

Briefing Book

Appearance Before the

Standing Committee on

Environment and Sustainable Development

December 2nd, 2020

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Issue	Subject	Tab
Minister’s Binder		
SFT	Speech From the Throne Environmental Commitments	1
	Overview of PCA’s 2020-2021 Supplementary Estimates B <i>A- Minister’s note</i> <i>B- PCEO’s note</i> - \$74.1 million to partially address PCA’s loss of revenue due to the pandemic and to provide rent relief - \$2.2 million to combat mountain pine beetle infestations - \$7 million to establish an impact benefit agreement with the Dehcho First Nation for the establishment of the Nahanni National Park Reserve - Transfers with other organizations (net increase of \$0.6 million)	4
	Copy of PCA’s 2020-2021 Supplementary Estimates B	5
Nature and Wildlife	Caribou <i>A- Minister’s note on Caribou,</i> <i>B- PCEO’s note on Measures to protect Caribou in Jasper National Park</i> <i>C- PCEO’s note on Southern Mountain Caribou</i>	11
	Natural Climate Solutions <i>A- Minister’s note on Natural Climate Solutions</i> <i>B- PCEO’s note on Climate change and nature-based solutions</i>	12
	Nature Legacy Initiatives <i>A- Minister’s note on Nature Legacy Initiatives</i> <i>B- PCEO’s note on Nature Legacy</i>	13
	Species at Risk <i>A- Minister’s note on Species at Risk</i> <i>B- PCEO’s note on Species at Risk</i>	14
Parks Canada	Mountain Pine Beetle <i>A- Minister’s note</i>	20
	New Parks and Historic Sites Account <i>A- Minister’s note</i>	21
	Protected Areas Establishment <i>A- Minister’s note</i>	22
	Urban Parks <i>A- Minister’s note</i> <i>B- PCEO’s note on Rouge National Urban Park</i>	23
COVID-19	COVID-19 related impacts on Parks Canada’s revenues <i>A- Minister’s note</i>	25
	Deferred payments and rent relief <i>A- Minister’s note</i>	26
	Visitation in 2020 (April 1 to September 30) <i>A- Minister’s note</i>	27

PCEO's Binder only		
Issue	Subject	TAB
Results	Parks Canada accomplishment 2020-2021	30
	2019-2020 Departmental Results Report	31
Parks Canada Financial Notes	Federal infrastructure investments <i>A- PCEO's note</i> <i>B- Infrastructure projects by riding</i>	32
	Implementation of the Service Fees Act at Parks Canada	33
	Payments in lieu of taxes (PILT)	34
	Tabling of the Public accounts 2020	35
	Youth employment at Parks Canada in 2020	36
Natural Heritage	Salish Sea Initiative	37
	Forest pests in Parks Canada	38
	Proposed South Okanagan Similkameen National Park Reserve	39
Cultural Heritage	Advancing federal legislation for historic places	40
	Consolidation of the collection under Parks Canada's care	41
	Snow removal on the multi-use path on the Lachine Canal	42
	Diversity, inclusion and historical commemoration	43
	ENVI report & Auditor General's report on conserving federal heritage properties	44
	Laboratories Canada: Cultural heritage science hub	45
	Province House NHS conservation project	46
Site-Specific Issues	Advisory panel for sustainable people movement and transportation in Banff National Park	47
	Liricon Gondola Proposal in Banff National Park	48
	Natural gas liquefaction plant project (projet Énergie Saguenay)	49
	Occupation of Lake Audy Camp. at Riding Mountain NP	50
	Reflecting Canada's diversity in NP, NHS, NMCAs	51
	Trans Canada Highway	52
	Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site Action Plan implementation	53
Tourism and Visitation	Parks Canada reservation system launch delay	54
	Winter offer	55
Other Issues	2020 Minister's round table on Parks Canada	56
	Indigenous stewardship	57
	Parks Canada National Fire Management Program	58
Miscellaneous Information	Minister's written remarks	59
	ENVI members and bios <i>A- Dan Albas: Answer to Q-160: Land and marine area protection</i> <i>B- Francis Scarpaleggia: Concerns with wildfire threat increased by Mountain Pine Beetle</i> <i>C- Transcript from ENVI appearance on Main Estimates</i>	60
	ECCC Mandate Letter	62

Speech from the Throne

Question:

What are the environmental priorities of the government identified in the Speech from the Throne?

Answer:

- While the Government's number one priority remains to protect Canadians from Covid-19, the Speech from the Throne made clear that we must take bold action on multiple interconnected fronts: the economy, equality, and the environment.
- In this context, the Government intends on making climate action a cornerstone of its plan to support and create a million jobs across the country.
- Overall, the Speech from the Throne outlined 20 key commitments related to the environment.
- These include, among others, commitments to:
 - Exceed Canada's 2030 climate goals
 - Legislate Canada's goal of net-zero emissions by 2050
 - Continue policy of putting a price on pollution, while putting that money back in the pockets of Canadians
 - Use nature-based solutions to fight climate change, including by planting two billion trees
 - Invest in reducing the impact of climate-related disasters
 - Protect a quarter of Canada's land and a quarter of Canada's oceans in five years
 - Create the Canada Water Agency
 - Modernize the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (CEPA)
 - Ban harmful single-use plastics next year and ensure that more plastic is recycled



2020-2021 PARKS CANADA **OVERVIEW OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B)**

ISSUE

- The Supplementary Estimates B is the second 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 \$83,880,573 through these Supplementary Estimates.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Through the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates (B), the Agency is seeking to increase its reference levels in the amount of almost \$84 million.
- The majority of this amount – up to \$74 million – will be used to partially compensate the Agency for the unexpected revenue shortfall due to the decline in visitation from April 1 to September 30, **2020 (\$68.4 million)** as well as the remission of a portion of the annual payments on non-residential leases and licenses of occupation to businesses located in Parks Canada administered sites (**\$5.7 million**).
- The Supplementary Estimates (B) will also support Parks Canada's collaborative efforts, with Natural Resources Canada, by providing funding of \$2.2 million to mitigate the impacts of the mountain pine beetle infestation in the Rocky Mountain National Parks in Alberta.
- This funding also includes \$7 million that is being moved from last year to this year to protect Canada's nature, parks and wild spaces, in support of an impact benefit agreement with the Dehcho First Nation and the establishment of the Nahanni National Park Reserve.
- Finally, there are transfers of \$0.6 million from other government departments in relation to environmental and climate change activities.

BACKGROUND / DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS

Total Estimates to Date (Main Estimates plus Supplementary Estimates A and B)

- Parks Canada's total Current Authorities for 2020-21, including Main Estimates and Supplementary Estimates A and B total \$1.5 billion.



- The \$1.5 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 (page proofs attached)

Supplementary Estimates B - Description of items

1- Funding to sustain Operations (COVID-19): \$74.1 million

- 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.
- 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 parks, national historic sites 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 continued 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.
- Approximately 13.5 million Canadians chose to recreate or spend their vacation time in Parks Canada places across the country.
- However, revenues were negatively impacted because visitor services and paid experiences were reduced in summer 2020 and only locations that could be operated safely were open to visitation. This, combined with a preference among visitors for safer, low cost outdoor activities (e.g. hiking and enjoying day-use areas) are all factors that are impacting the Agency's annual revenues for 2020-21.
- This financial support to partially address Parks Canada's revenue shortfall allowed 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 could safely enjoy the wellness benefits of access to



the outdoors in national parks, national historic sites and marine conservation areas.

- Furthermore, the Agency also sought and received authority and funding to provide rent relief to hard hit commercial operators within Parks Canada places to parallel the support provided under the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. This support has been a critical help to tourism businesses in Parks Canada places across the country.
- Parks Canada generates approximately \$177 million in revenue annually, primarily from visitor services, commercial real property agreements, and the sale of permits and other goods and services. These revenues are used to support core and ongoing operations.
- In Supplementary Estimates B for Parks Canada, there is up to \$74.1 million to partially address its anticipated visitation and commercial leases and licenses of occupation revenues' shortfall associated with the first six months of 2020-21. Specifically, this funding is composed of the following two elements:
 - First, up to \$68.4 million was identified as the revenue that was at risk of not being generated from visitor services from April 1 to September 30, 2020. This amount represents a maximum that could be made available to the Agency. It will be reduced by the amount of revenue collected and by a portion of the shortfall that the Agency will fund internally from savings incurred.
 - Second, up to \$5.7 million was earmarked to provide for the remission of rent to commercial tenants in national parks and historic sites to parallel the Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program.
- The Agency is finalizing its financial reports on revenue collected and savings and the amount it will receive will be confirmed with the Treasury Board Secretariat shortly.
- In terms of visitation, revenue collected in the first six months totaled \$23 million, only 35% compared to 2019 levels. While visitation remained relatively high, at 66% of 2019 levels, revenue was disproportionally affected because visitors opted for lower cost and autonomous activities such as hiking and biking.
- The Agency is continuing to monitor the potential risk of revenue loss for the remainder of the fiscal year and continues to assess the financial impact on commercial operators and mitigation measures.



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

- 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 help mitigate the impacts of the mountain pine beetle infestation in Alberta, support research to enhance beetle management practices, and mitigate mountain pine beetle-related impacts in the Rocky Mountain national parks. The initiative will also 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- Reprofile of \$7 million to protect Canada's nature, parks and wild spaces, in support of an impact benefit agreement with the Dehcho First Nation and the establishment of the Nahanni National Park Reserve

- 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.



