimated 15.1 million visitors for the full April to December 2020 operating period (68% of 2019 levels).
- While visitation remained relatively high during the period of April to December 2020, visitation revenues were negatively and disproportionately impacted for the same period, representing \$36 million or 42% compared to 2019 levels, because only locations that could be operated safely were open to visitation, combined with a preference among visitors for safer, low cost and autonomous outdoor activities (e.g. hiking and enjoying day-use areas). All factors that are impacting the Agency's annual revenues for 2020-21.
- In Supplementary Estimates C, Parks Canada is seeking new funding to partially cover the Agency's potential revenue shortfall in the last six months of the 2020-21 fiscal year, relating primarily to visitation revenue, as well as other revenues that are at risk of not being generated (i.e., permits and sales of services). This is an "up to" amount as the Agency will only have access to the amount of the actual revenue shortfall and will be required to absorb some of the shortfall within existing reference levels.



- This is the second injection of funding for the Agency this fiscal year to address its revenue shortfall. The first injection was accessed in Supplementary Estimates B which included funding of up to \$74.1 million to address shortfalls for the first six months. Of this, \$35.4 million was provided to the Agency.
- This financial support to partially address Parks Canada's revenue shortfall allows the Agency to effectively sustain operations, including permanent and seasonal staffing levels, manage COVID-19 risks for visitors and employees, and monitor as vaccinations progress with a view to being ready, as appropriate, to adjust operations and visitor services, so that Canadians can continue to safely enjoy the wellness benefits of access to the outdoors in national historic sites, national parks and marine conservation areas.



## **DEFERRED PAYMENTS & RENT RELIEF**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

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

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Parks Canada Agency provided rent relief to commercial tenants from April 2020 to September 2020 that was equivalent to the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. CECRA ended on October 9, 2020 and was replaced by the Government of Canada Commercial Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) program.
- Effective September 27, 2020, all Parks Canada lessees can apply directly to the CERS program which provides support to eligible organizations experiencing a drop in revenues due to COVID-19. Canada Revenue Agency is the lead for the CERS program.
- Rent relief was only provided to eligible commercial businesses, as well as the Towns of Banff and Jasper. Residential lessees and licensees, and other agreement holders such as utility agreements, are not affected.

### **PIRATE LIFE**

- There are ongoing discussions with some commercial tenants, such as Pirate Life, who have complained about the extent of relief being provided through government programs.
- Pirate Life is a seasonal operation on the Rideau Canal and is permitted through a licence of occupation from May 15, 2020 to October 31, 2020. The operator pays an annual licence fee of [REDACTED] (whichever is greater), with payments due July 1, September 1 and March 1. The operator has disputed the calculation of the rental reduction as the licence limits the occupation of the site to a six-month period and because their operations were further impacted by the delays and restrictions imposed by Transport Canada on the operation of passenger vessels until July 1



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada



- Parks Canada has been in contact with the business owner on several occasions regarding his rent concerns and has provided a full explanation about how the numbers were obtained. Parks Canada is also actively discussing a renewal of the agreement and additional business opportunities for 2021. Parks Canada has also committed to working with Pirate Life to investigate additional rent relief or deferral opportunities.
- Parks Canada has received complaints and concerns from other commercial boat operators along the Rideau Canal and the Trent Severn Waterway regarding the impact to their business as a result of Transport Canada restrictions.



## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **ISSUE**

- Climate change is impacting Parks Canada places and operations, posing complex and interconnected risks across all programs and areas of responsibility.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks and protected areas in Canada are part of a “nature-based solution” to climate change, as healthy ecosystems help nature and people adapt to climate change. These places conserve biodiversity, protect ecosystem services, connect landscapes, take up and store carbon, build knowledge and understanding, and inspire people.
- By using ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation and adaptation, Parks Canada's work provides important co-benefits that address multiple climate change risks and impacts, not only contributing to landscape-level biodiversity conservation, but also protecting ecosystem services and benefiting human health and well-being.
- Through the 32.2 million hectares of natural capital found in the 47 national parks, one urban park, and the five national marine conservation areas administered by Parks Canada, Canadians annually benefit from a host of ecosystem services that are valued at \$266 billion. This preliminary estimate does not include the value of ecosystem services from natural capital in national marine conservation areas, national historic sites, nor the marine component of national parks and reserves.
- Parks Canada is working to find ways to prevent the damage or destruction of irreplaceable cultural resources resulting from local climate change impacts (e.g., flooding). Parks Canada is working with partners to identify potential solutions such as building physical barriers, using modern engineering techniques and materials, or even – in very extreme situations – moving buildings or resources away from locations where they might be harmed.
- Parks Canada places provide important opportunities to engage Canadians in built heritage conservation and climate change research and actions, while inspiring long-lasting public support for nature.
- Parks is working to improve its understanding of current and future climate change impacts, and to enhance its ability to adapt, through a variety of initiatives, including the following:
  - Agency experts are co-leading two working groups that include federal, provincial and territorial managers, as well as Indigenous, industry and academic partners, to develop and share knowledge and best practices for heritage place stewardship in the context of climate change.
  - Parks Canada is developing, in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Climate Services, a series of climate summaries. This work builds on a series of Parks Canada regional and site-specific reports summarizing the evolution of climate conditions at heritage places and the potential impacts that projected changes may cause.
  - Parks Canada led the development of a climate change adaptation framework for parks and protected areas, in collaboration with federal, provincial and territorial partners.

Agency scientists are conducting research, in collaboration with the Canadian Forest Service and other organizations, to develop Parks Canada's Carbon Atlas series, which will assess and map ecosystem carbon dynamics within the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of Canada's national parks and national marine conservation areas.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- The quay wall at the fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site was rebuilt and raised by one metre to guard the fortress against impacts of rising sea levels and storm surges.
- The Cavendish Beach dune crossing in Prince Edward Island National Park was rebuilt and repositioned to a location that is less susceptible to coastal erosion and dune movement arising from more frequent and severe storms.



- The Nassau Guard Gate was installed on the Trent Severn Waterway in Peterborough to help manage waters during high water events.
- Armor stone fortifications have been installed in Fundy and Point Pelee to help mitigate shoreline erosion.
- Snow nets and remote avalanche control systems were installed along the Trans-Canada Highway in B.C. as part of our infrastructure renewal.
- Conserving an endemic thistle in Mingan Archipelago National Park Reserve by collecting and germinating seeds, then planting seedlings to boost population viability, in collaboration with the University of Guelph and the Montreal Biodome.
- PEI National Park and academic partners are working together to assess dune vegetation recovery following tropical storm Dorian (September 2019), to better understand the recovery of coastal ecosystems after extreme weather events.
- Climate-smart ecosystem restoration work at national parks, for example, at Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site, is implementing climate change adaptation measures to actively manage the forest structure to better withstand extreme weather events, such as hurricanes.





## **SPECIES AT RISK**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks Canada is an active partner in implementing the Pan-Canadian Approach to Transforming Species at Risk Conservation
- More than 230 species at risk occur on Parks Canada lands and waters, which is about 40% of all listed species. All six Priority Species occur on Parks Canada lands.
- Parks Canada has developed 22 site-based, multi-Species Action Plans that identify recovery actions for over 220 species of conservation concern (including over 127 SARA-listed species) occurring in 42 Parks Canada places.
- Since December 2019, Parks Canada has completed two Critical Habitat Ministerial Orders, six Critical Habitat Descriptions, and one Critical Habitat Protection statement. Many more are underway.
- In 2019-20 Parks Canada allocated approximately \$2.5 million to projects that initiated more than 60 actions identified in Species at risk action plans.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

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

### **High profile Species in Parks:**

#### **Bison:**

- A National Bison Strategy is currently under development and will 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.





- Two examples of our recent work include the transfer of six plains bison transferred to Waterton Lakes National Park in February 2021, with several Indigenous elders on hand to commemorate the occasion; and the transfer of 30 wood bison calves from Elk Island National Park to Russia in April 2020.

