

## **A New Vision For Science & Research**

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Alberta Parks is moving toward incorporation of science and research in the management of its parks and protected areas. One example of this is identification of research within the Strategic Plan as one of key tools to managing sites. To this end, a series of workshops with the external research community and staff was held to identify ways to foster the relationship between the research community and park managers. One of the main outcomes of those workshops was the identification of the need for a science and research strategy. Four themes, environmental, social/cultural, economic and best practices were identified as being key components of it. A strategy has now been drafted that is being presented to the research community for review and comment. This strategy outlines the broad priorities of baseline inventory, key indicators, parks as benchmarks, social and economic role of parks and innovation and best practices. Challenges to effective implementation of incorporation of science and research were identified and mechanisms for overcoming these are proposed