- 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.
- Further negotiations with the Dehcho First Nations were required. Consequently, Parks Canada was not in a position to proceed with the \$10 million grant payment to the Dehcho First Nations by March 31, 2019.
- A reprofile request was approved in 2019 for the initial grant amount of \$3 million and due to timing considerations a separate reprofile request was required for the \$7 million grant funding so that the entire \$10 million is available in 2020-2021.
- Parks Canada hopes to conclude negotiations by end of 2021.

4- Transfers – Total increase of \$0.6 million

A. Transfer from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans 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 Secretariat 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.

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

B. Transfer from the Treasury Board Secretariat to various organizations for innovative approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in government operations: \$350,000

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	2020-21
Northern Housing Greening Initiative	\$75,000
Ya Ha Tinda Horse Ranch	\$220,000
Kejimikujik Campground Solar Array	\$55,000
Total	\$350,000

Project 1: Northern Housing Greening Initiative - \$75,000

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 our 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 - \$220,000

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 proposes to 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 - \$55,000

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 campground asset recapitalization project at Kejimikujik that will improve facility efficiency through asset consolidation and fuel switching (commencing fall 2019 to be completed in spring 2021). However, the recapitalization project funds do not address the significant electricity consumption by park users at the 200 electrified campsites. This visitor usage contributes to Parks Canada's GHG emissions, but the Agency has limited influence to control or reduce the amount of electricity consumed by campers (RV heaters / air conditioners / fridges, etc.). The proposed project is a green delta proposal to install a significant grid-tied net metered photovoltaic solar array to offset the park's user consumption.

C. Transfer from the Department of Transport to various organizations to provide operational funding to undertake a climate risk assessment through the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment Program: \$108,213

This transfer is part of Transport Canada's Transportation Assets Risk Assessment initiative. Through this initiative, Transport Canada supports the development of climate change risk assessments and potential adaptation solutions for federally-owned and/or managed transportation assets. Parks Canada will be continuing its work to assess long-term coastal vulnerabilities, collect data, and validate hydrographic models for the Gulf Shore Parkway through Prince Edward Island National Park.

The Gulf Shore Parkway in PEI is the 4th initiative of the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment Program. The Gulf Shore Parkway initiative consist of developing a long-term risk-based program assessment and guide for works along the Gulf Shore Parkway East and West, Grahams Lane, and Greenwich Road to ensure any future capital costs associated with rehabilitation achieve the maximum increase in climate change resiliency and asset lifespan. This initiative has received a total of \$830,000 over 4 years. The work has started in 2018-2019 and final report is due by March 31, 2022. Work will be completed with 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 funding.

Parks Canada Agency

Organization Summary

	Authorities To Date	These Supplementary Estimates		Proposed Authorities To Date
		Transfers	Adjustments	
		(dollars)		
Budgetary				
Voted				
1b Program expenditures	1,227,913,557	553,001	83,237,392	1,311,703,950
5 Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account	9,992,000	.....	.....	9,992,000
Total Voted	1,237,905,557	553,001	83,237,392	1,321,695,950
Total Statutory	224,056,040	.....	90,180	224,146,220
Total Budgetary Expenditures	1,461,961,597	553,001	83,327,572	1,545,842,170

Note: Additional details by organization are available on the Treasury Board Secretariat website – <http://www.canada.ca/en/treasury-board-secretariat.html>.

Explanation of Requirements (dollars)

Budgetary

Voted Appropriations

Funding to sustain operations (COVID-19)	Vote 1b	74,100,000
Funding to protect Canada's nature, parks and wild spaces	Vote 1b	7,000,000
Funding to combat mountain pine beetle infestations (horizontal item)	Vote 1b	2,137,392
Total Voted Appropriations		83,237,392
Total Statutory Appropriations		90,180
Transfers		
Transfers from Other Organizations		
From the Treasury Board Secretariat to various organizations for innovative approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in government operations	Vote 1b	350,000
From the Department of Transport to various organizations to provide operational funding to undertake a climate risk assessment through the Transportation Assets Risk Assessment Program	Vote 1b	108,213
From the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to various organizations to respond to Indigenous concerns on the overall health of the Salish Sea	Vote 1b	94,788
Total Transfers		553,001
Total Budgetary		83,880,573

Listing of Transfer Payments

	Estimates to Date	These Supplementary Estimates (dollars)	Revised Estimates
Grants			
Grant to the Dehcho First Nations	.....	7,000,000	7,000,000
Contributions			
Contributions in support of activities or projects related to national parks, national marine conservation areas, national historic sites and historic canals	15,835,443	600,000	16,435,443

Listing of Statutory Authorities

	Authorities To Date	These Supplementary Estimates (dollars)	Proposed Authorities
Budgetary			
Contributions to employee benefit plans	54,062,963	90,180	54,153,143

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 (\$)
1b	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		83,237,392
			83,237,392

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B), 2020–21

Statutory Forecasts

	Authorities To Date	These Supplementary Estimates (dollars)	Proposed Authorities
Budgetary			
Parks Canada Agency			
Expenditures equivalent to revenues resulting from the conduct of operations pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Parks Canada Agency Act</i>	169,993,077	. . . . .	169,993,077
Contributions to employee benefit plans	54,062,963	90,180	54,153,143
Total Budgetary	224,056,040	90,180	224,146,220

SUPPLEMENTARY
ESTIMATES (B),
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	1,143,142,209	73,137,896	550,000	7,600,000	.....	81,287,896	1,224,430,105
Internal Services	105,608,939	2,592,677	.....	.....	.....	2,592,677	108,201,616
Total	1,248,751,148	75,730,573	550,000	7,600,000	.....	83,880,573	1,332,631,721
Total Budgetary	1,248,751,148	75,730,573	550,000	7,600,000	.....	83,880,573	1,332,631,721

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (B), 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	510,968	1,941,758	872,848	19,126,405	2,297,821	2,825,465	5,161,340	40,586,275	2,957,693	7,600,000	.....	.....	.....	83,880,573
Total	510,968	1,941,758	872,848	19,126,405	2,297,821	2,825,465	5,161,340	40,586,275	2,957,693	7,600,000	.....	.....	.....	83,880,573

Horizontal Items

The items listed in this table are horizontal initiatives and other jointly funded items. Both types of horizontal items involve two or more organizations with a formal funding agreement (e.g. Memorandum to Cabinet or Treasury Board submission). Through horizontal initiatives, the organizations work in partnership toward the achievement of shared outcomes. In jointly funded items, organizations receive incremental funding, and each independently contributes to the realization of the stated objective(s).

Horizontal Items

Organization	Amount
	(dollars)
Funding to combat mountain pine beetle infestations	
Parks Canada Agency	2,137,392
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating expenditures to mitigate the impact within the Rocky Mountain National Parks, reduce the risk of fires by clearing dead trees, improve fire protection systems in affected areas and collect data. 	



MEASURES TO PROTECT CARIBOU IN JASPER NATIONAL PARK

(All data current as of November 20, 2020)

ISSUE

- Parks Canada has an ongoing conservation program to safeguard the herds of woodland caribou found in Jasper National Park and to foster their recovery to population levels that will be self-sustaining. The Agency is examining the feasibility of augmenting the herd to support population growth of this iconic species.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is committed to preserving national parks and protecting the wildlife that are an integral part of these places. Parks Canada has an ongoing conservation program to safeguard the herds of woodland caribou found in Jasper National Park and to foster their recovery to population levels that will be self-sustaining.
- Recently, Parks Canada communicated to stakeholders, partners and Canadians that the woodland caribou herd in the Maligne Valley of Jasper National Park is no longer present in the valley. This determination was made after several aerial surveys conducted since 2018.
- Habitat protection measures and area closures will remain in place in the Maligne Valley with minor adjustments, including closures to winter access. This year, the boundaries of the winter caribou habitat closure in the Maligne Range will change to allow some limited opportunities for recreation, while maintaining 96% of the area of the Maligne-Brazeau seasonal closure that keeps a large area of the park free from human disturbance for four months of the year. Parks Canada will continue to monitor these areas and the closure will be reassessed and reinstated at any time if appropriate.
- The Agency is examining the feasibility of augmenting the herd to support population growth of this iconic species. Parks Canada has been investigating the feasibility of developing a caribou conservation breeding program and is now at the point where a proposal will undergo a review by external experts before any further considerations are taken.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- In September 2020, Parks Canada communicated with stakeholders and on the Agency website that the Maligne Valley caribou herd was no longer present in the valley and all evidence suggests that it is functionally extirpated.
- Five separate aerial surveys (three in fall 2018 and two in fall 2019) of the Maligne Valley have not located any caribou or caribou tracks. In Jasper National Park, annual surveys of caribou are done by flying over caribou habitat and counting the number of caribou that are spotted.



- Parks Canada has an ongoing conservation program to minimize threats to the herds of woodland caribou who make their home in Jasper National Park and to support the growth of herds toward self-sustaining population levels.
- Research shows that the decline in caribou in southern Jasper (Brazeau, Tonquin, and Maligne herds) results mostly from adult caribou deaths. After studying the causes of these deaths, Parks Canada has taken steps to reduce as many of the threats as possible:
 - roadkill has been handled differently since 2006 to prevent predator population growth;
 - access to occupied caribou ranges is closed in winter so human trails and roads don't give wolves easy access to the herds;
 - helicopter guidelines are in place to protect caribou from being disturbed by aircraft;
 - warning signs and speed reductions are in place to protect caribou from traffic.
- Taking these steps created better conditions for caribou survival as well as caribou recovery. Jasper National Park has abundant habitat and conditions are favorable to support caribou recovery:
 - elk populations are at a level that doesn't encourage predator growth;
 - wolf populations are at levels that are no longer a significant threat to healthy, sustainable herds.
- Parks Canada has been investigating the feasibility of developing a caribou conservation breeding program and is now at the point where a proposal will undergo a review by external experts before any further considerations are taken.
- 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.



SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN CARIBOU

ISSUE

- Parks Canada is responsible for the protection and recovery of Southern Mountain Caribou where they occur in Parks Canada places.
- 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*. Two herds range into Mount Revelstoke and Glacier national parks, and five herds have historically been found in Jasper and Banff national parks. Most herds using the national parks are too small to recover on their own and, in recent years, Banff's (2009) and Jasper's Maligne (2020) herds have become extirpated. This has garnered media attention and questions about Parks Canada's plans for recovery. Three herds (Tonquin, Brazeau, and the cross-boundary A La Pêche herd) remain in Jasper.

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 \$1.5M in investments under Nature Legacy funds.
- Conservation actions implemented include speed zones, hiking and flying restrictions, and winter access restrictions designed to prevent facilitated predator access to caribou. These measures have effectively mitigated four of the five main threats to Southern Mountain Caribou within national parks, and have created the necessary conditions in Jasper National Park to support the growth of caribou populations.
- The remaining threat is small population size, with current numbers too low for caribou to recover on their own. Working with partners and experts, Parks Canada has developed a preliminary project proposal to rebuild caribou herds in Jasper National Park, and is now at the point where the proposal will undergo a review by external experts before any further considerations are taken.
- 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.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Southern Mountain Caribou have been identified as one of six Priority Species under the Government of Canada's Nature Legacy program.



- The Banff National Park herd was extirpated in 2009 after an avalanche killed the remaining five animals. The Maligne herd in Jasper National Park is now deemed extirpated, after several surveys in 2018, 2019 and 2020 failed to locate any caribou or caribou tracks.
 - The Tonquin herd is estimated to have 45 caribou and the Brazeau herd to have fewer than 15 caribou.
 - 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. Some animals in this herd are resident in Jasper National Park year-round, some stay in the foothills of Alberta's Rocky Mountains, and some migrate back and forth.

REACTIVE / IF ASKED

Winter access restrictions in Jasper National Park:

- Parks Canada continually reviews and evaluates conservation measures to adapt to changing conditions.
- Recent actions supporting caribou habitat protection include the continued use of winter closures for 2800 km² in Jasper National Park from November to March.
- 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 percent of the former closures to visitation. Parks Canada will continue to monitor these areas and the closure will be reassessed and reinstated at any time if appropriate.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

ISSUE

- Climate change impacts to Parks Canada-administered places are complex, and the Agency is committed to integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation actions into its work.

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 impacts, not only contributing to landscape-level biodiversity conservation, but also human health and well-being.
- Parks Canada is conducting important research within protected areas that contributes to our understanding of climate change, and informs climate change adaptation and mitigation action at protected heritage places.
- Through the 32.2 million hectares of natural capital found in national parks, \$266 billion in ecosystem services are provided annually to Canadians. This does not include national marine conservation areas and national historic sites

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The Agency 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:
 - 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 led the development of an adaptation framework for parks and protected areas in collaboration with federal, provincial and territorial partners.
 - In collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Climate Services a series of climate summaries were developed. 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.



- Prince Edward Island National Park and academic partners are working together to assess dune vegetation recovery following tropical storm Dorian, to better understand the recovery of coastal ecosystems after extreme weather events.
- The Agency is also conducting research 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.



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.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The Nature Legacy investment is supporting Parks Canada in its mandate to protect and present the examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage under its care.
- Since 2018, sustained efforts in the effective management of Parks Canada places during Nature Legacy has led to 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, and will sustain efforts to maintain this target.
 - 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.
- 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.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Through the Nature Legacy Parks Canada received \$220.8 million over 5 years to support the implementation of Canada's Nature Legacy.



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 6 Priority Species occur on Parks Canada lands and Parks Canada has active conservation programs and existing relationships in place for two of the 4 priority caribou species (Boreal Caribou and Southern Mountain Caribou), as well as for Greater Sage Grouse and Wood Bison, which are also both identified as Priority Species.
- Parks Canada continues to make on-the-ground conservation gains using multi-species, ecosystem-based, and threat-based approaches, as well as by engaging with Indigenous peoples, partners and stakeholders.
- Parks Canada has developed 21 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.
- In 2019-20 Parks Canada allocated approximately \$2.5M to projects that initiated more than 60 actions identified in Species at risk action plans.
- On November 5, 2020 Parks Canada announced the establishment of the Parks Canada Research Chair in Aquatic Restorations in collaboration with the University of New Brunswick. The Chair is studying the ecological effects of Atlantic salmon recovery work underway to conserve or restore salmon stocks in Fundy, Cape Breton Highlands, Gros Morne, Kouchibouguac and Terra Nova National Parks.



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 expand Parks Canada's role as a leader in bison conservation, identify agency-wide bison objectives and priorities, ensure national cohesion for the management of bison herds, and support informed decision making.

Southern Mountain Caribou:

- Parks Canada has taken concrete steps to reduce threats to Southern Mountain Caribou and to create better conditions for their survival and recovery, including \$1.5M of Nature Legacy funds. These measures have effectively mitigated four of the five main threats to Southern Mountain Caribou within national parks. The remaining threat is small population size.
- 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 Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada 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.



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.



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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 capital funds for new parks and historic sites. Funds are deposited into the New Parks and Historic Sites Account in order to protect the capital funding required and honor the Agency's commitment for the establishment, enlargement or designation of national parks, national historic sites, 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 new parks and historic 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 park, national historic site, 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

Each Treasury Board submission seeking funding for new parks was made using a Treasury Board Secretariat approved costing model (northern park model, southern park model and national marine conservation areas model).

These models include funding for the establishment phase as well as the ongoing phase. The costs related to the establishment phase are to be captured in the New Parks Fund (operating – Vote 1) and the New Parks and Sites Account (capital – special purpose account). Once the park is operational, funding for the ongoing portion is to be transferred into the A-Base of the Business Unit for them to manage as part of their day to day business.

The deposit of moneys into the New Parks and Historic Sites Account (the special purpose account) is done through the Parliamentary appropriation process (vote transfer from vote 1 operations to vote 5 the New Parks and Historic Sites account via Main Estimates & Supplementary Estimates processes).



CURRENT STATUS

Funds currently available in the Account are for the following parks (\$89M):

- Rouge (\$51M)
- Lake Superior (\$12M)
- Qausuittuq, Ukkusiksalik, Talluruptiup Imanga, HMS Erebus & Terror (\$11M)
- Naats'ihch'oh, Nahanni, Thaidene Nënë (\$10M)
- Gwaii Haanas (\$1M)
- Gulf Islands (\$3M)
- Mealy Mountain (\$1M)



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 per cent of Canada's land and 25 per cent of Canada's oceans by 2025, working toward 30 per cent of each by 2030.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada's 47 national parks, one national urban park, freshwater National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA), and other protected areas contribute 3.53 percent, or more than a quarter of Canada's 12 percent total terrestrial protected areas.
- Parks Canada's NMCAs and coastal national parks currently contribute 2.12 per cent of Canada's 13.81 per cent total marine and coastal protected areas. Within the 13.81 percent, 5.55 percent is under interim protection in the High Arctic Basin, as Tuvaïjuittuq Marine Protected Area, through the *Oceans Act*; Parks Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are working with Inuit partners and territorial governments on this ongoing conservation effort.
- 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 with Indigenous governments and communities.
- Parks Canada works closely with approximately 300 Indigenous communities and has over 30 formal collaborative arrangements with Indigenous partners in a range of formal structures, including cooperative management boards.
- Parks Canada's commitment to approaches that enable Indigenous peoples to fulfill their roles as traditional stewards of lands and waters within heritage places has led to many Indigenous governments and communities expressing 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 NMCA and nearby National Wildlife Area; 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 Canada's work to establish new protected areas has been guided by the National Parks System Plan and NMCAs System Plan. The goal of these plans is to achieve representation of each of Canada's 39 terrestrial natural regions and 29 marine natural regions through the creation of new national parks and NMCAs, thereby contributing to domestic and international biodiversity targets. The 47 national parks currently represent 31 of Canada's 39 terrestrial natural regions, while the five established NMCAs represent six of 29 marine regions.
- Parks Canada is currently working closely with British Columbia and the Syilx / Okanagan Nation on a project to establish a national park reserve in the South Okanagan–Similkameen, and with the Government of Prince Edward Island and the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island to assess the feasibility of a new national park reserve in the Hog Island Sandhills chain in northwestern Prince Edward Island.
- Parks Canada is currently working collaboratively with provincial, territorial and Indigenous governments on feasibility assessments for NMCAs in Eastern James Bay, in the Southern Strait of Georgia in British Columbia, 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.