#### **Southern Mountain Caribou:**

- Parks Canada has invested \$1.5 million dollars from the Nature Legacy Initiative and taken concrete steps to reduce threats to Southern Mountain Caribou and create better conditions for their survival and recovery. For example, implementation of winter habitat protection to reduce the likelihood of wolves accessing caribou habitat, and exploring a conservation breeding program.
- Working with partners and experts, Parks Canada has developed a preliminary project proposal to rebuild caribou herds in Jasper National Park and is exploring options.
- The recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou herds ranging into Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks is tightly linked to management of the species and its habitat on provincial lands adjacent to the parks. Parks Canada is working closely with the province of B.C. to determine next steps for recovery of these herds.

#### **Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW):**

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



## **MEASURES TO PROTECT CARIBOU IN JASPER NATIONAL PARK**

(All data current as of February 16, 2021)

### **ISSUE**

- Parks Canada's announcement in September 2020 that the Maligne herd is extirpated has since garnered media attention and questions from environmental non-governmental organizations about Parks Canada's conservation measures and plans for caribou recovery in Jasper National Park.
- Southern Mountain Caribou populations in Alberta and B.C. have declined significantly across their range and are listed as Threatened under the *Species at Risk Act*.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks Canada has taken concrete steps to reduce threats to Southern Mountain Caribou and to create better conditions for their survival and recovery, including \$1.5 million in investments under the Nature Legacy funds.
- Conservation actions implemented include:
  - changes to elk and roadkill management to prevent predator population growth
  - reduced speed zones
  - restrictions on dogs in caribou habitat and flight guidelines to prevent direct disturbance to caribou
  - winter access restrictions designed to prevent facilitated predator access to caribou.
- In addition to ongoing habitat protections, winter access restrictions have been in place for all occupied caribou habitat since 2014. There are no changes to the dates of the closures for the 2020-2021 season.
  - A minor adjustment was made to the closure area boundaries in the Maligne-Brazeau Range for the 2020-2021 season to allow limited access to two small areas (which represent only 6% of the original closure) given there is no evidence that caribou remain in the area.
- Jasper National Park has abundant habitat and conditions are favourable to support caribou recovery, including elk populations that no longer encourage predator growth and wolf populations that are no longer a significant threat to healthy, sustainable herds.
- Currently, the herds are too small to recover on their own and are especially vulnerable to natural threats. The number of female caribou in the Tonquin and Brazeau herds is so small (10 or fewer in each herd) that it is unlikely the herds will produce enough calves each year to grow the population.
- Working with partners and experts, Parks Canada has developed a proposal to rebuild caribou herds in Jasper National Park through conservation breeding. A comprehensive scientific review of the proposal is in progress. A virtual workshop took place in January 2021 and a report on this process will be made available by May 1, 2021.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Two Southern Mountain Caribou herds range into Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks, and five herds have historically been found in Jasper and Banff national parks.

#### **Jasper**

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

- The **Tonquin** herd is estimated to have fewer than 45 caribou and the **Brazeau** herd to have fewer than 15 caribou. These two herds have had low, but stable numbers since 2015. However, the number of female caribou is now so small (10 or fewer in each herd) herd recovery without augmentation is not biologically feasible.
- The **À La Pêche** herd is a partially migratory herd of about 150 animals on Jasper's northern boundary that is primarily managed and monitored by the Province of Alberta, although some animals in this herd are resident in Jasper National Park year-round.
- The **Maligne** herd in Jasper National Park is now considered extirpated, after several surveys in 2018, 2019 and 2020 failed to locate any of the three remaining animals or caribou tracks.

### **Banff**

- The Banff National Park herd was extirpated in 2009 after an avalanche killed the remaining five animals.

### **Mount Revelstoke and Glacier**

- The recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou herds ranging into Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks is tightly linked to management of the species and its habitat on provincial lands adjacent to the parks. Parks Canada is working closely with the province of B.C. to determine next steps for recovery of these herds.

### **REACTIVE / IF ASKED**

#### *Winter access restrictions in Jasper National Park:*

- Parks Canada continually reviews and evaluates conservation measures to adapt to changing conditions.
- In addition to ongoing protection of critical caribou habitat, Parks Canada continues to restrict access to 2800 km<sup>2</sup> of high elevation winter habitat in Jasper National Park from November to March to prevent wolves from accessing caribou habitat on human packed trails.
- This year, access to terrain in the Bald Hills and the area between Big Shovel and Little Shovel Passes is no longer restricted. This adjustment opens only 6% of the former closures in the Maligne-Brazeau Range to visitation. Parks Canada will continue to monitor these areas and the closure will be reassessed and reinstated at any time if appropriate.
- Parks Canada is currently undertaking a review process regarding winter access restriction dates and other conservation measures for the Tonquin herd in order to support a potential investment in caribou conservation breeding and augmentation of the Tonquin herd.



## **MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

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

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

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



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

### **WHAT IT IS**

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

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

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

### **HOW IT WORKS**

**[REDACTED]**

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**

Funds available in the Account total \$98.4M and are for the following national historic site, national parks and national marine conservation areas:

- Rouge National Urban Park (\$50.5M)
- Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (\$14.7M)
- Qausuittuq National Park, Ukkusiksalik National Park, Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, Wrecks of HMS Erebus & HMS Terror National Historic Site (\$15M)
- Naats'ihch'oh National Park Reserve, Nahanni National Park Reserve, Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve (\$12.7M)
- Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site (\$1.3M)
- Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (\$2.5M)
- Akami-Uapishk<sup>U</sup>-KakKasuak-Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve (\$1.7M)



## **2020 MINISTER'S ROUND TABLE ON PARKS CANADA**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Every two years, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada holds a roundtable to discuss the work of the Agency with interested Canadians. For 2020, the Minister's Round Table was held from October 8 to 30.
- The following five topics were the primary focus of dialogue for the 2020 Minister's Round Table on Parks Canada.
  - Urban Parks: Parks Canada, as a catalyst in urban conservation, and providing access to nature and culture in communities.
  - Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility: Parks Canada as a partner, and a leader in inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and reconciliation in protected and heritage places.
  - Ecological Corridors: Connecting protected places to respond to climate change and biodiversity loss.
  - Reconciliation Through Conservation: Indigenous leadership in conservation, traditional use, and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.
  - Protecting our Cultural Heritage: Advancing legislative protection for federal built heritage.
- More than 13,000 Canadians participated in the consultation, sharing their views and perspectives on all five themes. Under the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, the Minister must respond to the recommendations of the Minister's Round Table within 180 days from the final day of consultations. This means that a response must be published by April 29, 2021.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Section 8.1 of the *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998) calls upon the Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency to hold a roundtable every two years to seek input from Canadians on matters for which Parks Canada is responsible. The last Minister's Round Table was held in January 2017 and the Minister's response was published in May 2018.
- The Minister's Round Table began by engaging with a small number of key stakeholders from October 8 to 16, 2020, with short facilitated topic-based discussions held by video-conference led by the Minister and Parliamentary Secretaries Duguid and Schiefke as well as Parks Canada's President and CEO, Ron Hallman. From October 19 to 30, 2020, all Canadians were invited to participate through an online engagement platform found at [letstalkparksCanada.ca](https://letstalkparksCanada.ca) (Let's Talk Parks Canada dot CA). On November 13, 2020, Minister Wilkinson hosted a video-conference with Indigenous leaders from the three national organisations. More than 13,000 Canadians participated in the consultation.





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

### **ISSUE**

- In 2017, the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee requested that Canada develop an Action Plan for the Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site to address threats to the site's Outstanding Universal Value as a result of climate change and pressures from the increasing pace and scale of development (hydro-electric and oil sands) outside its boundaries.
- The Action Plan was submitted to the World Heritage Committee on February 1, 2019 and tabled in Parliament in March 2019.
- The Action Plan is a comprehensive response to the World Heritage Committee concerns and includes 142 actions that are focused on:
  - strengthening park management in collaboration with Indigenous partners
  - enhancing research, monitoring and management of the Peace-Athabasca Delta using science and Indigenous knowledge
  - establishing new mechanisms to support improved water management in the Peace Athabasca Delta
  - increasing the protection and connectivity of ecosystems within and adjacent to WBNP
  - implementing recovery actions for Whooping Crane and Wood Bison
- In July 2019, the World Heritage Committee welcomed the Action Plan and urged Canada to make additional investments in support of the Plan's implementation due to the complexity of the conservation challenges the park is facing.
- Canada submitted a progress report on the Action Plan's implementation to the World Heritage Committee in December 2020. On December 21, 2020 the Minister announced an additional \$59.9 million over 3 years to support the Action Plan's implementation. The report will be considered at the World Heritage Committee's annual meeting currently scheduled for Fuzhou, China in summer of 2021.