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ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK

ISSUE

The park's first management plan was tabled in Parliament in 2019 and park land assembly is now nearly 95% complete, with lands having transferred incrementally to Parks Canada from the Province of Ontario, Transport Canada and several local municipalities since 2015. Negotiations with the City of Markham are underway to transfer most remaining lands committed to Parks Canada for inclusion in the park. In August 2019, Minister McKenna and Toronto Mayor John Tory announced the location of the park's visitor center on lands the Toronto Zoo has agreed to transfer to Parks Canada for inclusion in the park. Parks Canada is currently reviewing architecture and engineering bids for the centre and an extensive public engagement program has commenced with Indigenous and community partners; the centre is expected to open in 2024. Parks Canada is also working on building approximately 50 kms of new trails, washrooms, and other foundational facilities as part of completing the establishment of the park. Now that the park's land assembly is substantially completed, a Minister-appointed park advisory committee will be named by early 2021, including an open nomination process for the public members.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The first of its kind in Canada, Rouge National Urban Park protects Canada's natural, cultural and agricultural heritage and is situated within one hour's drive of 20% of Canada's population. Once fully established, the park will be 23 times larger than Central Park in New York and one of the largest urban protected areas in the world.
- Since 2012, Parks Canada has worked closely with the RNUP First Nations Advisory Circle on all aspects of the park's establishment and programming, including co-designing park trails and infrastructure, and working together on park restoration, archaeology and educational programming.
- Parks Canada is working closely with a wide range of community partners, stakeholders, Indigenous partners, park farmers, conservationists and residents in designing all park trails, facilities and the park's flagship visitor center.
- Over the next three years, a significant amount of new trails, visitor amenities and conservation projects are expected to open or be completed, including the addition of approximately 50 kilometers of new trails and planting of over 100,000 trees and shrubs.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The establishment of RNUP is now at an advanced stage, with the park's first new trails and day use areas having opened in 2019 and 2020, with many more new trails and facilities expected to open over the next four years.



- In 2017 the *Rouge National Urban Park Act* was amended by the Government of Canada to ensure that ecological integrity is the first priority when managing the park, and also to provide greater certainty for park farmers.
- To this end, Canada's Minister responsible for Parks Canada committed to providing park farmers with leases of up to 30 years to provide them with long-term stability. Longer term leases give farmers an opportunity to make investments in sustainable agricultural practices and continue providing an important source of locally-grown food to the Greater Toronto Area.
- Parks Canada will continue working collaboratively with farmers to encourage the development and implementation of best farming practices, which will assist in achieving desired ecological conditions across the landscape.
- The RNUP Management Plan was tabled January 16, 2019. In completing the plan, Parks Canada engaged with over 20,000 Canadians and worked closely with Indigenous Peoples, all levels of government, conservationists, farmers, residents, and volunteers in one of the Agency's most significant and largest ever public engagement processes.
- On August 27, 2019, the Government of Canada, Parks Canada and the Toronto Zoo announced an agreement regarding the location of the future RNUP visitor centre, which will be built on the lands formerly part of the Toronto's Zoo's naturalized overflow parking. The facility will be a learning, orientation and community centre where students, visitors and residents may learn about the Rouge as well as about Parks Canada places across the country.
- With ecological integrity enshrined as RNUP's first priority, Parks Canada has put in place a very ambitious ecological restoration and species-at-risk recovery program. To this end, since 2014, Parks Canada has released over 400 threatened turtles back into the park, planted over 100,000 trees and shrubs, and created over 80 hectares of aquatic and forest habitat.
- The City of Toronto is an important partner in the establishment of Rouge National Urban Park and has been working in partnership with Parks Canada to establish the park since 2012.
- Parks Canada has worked with the City of Toronto to preserve and safeguard a number of heritage buildings in the Toronto area of Rouge National Urban Park. Some of these buildings include:
 - **Toronto Wildlife Centre House:** Parks Canada is working in partnership with the City of Toronto and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to help locate a new long-term home in Rouge National Urban Park for the Toronto Wildlife Centre (Canada's largest hospital for sick and injured wildlife). As part of this work, Parks Canada has been working with all partners to restore the Meeno-Reesor Homestead at 6461 Steeles Avenue East. The restored building will act as an office and interim base of operations until the completion of an adjacent new facility can be completed in the coming years.



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- **Pearse House:** Parks Canada has been working closely with the City of Toronto to ensure that the Pearse House always remains an important landmark and community hub in the park. To this end, in creating the park, Parks Canada committed to ensuring the building will remain the home of the Rouge Valley Foundation, an important local education and youth organization.
- Parks Canada manages 22 buildings with heritage character in the Toronto area of Rouge National Urban Park, including some of the last working farmsteads and barns in the City of Toronto. By 2025, it's estimated that Parks Canada will have invested \$3 million in restoring, servicing and maintaining some of these buildings. The buildings have been managed by Parks Canada since June 2019, when 1,847 hectares of lands in the Toronto area of the park transferred to Parks Canada for inclusion in Rouge National Urban Park.
- In addition, Parks Canada's head office for Rouge National Urban Park is located at the historic Cornell-Campbell House at 3620 Kingston Road. This City of Toronto heritage building has been Parks Canada's flagship Toronto office since 2013, and although situated outside of the national park, Parks Canada has taken an active role in the building's commemoration through hosting annual events such as Doors Open T.O. and other important community events.



COVID-19 RELATED IMPACTS ON PARKS CANADA'S REVENUES

ISSUE

- Parks Canada Supplementary Estimates B includes funding to address the revenue shortfall that the Agency experienced in the first six months of the fiscal year due to the impact of the pandemic on revenues from visitation and to provide rent relief to commercial tenants.

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.
- 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 parks, national historic sites and national marine protected 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 continued 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.
- The outcomes were remarkable. Some 13.5 million Canadians chose to recreate or spend their vacation time in Parks Canada places across the country.
- However, revenues were negatively impacted because visitor services and paid experiences were reduced in summer 2020 and only locations that could be operated safely were open to visitation. This, combined with a preference among visitors for safer, low cost outdoor activities (e.g. hiking and enjoying day-use areas) are all factors that are impacting the Agency's annual revenues for 2020-21.



- This financial support to partially address Parks Canada's revenue shortfall allowed 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 could safely enjoy the wellness benefits of access to the outdoors in national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas.
- Furthermore, the Agency also sought and received authority and funding to provide rent relief to hard hit commercial operators within Parks Canada places to parallel the support provided under the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program. This support has been a critical help to tourism businesses in Parks Canada places across the country.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada generates approximately \$177 million in revenue annually, primarily from visitor services, commercial real property agreements, and the sale of permits and other goods and services. These revenues are used to support core and ongoing operations.
- In Supplementary Estimates B for Parks Canada, there is up to \$74.1 million to partially address its anticipated visitation and commercial leases and licences of occupation revenues' shortfall associated with the first six months of 2020-21. Specifically, this funding is composed of the following two elements:
 - First, up to \$68.4 million was identified as the revenue that was at risk of not being generated from visitor services from April 1 to September 30, 2020. This amount represents a maximum that could be made available to the Agency. It will be reduced by the amount of revenue collected and by a portion of the shortfall that the Agency will fund internally from savings incurred.
 - Second, up to \$5.7 million was earmarked to provide for the remission of rent to commercial tenants in national parks and historic sites to parallel the Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) program.
- The Agency is finalizing its financial reports on revenue collected and savings and the amount it will receive will be confirmed with the Treasury Board Secretariat shortly.
- In terms of visitation, revenue collected in the first six months totaled \$23 million, only 35% compared to 2019 levels. While visitation remained relatively high, at 66% of 2019 levels, revenue was disproportionally affected because visitors opted for lower cost and autonomous activities such as hiking and biking.



- The Agency is continuing to monitor the potential risk of revenue loss for the remainder of the fiscal year and continues to assess the financial impact on commercial operators and mitigation measures.



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 August, 2020.
- In addition to the rent relief aligned to the CECRA program, Parks Canada is also offering 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.
- As of September 27, 2020, eligible tenants of Parks Canada sites are able to access rent relief directly through the new Commercial Emergency Rent Subsidy.
- 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

- CECRA provided rent relief to eligible businesses for the period of April through September, 2020. Parks Canada is currently seeking the authority to extend rent relief for the month of September to ensure alignment with CECRA.
- Commercial rent deferrals were offered as follows:
 - Payments due between April 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 could be deferred until October 1, 2020.
 - Payments due between October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 may be deferred until January 4, 2021.
- Rent relief is only being 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.



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- On October 9, the Government of Canada announced that CECRA was being replaced by the new Commercial Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS). CERS will provide rental relief directly to eligible tenants beginning on September 27, 2020, so the Parks Canada Agency will not be required to provide additional relief.



VISITATION IN 2020 (APRIL 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30)

(All data current as of November 20, 2020)

ISSUE

- Parks Canada 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, others exceeded past records. In total, some 13.5 million Canadians visited Parks Canada places from April 1 to September 30, 2020. This is 66 percent of 2019 visitation levels for the same period.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Millions of Canadians safely enjoyed Canada's national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas this summer and early fall. Parks Canada received 13.5 million visitors from April 1 to September 30, 2020.
- Parks Canada's primary goal in resuming operations was to help flatten the curve of the COVID-19 pandemic while providing Canadians with safe access to the outdoors and the associated health and wellness benefits that come with it. The core 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.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Visitation to national parks was 8.5 million, which is 68 percent of 2019 levels. July and August were the busiest months, 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 4.9 million, or 63 percent of 2019 levels. Visitation to historic canals and waterways was 3.3 million (95 percent of 2019) and visitation to historic sites unconnected to waterways was 1.7 million (38 percent of 2019).
- 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	YTD
National Parks	-100%	-100%	-38%	-20%	-16%	-6%	-32%
National Historic Sites	-100%	-100%	-30%	-39%	-28%	-26%	-37%
<i>Canals</i>	-100%	-100%	+9%	-7%	-1%	+2%	-5%
<i>All other historic sites</i>	-100%	-100%	-65%	-62%	-53%	-49%	-62%
All Parks Canada	-100%	-100%	-34%	-27%	-21%	-17%	-34%

Table 2 - Change in Total Visitation by Region: 2020 (compared to 2019)

Newfoundland and Labrador	-78%	Manitoba/Saskatchewan	-34%
Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Isl.	-57%	Alberta	-30%
Quebec	-30%	British Columbia	-41%
Ontario	-17%	North (Yk, Nu, NWT)	-85%



PARKS CANADA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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.
- 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.