### **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 that the Outstanding Universal Value of Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site.
- Through Budget 2018, the Government of Canada has demonstrated its commitment to the protection of the Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site by investing \$27.5 million to support the development of the Action Plan and its early implementation. Further, on December 21, 2020 the Government of Canada announced an additional \$59.9 million to support the Action Plan's implementation.
- Through the measures outlined in the Action Plan, through ongoing collaboration with partners, and by making use of the best available science and Indigenous knowledge, the Outstanding Universal Value of Wood Buffalo National Park will be preserved and the important issues identified by the World Heritage Committee will be addressed.
- Despite the challenges imposed this year by the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to work together to deliver on measures outlined in the Action Plan. We are pleased with progress to date with more than half of the identified actions being completed or underway.

## **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Canada is leading the implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the Government of Alberta, Government of British Columbia, Government of Northwest Territories, Indigenous partners of Wood Buffalo National Park and stakeholders.
- Under Budget 2018, Parks Canada Agency received \$27.5 million to develop the Action Plan and support implementation of limited early actions. On December 21, the Government of Canada announced an additional \$59.9 million to support implementation.



## **VISITATION IN 2020**

(All data current as of February 4, 2021)

### **ISSUE**

- After a brief pause in visitor access required to adjust services to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, Parks Canada resumed visitor access and services beginning June 1, 2020. The Agency experienced a general decline in visitation from April to September 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, while a number of Parks Canada places received significantly fewer visitors, a number of others exceeded past records.
- In total, some 13.3 million Canadians visited Parks Canada places from April 1 to September 30, 2020. This is 65 percent of 2019 visitation levels for the same period. A total of 15.1 million people visited Parks Canada places from April 1 through December 30, 2020.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Millions of Canadians safely enjoyed Canada's national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas in 2020. Parks Canada received 13.3 million visitors from April 1 to September 30, 2020; an additional 1.9 million visitors enjoyed places between October 1 and December 31, 2020 (Year to date total of 15.1 million).
- Parks Canada's primary goal in resuming operations was to provide Canadians with safe access to the wellness benefits that come from the enjoyment of the outdoors while also helping flatten the curve of the COVID-19. The primary operating principle was to mitigate health and safety risks to visitors, employees, and all Canadians.
- Despite the challenges of operating during COVID, visitors had positive experiences. Based on a national survey of visitors in summer 2020:
  - 89% of visitors enjoyed their visit;
  - 87% of visitors chose to visit because they considered the place to be safe;
  - 84% of visitors were satisfied with health and safety measures in place; and
  - 82% of visitors felt re-opening of parks/sites provided a sense of normalcy.
- In a normal year, Parks Canada places attract millions of visitors annually and are important economic engines in communities across Canada. They help create and sustain local jobs and businesses in hundreds of communities across Canada. For example, in 2018-2019, visitors to Parks Canada places contributed \$4.43 billion to Canada's gross domestic product and supported more than 40,000 jobs across the country.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Visitation to national parks was 8.5 million for the period of April 1 to September 30 2020 (67 percent of 2019 levels) and 9.9 million through to December 30, 2020 (69 percent of 2019 levels).
- July and August were the busiest months at national parks, with 5.4 million visits or 82 percent of 2019 levels. Some national parks exceeded past records, including Elk Island National Park and Point Pelee National Park.
- Many national historic sites could not safely open for full operations in summer 2020. Total visitation to historic sites was 4.7 million for the period of April 1 to September 30, 2020, or 61 percent of 2019 levels. Visitation to historic canals and waterways was 3.0 million (94 percent of 2019) and visitation to historic sites unconnected to waterways was 1.7 million (42 percent of 2019).
- Year to date visitation to all national historic sites for the period April 1 to December 31, 2020 was a total of 5.2 million (61 percent of 2019 levels).



- There were regional differences in visitation. Alberta and Ontario fared well overall, while Atlantic and Northern Canada experienced lower visitation due partly to regional travel restrictions.

Table 1 - Change in Visitation by Program: 2020 (compared to 2019)*										
	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
National Parks	-100%	-100%	-39%	-20%	-16%	-7%	-19%	1%	-19%	-31%
National Historic Sites	-100%	-100%	-34%	-41%	-30%	-30%	-37%	-45%	-45%	-39%
Canals	---	-100%	0%	-12%	-4%	-7%	9%	---	---	-10%
All other historic sites	-100%	-100%	-65%	-62%	-53%	-48%	-66%	-45%	-45%	-62%
All Parks Canada	-100%	-100%	-37%	-28%	-22%	-16%	-27%	-6%	-22%	-34%

\* Based on data supplied by February 2021 for the months shown; --- closed

Table 2 - Change in Total Visitation by Region (April through Dec): 2020 (compared to 2019)			
Newfoundland and Labrador	-74%	Manitoba/Saskatchewan	-33%
Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Isl.	-57%	Alberta	-27%
Quebec	-37%	British Columbia	-37%
Ontario	-16%	North (Yk, Nu, NWT)	-82%



## **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.
- These changes result from a 2019 public and stakeholder consultation on fees. The changes do not affect admission or front-country camping and national historic sites, parks, and marine conservation areas remain affordable destinations for all Canadians.
- 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**

- 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.
- As required by the 2017 *Service Fees Act*, Parks Canada increased all fees by 2.2 percent on January 1, 2020 to reflect inflation. Beginning in January 2022, the Agency will apply adjustments for inflation every two years. This approach is permitted by the *Service Fees Act* and will provide Canadians with increased advance notice of fee adjustments, and support greater efficiency in updating financial systems and on-site signage.
- Parks Canada fees are very reasonable and offer good value for Canadians. The Agency reinvests all revenues earned from fees into operations. Over 20 percent of Parks Canada's operating budget comes from fee revenues. Providing high quality service and experiences to Canadians requires reasonable cost recovery for fee-based services while being affordable for individuals and families.
- Parks Canada conducted a national consultation on fees in 2019. 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.

### **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.



## **BOW VALLEY MOVING PEOPLE SUSTAINABLY**

### **ISSUE**

- Parks Canada is establishing 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 consultation to recommend possible innovative solutions for Parks Canada to consider in the development of a people-moving framework.
- The President & CEO of Parks Canada will appoint individuals to the Panel who have experience relevant to the challenges facing Banff National Park. This could include 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.
- An interim report will be produced by December 2021 with a final report expected by March 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 consultation on the draft Terms of Reference for the Panel has just been completed and the Terms of Reference are currently being revised to reflect the comments received. This document will be finalized by March 2021. Indigenous, public, and stakeholder comments were supportive and constructive. Comments focused on how to further clarify the Panel's role, intent of the project, clear link to the government's 2050 net zero goal and re-affirming the commitment to environmentally sustainable mass transit.
- Parks Canada is currently reviewing panel membership applications and anticipates finalizing the Panel by April 2021.



## **PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHMENT**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- The 47 national parks and freshwater national marine conservation areas administered by Parks Canada, contribute to 3.53% of Canada's commitment to protect at least 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water by 2020.
- The marine NMCAs and parks with a marine component administered by Parks Canada contribute to 2.12% of Canada's total marine conservation areas of 13.81%. Of the 13.81%, the largest contribution come from Tuvaquittuq Marine Protected Area in the Arctic, which makes up 5.55% and is protected through an interim protection order under the *Oceans Act*. Parks and DFO are working with Inuit partners and territorial governments to ensure that this area is protected permanently and for the long-term.
- Parks Canada's approach to creating new protected areas is grounded in science and Indigenous knowledge and founded upon collaboration with provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous governments and communities.
- Parks Canada's commitment to enabling Indigenous peoples to fulfill their roles as traditional stewards of lands and waters within heritage places has resulted in many Indigenous governments and communities expressing a desire to see additional sites established as NMCAs. Examples include:
  - the Mushkegowuk Council requesting an NMCA in western Hudson Bay;
  - the Cree in Quebec requesting an NMCA in Eastern James Bay; and
  - the Nunatsiavut Government working towards an Indigenous protected and conserved area in northern Labrador under the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Parks current terrestrial establishment priorities include working with B.C. and the Syilx / Okanagan Nation on a project to establish a national park reserve in the South Okanagan–Similkameen and working with the Government of Prince Edward Island and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI to assess the feasibility of a new national park reserve in the Hog Island Sandhills chain in northwestern PEI.
- Parks current marine establishment priorities include working collaboratively with provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments on feasibility assessments for NMCAs in Eastern James Bay, 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.

### **SOUTHERN STRAIT OF GEORGIA**

- The proposed NMCA reserve in the southern Strait of Georgia is located adjacent to Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada. A feasibility assessment, including First Nations consultation, public consultations and stakeholders is underway.
- Progress has been made in the last few years, particularly with respect to the engagement of First Nations, local governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in the area.
- A virtual meeting between the First Nations leadership, Parks, and B.C. executives is being planned for April to discuss the First Nations' decision-making role in the feasibility assessment of the NMCA reserve.



## **SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN**

- The proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen will protect a rare ecosystem, contribute to the conservation and enjoyment of nature, help save species at risk, strengthen biodiversity, advance reconciliation with local First Nations, and preserve opportunities for syilx/Okanagan Nation cultural practices to continue.
- Parks undertook broad and extensive consultations with local residents, stakeholders and all Canadians to obtain their views on the proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. This valuable input will inform the negotiation of an establishment agreement between the Governments of Canada and B.C. and the syilx/Okanagan Nation.
- Parks Canada and its partners are committed to continue working with stakeholders and local residents to take advantage of opportunities and find solutions to concerns raised through the public consultations.
- Parks Canada, the Province of B.C. and Local First Nations (syilx Nation) are in negotiations right now; the focus at this point is on First Nations issues and exploring ways that the syilx Nation and Parks Canada land management systems can coexist and inform one another in cooperative management. When the focus moves to other provisions related to land management including grazing, water management, helicopter access, mining, and boundary adjustments, etc., then the appropriate representatives and impacted stakeholders will be updated on progress and engaged in discussions.



## **LAND ACQUISITIONS**

### **ISSUE**

- Parks Canada negotiates land acquisitions with private sellers on a willing seller-willing buyer basis.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Canada's natural landscapes inspire pride from coast to coast to coast. Nature is important not only to our cultural identity, but also to our health and our communities. That's why Parks Canada is working with partners to actively acquire properties to support the completion of various national parks.
- Land acquisition contributes to preserving ecological integrity, recovery of species at risk and fighting climate change. Each acquisition brings us a step closer to fulfilling the legacy of Canada's system of natural protected areas and provides Canadians with the opportunity to discover the immense richness of our nature.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

#### **Gulf Islands National Park Reserve**

- Parks Canada is working towards acquiring new land on Prevost Island for the expansion of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.
- In the core area of Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, Prevost Island has the largest area of undeveloped land available for purchase and is located within the Southwest British Columbia species-at-risk priority place area and is identified as a priority for conservation due to its high biodiversity value.
- Under the *Canada National Parks Act*, the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve is designated as a national park reserve in recognition of unresolved Aboriginal rights and title claims. The park's boundaries cannot be finalized until all outstanding land claims are resolved.
- Parks Canada continues to collaboratively develop cooperative management strategies with Coast Salish First Nations for the park reserve. The new properties on Prevost Island would represent an opportunity to further this management framework and ensure Indigenous perspectives on land management are incorporated from the outset.
- When Gulf Islands National Park Reserve was established in 2003, it consisted of a number of properties assembled primarily by transferring federal and provincial crown lands, existing provincial parks and ecological reserves, with some additional private land purchases. Gulf Islands National Park Reserve has gradually expanded since that time, with the addition of several new parcels of land totalling over 100 hectares spread out across Pender, Prevost and Saturna Islands.

#### **Prince Edward Island National Parks Canada**

- Three parcels of land (396.52 acres) directly adjacent to the national park are being purchased in the Greenwich area. An agreement of purchase of sale has been signed by all parties with a closing date in early March.
- The long-term goal of this purchase is for the lands to be added the Prince Edward Island National Park.





### Bruce Peninsula National Park

- Since the establishment of Bruce Peninsula National Park in 1987, Parks Canada has added over 150 parcels of land.
- In September 2019, Parks Canada acquired a 12-acre property with 500 meters of pristine Georgian Bay shoreline. This property is undeveloped forest and is fully surrounded by the 3,272-acre Driftwood Cove property acquired in 2018.
- The park is currently just over 90% complete. Parks Canada will continue pursue the acquisition of the remaining lands within the boundaries of Bruce Peninsula National Park on a willing seller-willing buyer basis.





## **NATURE LEGACY**

### **ISSUE**

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

Parks Canada received \$220.8 million over five years through the Nature Legacy.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

Since 2018, Nature Legacy funding has led to progress towards protected area targets, including the following achievements:

- 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.

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:

- As of 2020, 86% of ecological integrity measures have been maintained or improved, an increase of 4% since 2019. Parks Canada is on track to reach its target of 92% by 2023.
- Parks Canada continues to develop site-based multi-species action plans for species at risk and is on track to achieve the Nature Legacy target of implementing 50% of recovery actions in SARA action plans by 2023. As of 2020, 31% have been implemented.

The Agency has also initiated new work to increase the ecological connectivity of Parks Canada places with other protected and conserved areas. For example, as of 2020-21, more than 30 conservation initiatives anchored around Parks Canada places are underway to increase connectivity.

COVID-19 has helped to remind many Canadians of their love of nature. Building on the foundation that have been laid with the Nature Legacy investment, the Agency will continue to enhance biodiversity conservation and is exploring how to support access to nature in urban areas.



## URBAN PARKS

### ISSUE

- The Speech from the Throne and the Minister's supplemental mandate letter of January 15, 2021, highlighted the importance of nature to Canadians, and indicated that the Government of Canada will work with municipalities as part of a new commitment to expand urban parks, so that everyone has access to green space.
- There has been high interest in his commitments, with interested proponents reaching out to Parks Canada to discuss potential opportunities. Possible elements and models are being evaluated in response to the Speech from the Throne and mandate letter commitment.
- Urban Parks was one of the themes at the 2020 Minister's Round Table event hosted by Parks Canada. Initial feedback is positive. Parks is finalizing its review of the input received and will share the outcomes of this consultation in a *What We Heard* report, which will be available online (<https://www.parlonsdeparcscanada.ca>).

### POINTS TO REGISTER

- Urban parks are critical to Canadians' health and wellbeing and evidenced even more during the current pandemic. In a survey of over 1,600 Canadians conducted by Parks, 70% said they appreciate parks more since physical distancing began. Additionally, a survey of over 50 municipalities had over half reporting an increase in park use since the pandemic hit.
- 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 has estimated that at least 200 additional ~~direct~~ jobs have been created in areas such as trail building, conservation/restoration projects, housing restoration, archaeological fieldwork, and building new park assets and infrastructure.
- Urban parks provide many co-benefits including protecting biodiversity, supporting climate resilience e.g., heat islands, flood mitigation, connecting people to nature, improving mental health and wellness, and increasing social inclusion.
- The Rouge National Urban Park, which is within a one-hour drive for 20% of Canada's population, also helps to protect biodiversity in densely populated southern Canada and is home to almost 1,700 species, including 27 species at risk. Yet, based on a 2020 survey of Canadian cities, on average only 45% of urban park systems in Canada are natural areas.
- Rouge is one model to build upon to expand urban parks in Canada and create opportunities for more Canadians to access and benefit from more natural areas nearby. However other models could be explored, including those in which municipalities or other jurisdictions retain ownership.

### BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The amount of parkland per population is lower in Canada's major urban centers where populations are high. In Vancouver, for example, although people are within a 10-minute walk to a public green space, more than 70 % of parks are less than 3ha in size.
- In a 2020 survey of 27 cities by Park People 63% of cities reported protecting biodiversity and enhancing natural areas as a top challenge.