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).

CONNECTING CANADIANS AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- 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.
- 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 13.4 million).
- 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.



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- 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.

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”.

2019-20 DEPARTMENTAL RESULTS REPORT

ISSUE

- To provide information on the contents of Parks Canada's 2019-20 Departmental Results Report (DRR), which is to be tabled on November 30, 2020.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Overall, the Agency's performance in 2019-20 was good. The Agency exceeded two targets, met two targets early, and is on track to meet other targets through groundwork laid this year, including significant work on the new national park and national marine conservation areas establishment files and on priorities that contribute to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.
- Notable achievements in 2019-20 include the establishment of the:
 - New Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve
 - New Tallurutiup Imanga NMCA
 Further, ecological integrity in national parks is trending upward toward the Agency's 2022 target.
- Parks Canada continued to deliver on the most significant infrastructure program in the Agency's 109-year history.
- Parks Canada anticipates that the pandemic may have impacts on the achievement of its planned results for 2020–21 and is taking the pandemic and other drivers into account as it reviews performance targets for 2021–22.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The DRR is an account of the Agency's results for the 2019-20 fiscal year against the plans set out in the 2019-20 Departmental Plan.

Met/Exceeded/Early/On Track	Not Met/Not available
% of national park ecosystems where ecological integrity is maintained or improved. (2023 Target: 90%; Result 86%)	% of terrestrial regions represented in the national parks system. (2020 Target: 84%; Results: 79%)
# of places, people and events of importance to Canadians that are formally recognized (2021 Target: 3778; Result: 3826)	% of marine regions represented in the national marine conservation area system. (2020 Target: 31%; Result 21%)
% of cultural resources in Parks Canada's care that are safeguarded (2022 Target: 90%; Result 68%)	# of heritage places cooperatively managed (2020 Target: 23-25; Result: 20)
Maintain or increase visitation (2020 Target 24.7M; Result 24.9M)	% of heritage structures in poor condition that have improved (2020 Target 60%; Result 45%)
% of Canadians that support the protection and presentation of Parks Canada places (2020 Target: 78-82%; Result 83%)	% of visitors to Parks Canada places that are new Canadians and young adults (2020 Target 14%; Result: N/A) – <i>can no longer track and have removed this indicator from future reporting.</i>



Met/Exceeded/Early/On Track	Not Met/Not available
# of places where Indigenous peoples use lands and waters according to their traditional and modern practices (2021 Target 32-39; Result 34%)	% of contemporary infrastructure in poor condition that have improved (2020 Target 60%; Result 53%)



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FEDERAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

ISSUE

- The Government is committed to investing in Canada's national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas.
- 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 support the delivery of 985 high priority projects to protect and restore capital assets in national parks and national historic sites.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- 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).
- 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.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SERVICE FEES ACT AT PARKS CANADA

ISSUE

- In January 2020, for the first time since 2008, Parks Canada made adjustments to its fees. These changes were made as part of the Agency's implementation of the 2017 *Service Fees Act*. All fees were increased by 2.2 percent to reflect inflation. Also, admission fees were updated at 21 Parks Canada locations based on enhancements made to the visitor experience offer.

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.
- Parks Canada increased all fees by 2.2 percent on January 1, 2020 to reflect inflation. The Agency also increased admission fees at 21 parks and historic sites based on enhancements made to the visitor experience offer. These changes were the first increases made to Parks Canada fees in over a decade.
- 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.
- Parks Canada's admission fee structure is based on the level of service offered at each location. These service levels are based on the number of hours a visitor would typically spend on-site, as well as the variety of programs, services, and facilities available to visitors.



PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

ISSUE

- To provide an update on Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for Parks Canada.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- PILT is the means by which the federal government contributes financially to municipalities for its fair share of the cost of municipal administration for federally-owned properties.
- Under the authority of the *Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act*, Public Services and Procurement Canada continues to determine the amount of PILT and make payments to municipalities on behalf of Government Departments.
- In return for its payment, the federal government expects to receive all of the same services provided to a taxable property in a given municipality (e.g., water, sewer, garbage collection, ambulance services, health inspections, etc.).
- PILT costs continue to increase due to municipal development and infrastructure demands, increased property values and inflation.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The PILT estimate for this fiscal year (2019-20) is \$20M for properties administered by the Agency.
- As additional lands are acquired by the Agency, PILT costs will continue to increase causing additional financial pressures.



TABLING OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS 2020

ISSUE

- The President of the Treasury Board is expected to table the Public Accounts of Canada at the end of November 2020. When tabled, the information submitted by Parks Canada to the Receiver General for inclusion in the Public Accounts will be made public.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Each fiscal year, the Agency submits information to the Receiver General for inclusion in the Public Accounts of Canada.
- In 2019-2020, Parks Canada spent \$1.5 billion which includes:
 - \$589 million in providing visitors with opportunities to enjoy and appreciate Parks Canada national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas in safe and meaningful ways;
 - \$442 million for the management of heritage canals, highways and town-site management, such as maintenance and improvements to the waterway dams;
 - \$220 million in conservation investments in our heritage places for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- There was no sensitive information submitted by Parks Canada in the Public Accounts of Canada 2020 and no media attention is anticipated.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Each fiscal year, Parks Canada submits information to the Receiver General for inclusion in the Public Accounts of Canada. Under the *Financial Administration Act*, the Public Accounts of Canada must be tabled by December 31. Shortly after the tabling in the House of Commons, the Public Accounts will be made public on Public Services and Procurement Canada's website.
- Parks Canada has contributed to the information published in the Public Accounts of Canada 2020, the following items are highlighted for information:
 - **Unspent Authorities:** The *Parks Canada Agency Act* stipulates that the Agency's appropriations are in force during two fiscal years. As such, \$213 million in unspent authorities from 2019-20 will be made available for use in 2020-21. Unspent authorities are mainly the result of changes in the nature and timing of investments in national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas for infrastructure initiatives related to heritage, tourism, highway and waterway built assets.

- **Acquisition of land, buildings and works:** \$564 million in acquisition of land, buildings and works were reported in 2019-20 (2018-19: \$474 million). Examples of significant works including the rehabilitation of dams on the Ontario Waterways. The \$90 million increase is the result of infrastructure funding received through time-limited investments.
- **Environmental liabilities:** Parks Canada is reporting a liability of \$73 million in 2019-20 for 89 sites where contamination is suspected. Parks Canada has developed an action plan and uses environmental assessments conducted by Parks Canada scientists and specialists to reduce environmental liabilities for these sites.
- **Losses:** \$2.6 million in losses were reported in 2019-20 (2018-19: \$2.3 million). The increase is mainly due to damage to a campground following Hurricane Dorian.
- **Payments of claims against the Crown:** \$2.3 million in claims against the Crown were reported in 2019-20 (2018-19: \$1.2 million).
- **COVID-19:** The COVID-19 pandemic had no impact on Parks Canada's Public Accounts 2019-20 ending on March 31.



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AT PARKS CANADA IN 2020

ISSUE

- Parks Canada employs over 2,000 youth at national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas across Canada every year. In summer 2020, due to operational adjustments for COVID-19 and limited resources, fewer than 1,000 youth were employed at Parks Canada places.
- Parks Canada is committed to youth employment, is a participant in the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, and employs youth in urban, rural and remote locations across Canada. The Agency employs a number of youth who face barriers to employment, including Indigenous and racialized youth.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is one of the federal government's largest employers of youth. The Agency employs over 2,000 young people every year in urban, rural and remote locations across Canada.
- Over the past four years, Parks Canada has employed an average of 2,200 young people per year. However, in 2020, youth employment was lower than in previous years due to necessary adjustments to Parks Canada's operations in response to COVID-19 and reduced resources for youth employment.
- 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.
- Parks Canada's full-time workforce, as of September 30, 2020, is composed of 1,279 employees under the age of 30, which represents 19 percent of the total workforce.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada employs youth in a wide variety of occupations. Over the past four years, funding for youth employment has come from three sources: the Agency's A-Base (approximately 1,100 youth); the Young Canada Works Program (approximately 200 youth); and the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (Green Jobs – between 500 and 1,300 youth). The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy was only partially renewed in 2020-21 and Parks Canada funding was not included in the renewal.



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- 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.



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.