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada



- 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



## **AQUATIC CONTAMINATED SITE ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING IN YOHO NATIONAL PARK, WATERTON LAKES NATIONAL PARK AND GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK RESERVE**

### **ISSUE**

- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Parks Canada Agency reached an agreement to transfer \$95K under the DFO Collaboration Funding Initiative (CFI), through the 2020-21 Supps C, to support the delivery of a collaborative scientific research project titled: “Aquatic Contaminated Site Assessment/Monitoring across three National Parks using Passive Sampling Devices”.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks is committed to implementing the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan in collaboration with program partners, including DFO as the designated Expert Support Department for aquatic contaminated sites.
- Under the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan, DFO administers a Collaboration Funding Initiative (CFI) to address horizontal scientific research needs on federal aquatic contaminated sites, with the objective of advancing our collective knowledge and developing our capacity to effectively manage federal contaminated sites.
- DFO has provided Parks with \$95K in CFI funding to support aquatic contaminated site assessment/monitoring research activities at three Parks sites in Alberta and British Columbia.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- In July of 2020, Parks Environmental Management Services responded to a DFO call for applied scientific research proposals at federal aquatic contaminated sites under the CFI.
- As of September 2020, CFI funding has been approved to support Aquatic Contaminated Site Assessment/Monitoring research activities (field work and technical support/report development) using Passive Sampling Devices (PSD) at three Parks sites:
  - Yoho Brothers Gas Station at Yoho National Park, B.C. (\$35K)
  - Kenow Wildfire impacted areas at Waterton Lakes National Park, AB (\$30K)
  - 2501 Shingle Bay Road at Gulf Islands National Park Reserve, B.C. (\$30K)
- PSD bind chemicals from environmental media and provide assessments of the biologically available contaminants. The use of PSDs for monitoring concentrations of contaminants in surface waters may offer a number of advantages over conventional sampling, as they measure contaminants over extended periods and in very low concentrations compared to typical small-volume sample analysis.
- The results of assessment and monitoring programs will be used to better understand potential Contaminants of Potential Concern risks to aquatic ecological receptors (e.g., species at risk) in National Parks and federal contaminated sites.
- This information will allow Parks to advance the effective management of these contaminated sites by:
  - examining the value of PSDs in assessing and monitoring contaminants of concern in ecologically-sensitive aquatic contaminated sites;
  - establishing a baseline for future aquatic assessment and monitoring programs in local watersheds and other adjoining waterbodies in each of the national parks; and
  - evaluating risks to human and ecological receptors, and managing them accordingly in future remediation and/or risk management activities.



## **ADVANCING FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR HISTORIC PLACES**

### **ISSUE**

- On December 13, 2019, the Prime Minister mandated the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, to:
  - Advance Parks Canada's efforts to play a leadership role in [...] cultural heritage conservation and promotion, and work to ensure that Canada's [...] national historic sites are a source of national pride and enjoyment today and for future generations;
  - Provide clearer direction on how national heritage places should be designated and preserved; and
  - Develop comprehensive legislation on federally-owned heritage places.
- While heritage buildings owned by the federal government are protected by Treasury Board policies, there is no legal protection, including for the Parliament Buildings.
- Parks Canada has begun working on a legislative proposal related to the designation of places, persons and events of national historic significance, and the protection of federally-owned historic places.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Canadians have expressed a renewed interest in commemoration recently, showing how we can learn from our past, advance reconciliation and build a more inclusive and resilient society.
- While a federal designation communicates to Canadians the historic significance of a place, it does not provide legislative protection.
- Parks Canada has conducted engagement with federal departments and stakeholders, and undertaken work to strengthen the protection of federally-owned historic places for present and future generations. This includes the rehabilitation and reuse of heritage buildings in a green and accessible manner.
- The development of a legislative proposal is informed by feedback received from this Committee, as well as from Indigenous groups and stakeholders over the past few years and input from more recent and targeted engagement sessions.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

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

- The 2017 and 2020 Minister's Round Tables;
- The 2017 Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) *Preserving Canada's Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow*;
- The Auditor General of Canada's 2018 Report *Conserving Federal Heritage Properties*;
- The Indigenous Cultural Heritage Gatherings in November 2018; and
- Call to Action 79 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

In addition, targeted engagement with relevant Indigenous groups, including Modern Treaty rights holders, are being completed to honor provisions pertaining to the development or formulation of legislation relating to Indigenous heritage resources and to ensure the maintenance of established relationships. In Fall 2020, over 140 Indigenous governments, organizations and groups were invited to provide their views on the subject.

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

Currently, there are gaps in the Government of Canada's framework for the protection of its historic places. There are over 300 federally-owned historic places, the vast majority of which have no legal protection. The federal government is lagging behind the provinces and territories, which have all adopted heritage legislation. Further, Canada is the only G7 country without comprehensive legislation to protect historic places within its jurisdiction.

Federal designations are subject to different legal and policy regimes. As a result, designation does not necessarily result in protection nor conservation, even for federally-owned historic places. Existing federal designations include:

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

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



## **CONSOLIDATION OF THE COLLECTION UNDER PARKS CANADA'S CARE**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- The consolidation of the archaeological and historical collection in one place ensures the sustainable, long-term conservation and management of the collection. At present, approximately 60 percent of the collection is under threat due to lack of appropriate environmental and security controls.
- The collection will be safeguarded in a Class A 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 44 Indigenous Nations.
- The Agency will work collaboratively with other stakeholder groups such as museums to find innovative ways to present and share the collection.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- In 2012, the Government of Canada decided to consolidate the existing facilities into one, newly constructed, special-purpose collection facility in Gatineau, Quebec. This facility is the most sustainable long-term way to secure, conserve and manage the collection, which was confirmed as the best value for money by Public Services and Procurement Canada's 2015 Investment Analysis Report and reaffirmed in 2019.
- Five of the facilities, due to age, would have required significant investment to bring them to the required conservation and security standards. In spring 2020, the collection housed in the Cornwall facility was moved to the Agency's Ottawa Sheffield road facility. Objects currently remain in Winnipeg, Quebec City (2 locations), Ottawa and Dartmouth.
- Land in Gatineau was acquired from Library and Archives Canada in January 2018 at a cost of \$405k. Design consultants Moriyama and Teshima Architects + NFOE were hired in January 2018 and design work was completed in fall 2019. In summer 2020 the project was tendered and closed in October 2020. 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 2023-24.
- Indigenous communities are concerned that Indigenous artifacts from current regional locations will be moved to the new facility. Overall, discussions with Indigenous communities have been positive.
- In 2017, Parks Canada decided to uphold the Dartmouth lease (expires 2029) as it is a purpose-built facility in order to alleviate facility pressures at the Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site. The stored Louisbourg collection will be moved to Dartmouth where it will be incorporated into the national collection. Storage needs beyond 2029 will be assessed at a later date.

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<sup>1</sup> Stable temperature and humidity control allowing for gradual fluctuations.





## **DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND HISTORICAL COMMEMORATION**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

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

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- In June 2019, Parks Canada released its new *Framework for History and Commemoration: National Historic Sites of Canada System Plan 2019*. This new framework aims to support the development of a more inclusive system of national historic designations. In implementing the framework, Parks Canada is supporting a broader range of stories that reflect the diversity of voices, perspectives, and experiences in Canadian history and the integration of Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practice into the commemoration and presentation of heritage and history at Parks Canada.
- The principles and approach outlined in the *Framework for History and Commemoration* provide the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and the Government of Canada with a consistent approach to reviewing and revising controversial historical designations and promoting greater diversity and inclusion in its public history programs. This ongoing work will help the Agency to build awareness of nationally significant aspects of Canada's history and promote diverse understandings of our country's past through more relevant visitor experiences and enhanced public interpretation of historical subjects.
- In addition, Parks Canada is continuing to review and update its cultural heritage policies and practices to promote the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives and the removal of any potential barriers.
- Currently 39 designations under the National Program of Historical Commemoration focus on subjects related to Black History, including four which were announced on July 31, 2020. Some additional 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)
- Portia May White National Historic Person (designated 1995) was an internationally-acclaimed contralto who had a remarkable career on the concert stage. Debuting in Toronto and New York in the 1940s and performing in recitals across North and South America, this Black Nova Scotia vocalist became a source of pride for all Canadians. [https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page\\_nhs\\_eng.aspx?id=1713](https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=1713)
- Harry Winston Jerome National Historic Person (designated 2009) was an exceptional athlete and one of the fastest men in the world for the better part of the 1960s. This Vancouver-based sprinter later made major contributions to the development of amateur sport and fitness in Canada. His determination, courage and perseverance remain a point of pride for Black Canadians and an inspiration for all Canadians. [https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page\\_nhs\\_eng.aspx?id=12543](https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=12543)



## **LABORATORIES CANADA: CULTURAL HERITAGE SCIENCE HUB**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

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

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Phase 1 of Laboratories Canada (formerly the Federal Science and Technology Infrastructure Initiative) lead by PSPC, was approved by Cabinet in November 2018. It includes five Hubs. The partnering departments of all of the Hubs in Phase 1 are to be co-located in world-class science facilities over a five-year period.
- Under this initiative, the Cultural Heritage Science Hub has created a small project management office to support the Hub teams. The project office is overseen by a Director General Hub committee that reports to the Deputy Minister Hub Committee co-chaired by the President & Chief Executive Officer (PCEO) of Parks Canada and the Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage. Both Canadian Heritage and Parks Canada have been heavily engaged on all aspects of the initiative at the working and management level.
- To date, the Hub team has developed a Science Plan, which was reviewed by the Government of Canada's Chief Science Officer and a panel of experts. The plan outlines science areas for collaboration, including climate change. As part of the functional programming, the Hub completed the Master Plan and the functional program has now passed 66% completion. This work will inform the design and ultimately the construction of the Hub's science facility.
- With the involvement of the Hub, Laboratories Canada carried out an evidence based, detailed analysis on site locations for the Hub in the National Capital Area. The historic convent property at 210 rue Laurier in Gatineau has been selected as the first choice option. Negotiations are now underway with the current custodian, the National Capital Commission, to secure the property.



## **INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

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

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

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

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

- Indigenous peoples have been stewards of their traditional territories since time immemorial. As the largest federal land manager, Parks Canada is advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples by ensuring these places support practices on the land, economic opportunities for local Indigenous communities, and collaborative decision making that honours and upholds Indigenous rights, responsibilities, and knowledge systems.



- Parks Canada's approach to Indigenous stewardship responds to calls for action from Indigenous peoples, and the Government of Canada's commitment to renewed relationships, rooted in the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- The Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development's 2017 report, *Taking Action Today: Establishing Protected Areas for Canada's Future*, made recommendations for the Government of Canada to pursue common conservation objectives and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in both new and existing protected areas, including Indigenous protected areas.



## **BATOCHÉ NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

### **ISSUE**

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

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

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

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Batoche National Historic Site commemorates the armed conflict between the Métis Provisional Government and the Canadian Government in 1885, the Métis community at Batoche and the Métis river lot land use patterns.
- 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.
- January 4, 2021, the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) sent a letter to Parks Canada regarding the announcement and questioned the mandate of Métis Nation – Saskatchewan to represent Métis people in the province. Parks Canada officials have followed up with the organization to discuss opportunities for cooperation and partnership between Parks Canada and AMNSIS.
- In January 2021, Parks Canada also began discussions with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan regarding a renewed cooperative management agreement for the site.



## **BURLEIGH FALLS DAM REPLACEMENT PROJECT** **TRENT-SEVERN WATERWAY**

### **ISSUE**

- Parks Canada is undertaking a full replacement of the Burleigh Falls Dam, Trent-Severn Waterway. A blockade at the site was erected by the Kawartha Nishnawbe, a local Indigenous group, to protest what they viewed as lack of consultation on the project.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- The Burleigh Falls Dam is part of the water management system of the Trent-Severn Waterway and is scheduled to be replaced as part of the Federal Infrastructure Investment program.
- On January 11, 2021, contractors mobilized to the Burleigh Falls Dam to begin the first phase of the project. On January 12, a peaceful Indigenous blockade was erected at the site by the Kawartha Nishnawbe to protest what they viewed as lack of recognition of Aboriginal rights, status and consultation on the project. The blockade ended on February 3, following an agreement between Parks Canada and the Kawartha Nishnawbe to hold consultations.
- Parks Canada is currently awaiting additional information from Kawartha Nishnawbe in order to undertake the next steps in consultation.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- The Burleigh Falls Dam is part of the water management system of the Trent-Severn Waterway and is located 30 km north of Peterborough, ON. Funded through the Federal Infrastructure Investment program, Parks Canada will fully replace the Burleigh Falls Dam with a new dam will have a life expectancy of more than 80 years.
- Engineering inspections in recent years have identified the declining condition of the Burleigh Falls Dam; the dam is at or nearing the end of its useful life, and requires a major intervention.
- Burleigh Falls is part of the traditional territories of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg and is part of Treaty 20. Geographically, the closest recognized First Nation community is Curve Lake. Parks Canada has a duty to consult with the Williams Treaties First Nations where harvesting rights may be affected and Parks Canada Agency engages regularly with these communities through a Steering Committee. The Agency has been consulting with Curve Lake First Nation on this project since 2016 and has arranged mitigation measures to address environmental concerns, including fisheries impacts. Parks Canada continues to work with Curve Lake First Nation and the other Williams Treaties First Nations to develop fisheries monitoring and offsetting plans associated with the project.
- Kawartha Nishnawbe is not formally recognised as a First Nation under the *Indian Act* by the federal government and, although they view themselves as an independent community, many of their members also hold membership in Williams Treaties First Nations, including Curve Lake. Kawartha Nishnawbe also has litigation before the court related to recognition of their status by the federal government. They do not have an elected chief and council at this time and are represented by a volunteer interim council.
- In 2016, Parks Canada offered in writing to meet with the Kawartha Nishnawbe on the Burleigh Falls Dam replacement project to understand their concerns regarding the potential impacts of the project on their community, but did not receive a response. Parks Canada has also conducted multiple door-to-door activities in the community since 2016, which has been met with interest and positivity by residents who identify as Kawartha Nishnawbe. Kawartha Nishnawbe has continued to assert that their rights are not appropriately met by the Federal Government and that they had not been adequately consulted on the project.



- During the blockade period, Parks Canada directed the Contractor to cease construction activities while the Agency engaged with the Kawartha Nishnawbe and allowed the Contractor to remove their equipment and property from the site in response to a request made by the Kawartha Nishnawbe. Parks Canada also offered the daytime-use of the Parks Canada-owned house on the site as a warm-up and washroom facility.
- While written discussion was ongoing after the initiation of the blockade, the first in-person meeting between Parks Canada, the interim councillors and their legal counsel took place on Friday, January 29: information about the dam replacement project was provided and a path forward on further consultation, including capacity funding, was proposed by Parks Canada. These suggestions were accepted by the Kawartha Nishnawbe on February 3 and the blockade was removed. Parks Canada is currently awaiting a budget proposal from Kawartha Nishnawbe for the consultation capacity funding before proceeding with these consultations. The project's schedule and budget has been impacted by the delay.





## **SALISH SEA INITIATIVE (SSI)**

### **ISSUE**

- The Salish Sea Initiative (SSI) is designed to respond to concerns raised by First Nations related to cumulative effects of human activities in the marine environment. It is funded by the Government of Canada as one of several accommodation measures related to the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) project.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks Canada participates as a member of a multi-department Government of Canada core team led by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. This core team has an objective to guide and support the identification of Valuable Ecosystem Components (elements of the environment that have cultural, economic, social, or spiritual significance) and the capacity needs for Indigenous groups.
- Components of the SSI will be co-developed with 33 First Nations to ensure the integration of Indigenous knowledge, values, and interests central to the Initiative's design and delivery.
- Work within the first 18 to 24 months, will focus on addressing immediate capacity gaps within Indigenous groups, early consultation with Indigenous groups, and collaborative development of terms of reference and a governance structure. This work has been moving slower than originally anticipated as a result of Covid-19 impacts.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- The goal of the SSI is to develop and support the capacity of First Nations along the marine shipping corridor and to monitor and evaluate the impact of human activities on local marine ecosystems.
- The SSI involves three main investments:
  - Funding Technical and Science Capacity for First Nations to collect environmental data, fund studies, conduct ecosystem assessment and monitoring;
  - Creating an Indigenous-led Administrative Structure, supported by Government of Canada officials, to report on and make recommendations on managing the cumulative effects of human activities on the health of the Salish Sea;
  - Establishing an Indigenous-led Investment Fund to generate own-source revenue and to participate in marine spatial planning and support projects that are priorities for First Nations and that improve the health of Salish Sea ecosystems.
- One Marine Advisor position at Parks Canada contributes to the core Government of Canada team which includes 20 FTEs. As the SSI develops and matures, the role of the core team will evolve and solidify, based on the outcome of consultations with Indigenous communities.
- DFO will work closely with partners in ECCC and NRCan to ensure that the SSI team leverages, to the greatest extent possible, existing governance structures across related TMX accommodation measures. This will contribute to better knowledge sharing, consistent direction, and reducing unnecessary administrative costs.