FOREST PESTS IN PARKS CANADA

ISSUE

- Native and exotic forest pests occur in many national parks. Some of those pests kill large numbers of trees and can therefore affect ecological integrity, species at risk, visitor and staff safety, as well as cultural resources and infrastructure.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Native insect outbreaks are part of the natural cycle of forests, contributing to forest renewal and diversity, especially in the boreal regions. However, climate change has increased the extent and severity of outbreaks of forest insects such as mountain pine beetle and eastern spruce budworm. Parks Canada responds to outbreaks by working with partners to mitigate major risks to park visitors, staff, infrastructure, and surrounding communities.
- Exotic forest pests, such as hemlock woolly adelgid, are not part of natural forest cycles. Parks Canada uses integrated pest management, a comprehensive strategy to limit the population of unwanted species and/or the damage they cause, by combining prevention, monitoring, and control measures (biological, mechanical, or chemical).

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Mountain Pine Beetle has invaded Jasper National Park, as the beetle's eastern geoclimatic barrier was breached in 2006 and 2009, leading to its establishment in lodgepole pine and jack pine forests in Alberta. In Jasper National Park, cold weather events in 2019 and 2020, along with declining available habitat, have collapsed mountain pine beetle populations to pre-outbreak levels. 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 (FireSmart).
- As an outbreak of spruce budworm is threatening to develop on the west coast of Newfoundland, Gros Morne National Park has been in ongoing discussions with the Province and Canadian Forest Service regarding the need and conditions for conducting Early Intervention Strategy activities in the park.
- Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site is working with partners to slow the spread and to mitigate the impact of hemlock woolly adelgid. Since it was first discovered in Nova Scotia, Parks Canada has implemented several measures and is investing \$1.4 million over 5 years to further support the efforts to protect eastern hemlock forests in Kejimikujik.



PROPOSED SOUTH OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

ISSUE

- In July 2019, the governments of Canada and BC and the syilx/Okanagan Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing: (1) the negotiations phase of the establishment agreement process; (2) to a working boundary; and (3) to negotiate a national park reserve establishment agreement. As of the fall 2020, current activities focus on the negotiation of that establishment agreement.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- 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 Indigenous peoples, and preserve opportunities for syilx/Okanagan Nation cultural practices to continue.
- Parks Canada 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 British Columbia 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.
- As the situation around COVID-19 evolves, work on the proposed national park reserve continues through the use of remote meeting technology. The approach and timelines need to be adaptive.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen straddles two federal ridings: South Okanagan-West Kootenay, represented by MP Richard Canning, NDP; and Central Okanagan - Similkameen – Nicola, represented by MP Dan Albas, Environment and Climate Change critic for the Conservative Party. While MP Canning is supportive of the proposed national park reserve, MP Albas has not expressed any strong views to Parks Canada's knowledge.



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- Parks Canada is providing financial support to both the Osoyoos Indian Band and the Lower Similkameen Indian Band to continue to inform and consult with their respective community membership, as well as to initiate pilot guardian programs.
- Parks Canada is actively implementing key recommendations from the 2019 “What We Heard” consultation on this establishment project to ensure ongoing and transparent communications with local residents and to address specific concerns.
- Parks Canada, the Province of BC 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.
- Parks Canada continues to share information and keep communities up to date on progress. For instance, PC’s Project Manager has provided quarterly updates to the Regional District of the Okanagan Similkameen, as well as to mayors and councils of the surrounding communities, as recently as Sept 17, 2020.
- A letter to local landowners approved by the tri-partite PC – B.C. Parks – Okanagan Nation Steering Committee was distributed in mid-August. It reaffirms in writing the commitments contained in the July 2019 MOU signed by ministers and chiefs, as well as providing general updates on the negotiations process.



ADVANCING FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR HISTORIC PLACES

ISSUE

- On December 13, 2019, the Prime Minister mandated the Minister of Environment and Climate Change 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.
 - Work with the Minister of Canadian Heritage to provide clearer direction on how national heritage places should be designated and preserved, and to develop comprehensive legislation on federally-owned heritage places.
- Parks Canada has begun working on a legislative proposal related to the designation of places, persons and events and the protection of federally designated and administered historic places.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Places, persons and events of national historic significance are common markers, connecting Canadians together by telling our diverse stories and helping to understand our past.
- While a national historic site designation communicates to Canadians the significance of a place, it does not affect ownership of the site nor provide legislative protection.
- Parks Canada has begun working on a legislative proposal related to the designation of places, persons and events and the protection of federally designated and administered historic places.
- The development of this legislative proposal is informed by feedback received from this Committee as well as from stakeholders and Indigenous groups over the past few years and input from more recent and targeted engagement sessions.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

Currently the Agency is carefully considering 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*; and
- The Indigenous Cultural Heritage Gatherings in November 2018.
- 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, heritage resources or archaeological resources, and to ensure the maintenance of established relationships.

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

Currently, the federal government is lagging behind the provinces and territories with respect to the legal protection of its historic places, as all provinces and territories have adopted heritage legislation.

Canada is the only G7 country without comprehensive legislation supported by regulations, policies and programs to protect historic places within its jurisdiction, including government heritage buildings, archaeological sites and heritage shipwrecks.

Existing federal designations result from various legal and policy obligations adopted over the years. 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 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 in 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 environment¹, systematically organized, managed and monitored by a national team of collection, curatorial and conservation specialists.
- Parks Canada continues to engage and work with interested Indigenous Nations to find concrete, practical ways to enhance their access to the collection. To date the Agency has engaged 44 Indigenous communities.
- 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. The construction contract was awarded in early November and it is expected that construction related activities will commence in late 2020. Subject to the construction schedule, it is anticipated the collection will be moved by 2023-24.

¹ Stable temperature and humidity control allowing for gradual fluctuations.



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- A number of Indigenous communities expressed concern that Indigenous artifacts from current regional locations will be moved to the new facility. Overall, discussions with Indigenous communities have been positive.
- Some regional museums have also expressed concern over the move. Parks Canada is working with these institutions to ensure that they continue to have access to the collection, such as through long-term loans.
- 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.



SNOW REMOVAL ON THE MULTI-USE PATH ON THE LACHINE CANAL

ISSUE

- The Lachine Canal National Historic Site is bordered by a multifunctional path which is one of the busiest in Montreal and which allows workers and bicycle enthusiasts to cross the city from east to west safely on a daily basis.
- Parks Canada maintains the path from April 15 to November 15. Although the site is not maintained in winter, winter activities such as cross-country skiing, walking or snowshoeing are practiced there.
- For several years, municipal officials and interest groups have been lobbying Parks Canada to have the path cleared of snow to make it a four-season active transportation corridor.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada will begin discussions with the City of Montreal this fall to assess possible options.
- Parks Canada recognizes the growing interest in winter activities on the Lachine Canal and is committed to working with its partners to expand the recreational offer along the Lachine Canal, including winter activities for all clientele (walkers, snowshoers, cross-country skiers, cyclists, etc.).
- Currently, Parks Canada is already working with the City of Montreal, which maintains a separate 2 km portion of the trail to allow winter activities such as snowshoeing, winter walking and oversized tire cycling (commonly called "fatbike").

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- From 2016 to 2019, at the request of the City of Montreal, Parks Canada contributed (\$ 25,000) to carrying out a feasibility study as part of a pilot snow removal project on a section of approximately 500 m - 1 km from the track on the north side of the canal between Richmond and Smith road.
- The preliminary results of the feasibility study were shared with Parks Canada on February 7, 2019 and presented by City of Montreal officials to stakeholders on February 15, 2019. The study reveals that the current characteristics of the path are not suitable for snow removal without significant modifications involving reconstruction: low structural capacity, low thickness, high freezing of soils, poorly draining soils, loss of the insulating power of snow and acceleration of degradation, presence of dangers such as patches of stagnant water and root-induced uplifts, etc. The study also shows that the trail is not suitable for snow removal and must be rebuilt.



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- A subsequent analysis of other factors to be taken into account such as the very high costs of disposing of contaminated soil, the presence of dikes along the path retaining water from the adjacent urban environment, the modification of bridges, tunnels and walkways not suitable for snow removal, the costs associated with archaeological monitoring and environmental studies, modification of the appearance and accessibility of the site, etc. was also taken into consideration.
- During the public consultation on the draft master plan for the Lachine Canal in 2017, requests for a winter recreational offer were repeatedly expressed, which includes snowshoeing, winter walking, oversized wheeled cycling (fatbike), skating, and also winter biking (requiring snow removal of the path).



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. Other examples include:
 - Africville National Historic Site (designated 1997) is a site of remembrance for Halifax's Black community. For over a century, Black Canadians settled in this Halifax neighbourhood, developing an independent community centred around church and family. During the urban renewal movement of the 1960s, the city leveled Africville and relocated its residents in the face of community protest. Africville has become an enduring symbol of the ongoing struggle by Black Canadians to defend their culture and their rights.
https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=1763
 - Kathleen 'Kay' Livingstone National Historic Person (designated 2011) advanced the cause of Black Canadian women. This noted Toronto activist founded the Canadian Negro Women's Association in 1951 and was the driving force of the first National Black Women's Congress in 1973. She worked tirelessly to break down prejudice and promote the equality of individuals of diverse origins.
https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=13024
 - 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
 - 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



ENVI REPORT AND AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON CONSERVING FEDERAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES

ISSUE

- The Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) in 2017 and the Auditor General in 2018 both pointed out that the Government of Canada is not adequately protecting and conserving its historic places.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is the lead federal organization for federal heritage buildings, federal archaeology and programs that relate primarily to built heritage.
- Parks Canada has already undertaken steps to address the concerns raised by the ENVI Committee in 2017 and the Auditor General in 2018.
- Parks Canada has been asked to consider the development of a comprehensive legislation for the designation and protection of federally owned historic places to ensure that they continue to benefit present and future generations of Canadians, connecting them with their history and fostering pride.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

In fall 2017, the ENVI Committee tabled its report, *Preserving Canada's Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow*. The report's 17 recommendations go beyond the protection and preservation of historic places administered by the Government of Canada. The ENVI Committee recommended the introduction of new legislation and the strengthening of policy measures to protect historic places and archaeological resources. The Committee also called for increased funding of the National Cost-Sharing Program, as well as for the integration of Indigenous voices and perspectives in all aspects of federally designated historic places, including their designation and protection.