## **IMPACT AND BENEFIT AGREEMENTS FOR NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE**

### **ISSUE**

- In 2017, Parks Canada accessed funding earmarked in Budget 2016 to expand Canada's national park and national marine conservation area systems. This funding included a one-time grant of \$3 million payable to the Dehcho First Nations upon signing an Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) for Nahanni National Park Reserve.
- The funding will support an impact benefit agreement with the Dehcho First Nations and Nahʔą Dehé Dene in relation to the establishment and enlargement of Nahanni National Park Reserve.
- In 2018, Parks Canada accessed funding earmarked in Budget 2018 to increase the initial grant to \$10 million in order to support the completion of the IBA for Nahanni National Park Reserve.
- As further negotiations with the First Nations were required, a reprofile request was approved in 2019 for the initial grant amount of \$3 million and a separate reprofile request was required for the \$7 million grant funding so that the entire \$10 million is available in 2020-2021.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks Canada hopes to conclude negotiations for the Impact and Benefit Agreements for Nahanni National Park Reserve by the end of 2021.



## **FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS**

### **ISSUE**

- Budget 2019 provided \$368 million in funding over two years for high priority capital projects across the country, beginning in 2020-21.
- Budget 2019 served as an extension of the Government commitment made to Parks Canada's places, with \$4.2 billion provided to the Agency over the past five years to invest in the protection and restoration of capital assets in national parks and national historic sites.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- The Government is committed to investing in Canada's national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas.
- Parks Canada is the largest federal land owner and has one of the largest asset portfolios in the federal government (more than 18,000 assets, with a current replacement value of over \$26 billion).
- By March 2022, the Agency will have invested nearly \$4.2 billion in the delivery of 985 high priority projects in national parks and national historic sites in all areas of the country (see key examples in attached annex).
- Parks Canada is developing a long-term plan to ensure effective management and ongoing sustainability of its wide-ranging and diverse portfolio.
- Through infrastructure investments, Parks Canada is protecting and conserving our national treasures, while supporting local economies, and contributing to growth in the tourism sector.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

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



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

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 complete by 2020-21.
Dan Albas, Vice-Chair	Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola (BC)	\$8.8M for the replacement of the sewer and waterworks at Rogers Pass NHS. Project to be completed in 2020-21.
Monique Pauzé, Vice-Chair	Repentigny (QC)	\$3.9M for Maison Papineau NHS to address the building condition. Project will be complete in 2020-21.
Yvan Baker	Etobicoke Centre (ON)	\$3.2M to stabilize and rehabilitate the Butler's Barrack's NHS compound in Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON. Project completed in 2019-20.
Laurel Collins	Victoria (BC)	\$13M across four projects at Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse NHS. All projects complete by end 2020-21
Cathy MacLeod	Kamloops-Thompson-Caribou (BC)	While the riding has no Parks Places within in it or within 200KM, Parks Canada has spent over \$100M on avalanche mitigation projects on its sections of the Trans Canada Highway in BC
Matt Jeneroux	Edmonton Riverbend (AB)	\$6.4M to rehabilitate the Astotin Lake Visitor Facility. Project to be completed in 2020-21.
Lloyd Longfield	Guelph (ON)	\$3.4M for dry dock and hull repairs on the HMCS Haida NHS. Project completed in 2019-20.
Brad Redekopp	Saskatoon West (SK)	\$4.7M for the rehabilitation fo the Grey Owl NHS. Project to be completed in 2020-21.
Raj Saini	Kitchener Centre (ON)	\$0.3M to improve the grounds and sprinkler systems at Woodside NHS. Project to be completed in 2020-21.
Peter Schiefke	Vaudreuil-Soulanges (QC)	\$6.1M to restore and refurbish Manoir Papineau NHS. Project to be completed in 2020-21.
Ya'ara Saks	York Centre (ON)	Over the past two fiscal years, Rouge National Urban Park has spent an average of \$4M per year to repair and maintain its assets. In addition, a new Visitor Reception Centre is being constructed in time for the 2025 operating season at an estimated cost of \$28M.



## **GREENING OPERATIONS – GREENING GOVERNMENT FUND**

### **ISSUE**

- As part of the Government of Canada's response to climate change, the Greening Government Fund (GGF) was established to provide funding to federal government departments to explore and share innovative approaches to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in their operations.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks Canada is committed to its ongoing work in greening Parks operations and fighting climate change, including through investments funded by the GGF.
- The objective of the fund is to support and share results of projects that:
  - are projected to result in GHG emissions reductions;
  - test or implement innovative approaches with a potential for learning;
  - have a high potential for replicability; and,
  - pursue emissions solutions in difficult-to-reduce areas.
- Between 2019-20 and 2020-21, the Treasury Board Secretariat transferred Parks Canada a total of \$1.9 million to support four projects focused on innovative approaches for reducing GHG emissions in Parks operations.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- The GGF is administered by the Centre for Greening Government at the Treasury Board Secretariat. Eligible Departments are those with GHG emissions from air travel in excess of 1 kilotonne (kt) per year which also contribute to the fund at a rate of \$25 per tonne per year. In 2018-19, Parks Canada's contribution to the fund was \$55k (based on 2.2 kt in GHG emissions from air travel).
- Applications submitted for the first two calls for proposals for GGF funding (2018-19 and 2019-20) were evaluated by an *ad hoc* evaluation committee coordinated by Environmental Management. TBS has announced a third round of GGF funding, with expressions of intent due from departments by March 5, 2021.
- Through the first two calls for proposals, a total of **\$18.7** million in GGF funding was awarded to 27 projects across 13 Federal Departments, including **\$1.9** million over four years (\$0.814 million in 2021-22 Main Estimates) to help support four Parks projects:
  - 1) **Solar Net-Zero Carbon Building in Kluane National Park (*Yukon Field Unit*):** Adding a roof-mounted solar array with a net meter to make a current construction project net neutral. This project will also develop a design to move the facility from diesel heating fuel to 100% electric. Awarded: **\$240K** in 2019-20 and 2020-21 (additional Parks contribution: \$3,699K)
  - 2) **Ya Ha Tinda Horse Ranch - Hybrid Power System (*Banff Field Unit*):** Project involves installation of a solar power system which will offset and significantly reduce the usage of the existing diesel generator. Awarded **\$300K** in 2020/21 and 2021/22 (additional Parks contribution: \$63K).
  - 3) **Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Array (*Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit*):** Installation of a PV solar array to offset electricity consumption in Jeremy's Bay Campground and provide a clean energy source for campground utilities. Awarded **\$589K** over two years beginning in 2020-21 (additional Parks contribution: \$8,100K).
  - 4) **Green Northern Houses (*SWNWT, Yukon, and Nunavut Field Units*):** Pilot project to build high performance staff housing in the Canadian Sub-Arctic climate. Awarded **\$775K** over 3 years beginning in 2020-21 (additional Parks contribution: \$840K).

## **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AT PARKS CANADA IN 2021-22**

### **ISSUE**

- Parks Canada is working with Employment and Social Development Canada to increase and stabilize its participation to the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) with a renewed focus to hire youth facing barriers to employment as they were particularly impacted in the past year due to the pandemic.

### **POINTS TO REGISTER**

- Parks Canada is a leader in youth employment for the Government of Canada. The Agency employs youth in urban, rural and remote locations across Canada.
- In 2020-21, due to operational adjustments for COVID-19 and without any incremental funding from the YESS, a total of 1141 student employment opportunities were created at Parks Canada locations.
- Between 2016 and 2020, with an increased participation in the YESS, Parks Canada employed an average of 2 250 students per year at national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas.
- Parks Canada is committed to youth employment and to helping young people overcome barriers to employment and career development. The Agency employs Indigenous youth, racialized youth, youth with disabilities, and youth who have faced barriers to education and career development. Parks Canada offers a career path for young people in a wide variety of occupations.

### **BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS**

- Parks Canada employs youth in a wide variety of occupations. Over the past five 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 was only partially renewed in 2020-21 and Parks Canada funding was not included in the renewal.
- [REDACTED]

Parks Canada was successful in getting incremental funding of \$45 million for 2021-22 in order to create over 4 300 new direct and indirect employment opportunities for youth – including students and youth not currently in education.
- Through the YESS, in 2021-22, Parks Canada will provide direct employment to an additional 1 308 youth by increasing the number of youth jobs in a wide variety of occupations (conservation, biology, client service, finance and administration, human resources, visitors experience) and by developing new youth programs such as Indigenous guardians, diversity urban outreach, cultural heritage, and diversity and inclusion.
- In addition, using Parks Canada grant and contribution's program a total of \$19.5 million will be disbursed in 2021-22, through contributions to partners such as: The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (Project Learning Tree), the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, and the Trans-Canada Trail. This initiative will create 3 000 indirect employment opportunities for youth in provincial and territorial parks, municipal parks, municipal green spaces, and in private and public conservation areas in the restoration and protection of nature and the delivery of public enjoyment and education programs in natural spaces.



- Parks Canada has also participated in the Youth Employment Opportunity Program (YEO). The Treasury Board Secretariat leads this pilot project and its goal is to support youth facing barriers to employment. From June 2019 to June 2020, seven youth facing barriers to employment in a NEET situation (not in employment, education or training) were employed in CR-04 positions within the Agency. On February 2021, four of these seven are still employed by Parks Canada.

**Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable  
Development**

## **Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development**

### ***Members***

**(12)**

**Matt Jeneroux**

**Monique Pauzé (Vice-Chair)**

**Yvan Baker**

**Ya'ara Saks**

**Laurel Collins**

**Brad Redekopp**

**Dan Albas (Vice-Chair)**

**Francis Scarpaleggia (Chair)**

**Lloyd Longfield**

**Peter Schiefke**

**Cathy McLeod**

**Raj Saini**



# Peter Schiefke



Political Affiliation: Liberal

Constituency: [Vaudreuil—Soulanges](#)

Province / Territory: Quebec

Preferred Language: English / French

## **Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change**

An expert in Sustainable Development, Peter Schiefke has over 15 years of experience working for humanitarian, environmental and social causes. His passion for positive social change inspired him to found a number of local and international projects and organizations, including Youth Action Canada and the Concordia Empowerment Education Development Program based in Uganda, East Africa. Prior to being elected to the House of Commons, he served as National Director of Climate Reality Canada, an organization founded by former US Vice-President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore. For his work, he has been awarded numerous awards and distinctions, including the YMCA Peace Prize and the *Forces Avenir* Award for Peace Justice and Humanitarian Aid.

Peter holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Concordia University and a Master of Science in Renewable Resources from McGill University. He was elected as a Member of Parliament by the citizens of Vaudreuil-Soulanges in October 2015 and was shortly thereafter selected by the Prime Minister to serve as his Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and to the Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction.

# Francis Scarpaleggia (Chair)



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

**Liberal Party of Canada Caucus Chair**

**Main Issues – Water**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Francis lives with his wife and two children in Kirkland.

# Ya`ara Saks



Political Affiliation: Liberal  
Constituency: York Centre  
Province / Territory: Ontario  
Preferred Language: English

A dual citizen of Canada and of Israel, Saks was born in Toronto to an Israeli father and has lived in both Israel (1995 to 2006) and Canada. She attended McGill University for her undergraduate education, and then completed her Master's degree in international relations and diplomacy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Before entering politics, Saks owned a yoga studio in York Centre (in the north end of Toronto) and was the director of Trauma Practice for Healthy Communities, a charity that focuses on mental health

# Raj Saini



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

## **Main Issues – International**

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

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

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

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

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

# Yvan Baker



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

## **Main Issues - \*Rarely asks questions\***

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

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

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

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

# Lloyd Longfield



Political Affiliation: Liberal

Constituency: [Guelph](#)

Province / Territory: Ontario

Preferred Language: English / French

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

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

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

Highlights of Lloyd's community leadership includes:

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

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

#### Awards:

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

#### Business Involvement:

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

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

# Cathy McLeod



Political Affiliation: Conservative  
Constituency: Kamloops—Thompson--Caribou  
Province / Territory: British Columbia  
Preferred Language: English

Member of Parliament Cathy McLeod has served with dedication and integrity since 2008. She has served as the Shadow Minister for Indigenous and Northern Affairs (2016-2019, 2020-2021) and Forestry and Mining (2019-2020).

Previously, Cathy was the Parliamentary Secretary to several Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister of Health, Minister of Labour and Western Economic Diversification, and Minister of National Revenue.

Prior to her election to the House of Commons, Cathy was a municipal councillor and then Mayor of Pemberton. She was also Director of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.

Cathy is a registered nurse, and managed health care centres in downtown Kamloops, Pemberton, Logan Lake and Chase. She played a leadership role in primary healthcare reform for the B.C. Interior Health Authority.

Cathy earned her nursing degree from the University of Western Ontario, and completed a Master's Degree in International Primary Health Care from the University of London in the U.K.

Cathy and her husband, Gord, have been married for over 35 years. They live in Kamloops and have three adult children.



# Dan Albas



Political Affiliation: Conservative

Constituency: [Central Okanagan—Similkameen—Nicola](#)

Province / Territory: British Columbia

Preferred Language: English

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

In the 2008 local government elections the 31-year-old Albas ran, and placed first with 5,656 votes, for a seat on the Penticton City Council. Albas became known as the most fiscally-conservative councillor on an already fiscally-conservative council. Beyond the measures agreed to by the council, Albas sought to avoid having the city purchase or pay for a fire-rescue boat, the restoration of the SS Sicamous, landscaping improvements at the South Okanagan Events Centre and the beaches, mobile radar speed signs, building an agricultural centre in the downtown area and unsuccessfully tried to defer the hiring of additional fire department officers<sup>[20]</sup> and eliminate a 2.1% raise in councillor salaries (though all were approved by council despite Albas opposing the motions). He voted against opening public library on Sundays to avoid the extra costs and against raising the electricity rate to match FortisBC rate increases (the city purchases power from FortisBC and sells it to citizens), and requiring developers who work with the city to have professional liability insurance, though all were approved by council. Initiatives that Albas began or assisted with included bylaw enforcement fines for aggressive pan-handling, keeping a Canada Post outlet in the downtown area. Believing public transit should be funded through user fees, he voted against acquiring new buses from BC Transit unless it was paid for through higher fares and later sought to raise fares by 25% to fund operational costs. He drew criticism as a councillor for interfering with staff management and for posting speculative comments on his blog regarding privatization of city services. Albas was appointed to be a director at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen where he was successful he reducing the Regional District's contribution to the Okanagan Film Commission by 50%; Albas became an alternate director in 2009 and 2010.

# Matt Jeneroux



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

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

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

In just three years, he had two of his motions pass unanimously in the legislature. First, to provide support for playgrounds when new schools for young families are built in the province of Alberta. He also urged the provincial government to conduct a review of the childcare policy in the province. He chaired the Standing Committee on Legislative Offices. He was defeated in the 2015 provincial election. He also chaired the Capital Region Caucus, Youth Secretariat, and was a member of the Alberta Treasury Board committee. In addition, he chaired Results Based Budgeting for Environment and Resource Stewardship, chaired Results Based Budgeting for Wellness, a member of Public Accounts committee, co-chair of the Alberta Film Advisory Council and chair of the Government of Alberta's Youth Advisory Panel.

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

# Brad Redekopp



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

## **Main Issues – GHG Emissions, Carbon Pricing**

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

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

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

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

# Laurel Collins



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

**NDP Caucus Vice Chair, critic for Environment and Climate Change**

**Main Issues – protected areas, VW, Enforcement, CEPA**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Monique Pauzé



Political Affiliation: Bloc Québécois

Constituency: [Repentigny](#)

Province / Territory: Quebec

Preferred Language: French

**Bloc Québécois critic for Environment and Climate Change**

**Main Issues – Weather services, toxics, SARA**

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

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

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