In November 2018, the Auditor General of Canada tabled in Parliament the report, *Conserving Federal Heritage Properties*. The findings of the report were that Parks Canada does not have a full picture of the number and condition of the heritage buildings under its responsibility, cannot conserve all of its designated heritage properties and sets priorities based on available resources to determine which properties will be maintained, conserved and monitored regularly.

Parks Canada has already undertaken steps to address the concerns raised by the ENVI Committee in 2017 and the Auditor General in 2018, such as;

- completion of the review on approach for designating federal heritage buildings
- creation of an Ad Hoc Heritage Places Conservation Advisory Committee to monitor the state of heritage conservation in Canada
- continued work with Indigenous partners to review cultural heritage policies and practices while collaborating on new ways of telling their stories at Parks Canada's places through research, development and presentation initiatives.

Since December 2019, Parks Canada is working on the development of a legislative proposal related to the designation and to protection of federally-owned historic places.

In addition, the Agency continues to work with other departments to strengthen the conservation of federally-owned historic places. For example, as the federal lead for built heritage and archaeology, Parks Canada has contributed to the review of the Treasury Board Secretariat's *Policy on the Management of Real Property*.

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 culture 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 is embarking on identifying the details of the functional program. 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. This analysis is complete and four locations were provided to the Deputy Ministers Science Committee for a site recommendation to the Minister of PSPC. The Hub is expecting a decision on site location shortly.



PROVINCE HOUSE NHS CONSERVATION PROJECT

ISSUE

- The Province House National Historic Site Conservation project is a comprehensive and total conservation of the 172-year-old building known as the birthplace of Confederation and the site of the Prince Edward Island Provincial Legislature.
- Funding for the restoration of Province House has been allocated incrementally as the project has proceeded in order to allow information gathered as the building is dismantled to inform costing of restoration. In a series of increments, \$61M was allocated for project preparation and the first phase of structural repairs. A news release issued on February 5, 2020, announced a further \$30.7M in funding for completion of the project, bringing the total to \$91.8M. An Access to Information request was subsequently received requesting information related to budget overages. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this Access to Information request is still being processed.
- While conservation work at Province House National Historic Site continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a reduction in the number of people working on site. As a result, the Province House NHS Conservation Project timeline of 2022 may be affected, but it is too soon to fully understand what those delays may be at this time.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Due to the size and complexity of this project, funding has been allocated incrementally. This has ensured a better understanding of the scope of the project as the layers of the building have been uncovered. This incremental budgeting approach has been well publicized to stakeholders and the media.
- Work has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic but the reduction in workforce during the pandemic could result in delays to the project completion date of 2022.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Province House National Historic Site, the seat of the PEI Legislative Assembly, is owned by the Province of PEI and operated and maintained by the Federal Government via Parks Canada Agency, through a 1974 MOA.



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- The Government of Canada is investing in the conservation of this historic structure through Parks Canada's Federal Infrastructure Investment and Capital Asset Investment programs, and Budget 2017 funding. The conservation project is being managed by Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) on behalf of Parks Canada.
- The Province House NHS conservation project began in 2015 and is scheduled to be completed in 2022. Recent funding will be used to complete the final phases of the project, refitting the building for occupation and public access and developing new ways to share the story of Confederation to visitors. Work will also include reinstallation of the building's electrical and mechanical systems, interior finishes, fire code compliance, and universal accessibility upgrades. The fourth and final phase of the project will centre on the design, development and installation of new interpretive media. A visitor experience plan for the site will be developed in consultation with stakeholders.

ADVISORY PANEL FOR SUSTAINABLE PEOPLE MOVEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK

(All data current as of November 24, 2020)

ISSUE

- Parks Canada is creating an expert panel to advise on the development of a unique people-moving framework for Banff National Park. In the coming months, Parks Canada will engage Indigenous partners, stakeholders and the public to develop a terms of reference for the panel and seek participants with expertise in protected area management, tourism, and transportation planning.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is committed to ecological and cultural integrity of national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas and to providing Canadians with opportunities to discover and enjoy these remarkable places.
- Banff National Park is one of Canada's most iconic protected places and is a national and international treasure. It is also one of Canada's busiest natural and cultural recreation and tourism destinations.
- On November 2, 2020, Parks Canada announced its intention to create an expert panel to advise on the development of a long-term framework and strategy for transportation and the movement of people within the park.
- The goal of this work is to chart a bold path for the future that will transform the way people access and move within Banff National Park. This work will enhance and complement ongoing efforts by Parks Canada to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support biodiversity and resource protection, protect ecological and cultural integrity, foster reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and deliver authentic visitor experiences that can be enjoyed by all Canadians and by visitors from around the world.
- Since 2005, Parks Canada has reduced the greenhouse gas emissions from its operations in Banff by more than 35 percent. Over the past five years, the Agency has also made a number of advances in transit and people movement at popular destinations in the park. More can be done and we are committed to making advances in this area while protecting the ecological and cultural integrity of the park and its resources.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- On November 2, Parks Canada announced its intent and plan to create an expert panel to advise on the development of a unique people-moving framework for Banff National Park.



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- The effort will involve extensive engagement of Indigenous partners, stakeholders and the public to develop a terms of reference for the panel and seek participants with expertise in protected area management, tourism, and transportation planning.
- In addition, Parks Canada will provide future opportunities for consultation and engagement on the plan that will be developed based upon the panel's advice and recommendations.
- The framework will result in a complete overhaul of the way people access and move around the park, with options for visitor movement that enhance overall efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support Parks Canada's objectives for biodiversity and resource protection, visitor experience, sustainability and authenticity.



LIRICON GONDOLA PROPOSAL IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK

ISSUE

- On December 19, 2019, Parks Canada communicated to Liricon Capital Limited that their proposal for redevelopment of the Mount Norquay ski area into a year-round attraction via development of a gondola would not be considered further based on its lack of conformance with key policy and its adverse impacts on a public access road. On February 28, 2020, Liricon submitted “for discussion purposes only”, a revised gondola (aerial transit) proposal along with additional plans for redeveloping their nearby ski area and the railway lands inside the town of Banff, which would be connected by the proposed gondola.
- Liricon is also advocating for twinning of the railway line and development of passenger rail between the Calgary airport and the town of Banff, as a means to promote “green” transportation.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is committed to protecting the environment and to providing exceptional visitor experiences. Carefully planned and managed ski areas can provide meaningful national park visits and learning experiences while complementing the conservation and restoration objectives of Parks Canada.
- Canadians have high expectations for the protection of their national parks and they have clearly supported policies limiting commercial development and growth as a cornerstone to that protection.
- The information presented by Liricon to Parks Canada has been for “discussion purposes only”. No decisions have been made.
- Public openness and transparency are key principles underlying Parks Canada’s management and decision-making. Parks Canada applies an integrated set of considerations to preliminary review of all land use proposals and plans, commencing with conformance with applicable regulations and policy.

BACKGROUND/CURRENT STATUS

- The revised Liricon proposal for discussion purposes submitted in February 2020 is not substantively different from the proposal deemed to be non-conformant in 2019 and includes:
 - Development of a gondola spanning the Trans-Canada Highway, extending between the town of Banff and the ski area,
 - Redevelopment of the ski area, demolition of a number of buildings, construction of a 39,000 sq ft building, a reduction in ski runs, and expansion of operating hours and season to accommodate a shift in business from winter to year-round sightseeing, and



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- Redevelopment of the Banff railway station lands to include a gondola base, retail, restaurants, amphitheatre, parking for 2,500 – 2,825 vehicles.
- The proposal is also connected to Liricon's advocacy for the re-establishment of passenger rail between Calgary and Banff, a project currently being studied by the Government of Alberta and the Canada Infrastructure Bank.
- Liricon has publicly framed their proposal as an environmentally-friendly mass transit initiative aiming to: reduce vehicle congestion in Banff; augment parking in the townsite at no cost to residents; and reduce the impacts of human use activity in the Cascade wildlife corridor.
- Extensive review of the revised proposal for discussion purposes is underway and Parks Canada will provide additional feedback to Liricon.



NATURAL GAS LIQUEFACTION PLANT PROJECT (PROJET ÉNERGIE SAGUENAY) BY GNL QUÉBEC INC. IN SAGUENAY, QUÉBEC

ISSUE

- Ships from the proposed natural gas liquefaction plant by GNL Québec Inc. in Saguenay, Québec (Projet Énergie Saguenay) would add additional 300 to 400 transits per year in the Saguenay Fjord. This increase would mean the presence of at least one tanker at all times in the Saguenay St. Lawrence Marine Park area.
- The Saguenay Fjord is located within the Saguenay-St. Laurent Marine Park that was established jointly by Québec and Canada with public support largely to protect the critical habitat of the beluga. The Fjord is a very important acoustic refuge for the endangered St. Lawrence beluga population.
- The project is a polarizing issue with wide media coverage at the provincial level.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada acts as an expert in both ongoing environmental assessment processes (federal and provincial) for the proposed natural gas liquefaction plant. Parks Canada has expressed concerns about the potential impacts of an increase in maritime traffic in connection with the project, particularly with regard to protection of the environment, public safety and the quality of visitor's experience in the marine park.
- As part of the federal environmental assessment, Parks Canada indicated that given the precariousness of the St. Lawrence beluga population, and in the absence of scientific certainty, the Agency advocates the precautionary principle in the management of activities that may represent a threat to the beluga recovery.
- Parks Canada has also expressed concerns about cumulative effects of shipping projects in the Saguenay Fjord as combined impacts of projects may give rise to impacts that are different or greater than those caused by individual project.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the Marine Park is identified as critical habitat for the beluga, and the Marine Park represents thirty-seven percent (37%) of all critical habitat of the beluga.
- Parks Canada, Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada are working together to assess options to increase the protection of belugas in the context of increased shipping expected both on the Saint-Lawrence and the Saguenay.
- When creating the Marine Park in 1998, the governments of Quebec and Canada, together with public support, committed to increase ecosystem protection levels for conservation purposes, for the benefit of present and future generations, while encouraging its use for educational, recreational and scientific purposes.

OCCUPATION OF LAKE AUDY CAMPGROUND AT RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

(All data current as of October 30, 2020)

ISSUE

- Mr. Wesley Bone, a member of Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation(KOFN), is currently occupying a portion of Lake Audy Campground in Riding Mountain National Park without the support of his community or the Coalition of First Nations with Interests in Riding Mountain National Park. There is no collective recognition within his community to his claim as a hereditary chief of the Okanase.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is committed to a system of national parks and national heritage places that recognizes and respects the rights of Indigenous peoples, as well as honours their contributions, cultures, and relationships with lands and waters.
- Over the past months, a member of the Keeseekoowenin Ojibway [KEY-SEE-KOO-WAY-NIN OH-JIB-WAY] First Nation has occupied a portion of the Lake Audy Campground in Riding Mountain National Park.
- Parks Canada is working with all parties to come to a constructive resolution of this matter for the individual, for our Indigenous partners, for park residents and for the tens of thousands of Canadians who enjoy Riding Mountain every year.
- The Lake Audy area remains available to visitor use, including the bison enclosure, the Lake Audy dam, picnic areas, hiking trails, and the lake is open for fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing. The area is also available for use for traditional ceremonial purposes for Indigenous peoples and partners.
- The Anishinabe of the region of Riding Mountain hold deep cultural connections at Lake Audy. Parks Canada values and respects the connection they have had to the land and waters of Riding Mountain National Park since time immemorial. Parks Canada and the Coalition of First Nations with Interest in Riding Mountain National Park are collaborating to facilitate and foster use and enjoyment of the Lake Audy area for cultural and ceremonial purposes.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Mr. Bone has occupied a portion of the Lake Audy Campground for several months. The area is popular with visitors and local residents. There is limited public understanding that the site has been occupied and used by Indigenous groups for at least 4,000 years. Parks Canada is working with Mr. Bone and Indigenous partners to resolve the situation. There is no recognition by Indigenous partners of Mr. Bone's status. The Agency is communicating regularly with park residents and visitors.



REFLECTING CANADA'S DIVERSITY IN NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC SITES AND MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS

ISSUE

- Canada's national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas belong to all Canadians and Parks Canada is committed to ensuring that these places can be enjoyed by all without barriers.
- Parks Canada strives to bring Canada's national heritage places to all Canadians and is delivering focused programming designed to reach urban Canadians, Canadians of diverse backgrounds, Canadians with disabilities, and Canadian youth.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada delivers a wide range of programs designed to invite more Canadians of all backgrounds and abilities to enjoy national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas.
- Parks Canada's Learn-to Camp program reached over 100,000 people in 2019, introducing countless families to the enjoyment of nature and history in cities, towns, national parks and historic sites. This program is delivered across Canada in collaboration with community organizations and other partners and is focused on empowering Canadians of all backgrounds and abilities to access the health and wellness benefits of safely enjoying nature.
- Parks Canada's outreach programs, including partnerships with organizations like the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, help share Canada's national parks and historic sites with new Canadians and Canadians of all backgrounds and abilities.
- Parks Canada's youth outreach programs are present on 25 university and college campuses across Canada and Parks Canada youth ambassadors connect with young Canadians in communities across Canada and over digital channels.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Since 2011, Parks Canada has been implementing a multi-year strategy called *On Target* to reach new audiences and bring parks and history to Canadians where they live. The initiative is helping to diversify Parks Canada visitation, engage youth, and foster broad interest in natural and cultural conservation across Canada.
- In 2019, the Agency connected with more than half a million Canadians through Urban Outreach and Learn-to camp programs, as reported against its Departmental Results Framework. In the years to come, Parks Canada expects to exceed this as it has increased its engagement efforts to reach Canadians where they work, live and play.



TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY

ISSUE

- To provide a status update for the twinning of the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) under Parks Canada's jurisdiction in Alberta and British Columbia.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Since the creation of Parks Canada in 1998, \$353.5 million in supplementary funding has been provided for TCH twinning enabling the twinning of 82 km in Banff National Park and 6 km in Yoho National Park. There remains 97 km of untwinned TCH in national parks located in British Columbia. Currently, Parks Canada has no funding to continue TCH twinning after March 31, 2021.
- Parks Canada continues to seek opportunities to extend TCH twinning through its parks in British Columbia. The Province of British Columbia is continuing to advance numerous TCH twinning investments along this shared transportation corridor between the Alberta / British Columbia border and Kamloops.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Three hundred and twenty kilometres of the TCH from the Alberta / British Columbia border to Vancouver remain untwinned. Parks Canada is the custodian of 97 km of the untwinned sections of the TCH (40 km Yoho National Park, 44 km Glacier National Park, 13 km Mount Revelstoke National Park). Parks Canada's untwinned sections of the TCH are the least reliable and in the most challenging terrain making them the most susceptible to closures and delays. Many incidents would be eliminated entirely by safety improvements inherent in upgrading to a twinned highway.
- Parks Canada previously submitted applications in 2017 and 2019 to Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund program seeking funding to continue twinning the TCH in British Columbia. These applications were unsuccessful.
- The estimate to complete TCH twinning in national parks in British Columbia is in the range of \$1.5 billion (Yoho National Park \$370 million; Mount Revelstoke National Park \$140 million and over \$1 billion for Glacier National Park).
- Preparatory work (i.e. impact assessment, design, consultation) for twinning the remaining 40 km in Yoho National Park is near completion; therefore, ready for twinning construction.
- Total planned investment on TCH for twinning and rehabilitation by the Government of British Columbia is approximately \$1.7 Billion over the next several years.



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 will be submitting a report on progress with the Action Plan's implementation to the World Heritage Committee shortly. The report will be posted on the WHC public-facing website. The report will be considered at the WHC'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.



- The State of Conservation report for Wood Buffalo National Park World Heritage Site was originally scheduled to be submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on December 1, 2020. We have notified the World Heritage Centre that we are still finalizing the report and expect it will be submitted shortly.
- 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.



PARKS CANADA RESERVATION SYSTEM LAUNCH DELAY

ISSUE

- Since 2016, Parks Canada has opened its online campground reservation system for reservations by visitors and tourism businesses in early January. This offers visitors and businesses the opportunity to plan their spring and summer vacations months in advance, if desired. Due to the uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Parks Canada will delay the opening of the campground reservation system to the first week of April (April 6). This will allow the Agency to adapt to the changing circumstances of the pandemic prior to offering reservations and will also allow visitors to make more informed decisions closer to their travel dates, reducing the number and cost of possible cancellations.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The COVID-19 pandemic has required significant adaptation for Parks Canada just as it has for tourism and travel businesses across the country. Parks Canada staff worked hard to adapt the visitor offer at national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas so that these places could be available to Canadians for recreation and vacation time throughout the summer, fall and winter.
- Parks Canada is reviewing all of the lessons learned from the last nine months of operations and is planning and preparing for spring, summer and fall 2021 while also delivering winter experiences across the country.
- Parks Canada recently announced that the opening of its campground reservation system would be delayed from early January to early April this year. This change has been made to enable the Agency to better plan and adapt to the changing circumstances of COVID-19 and ensure that visitors will have the best camping experience possible.
- The change also provides visitors with the opportunity to make their vacation arrangements closer to the date of travel, so that they too can make decisions with full information on the circumstances of the pandemic and avoid the costs and administration of cancellations.
- Parks Canada is adapting its operations to reflect national and local conditions of the pandemic and is working with national and local tourism organizations and providers to respond collaboratively to the challenges of COVID-19.
- Parks Canada works closely with the tourism industry in the delivery of camping and other visitor experiences and the Agency has also provided commercial rent relief to lease holders. The Fall Economic Statement includes a number of announcements supporting highly impacted sectors, like the tourism industry, as well as provisions for commercial rent assistance.



BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Since 2016, Parks Canada has made its reservation service available in January in order to make it easier for visitors to plan their experience well in advance.
- During the 2020 season, 123,000 campground reservations were cancelled. Of those, 47,000 were cancelled by Parks Canada from mid-March to June 24 due to the temporary suspension of visitor services in the spring and the measures put in place to respect the advice and guidance of public health experts. A number of reservations also had to be cancelled due to modifications to campgrounds to facilitate physical distancing and ensure employee and visitor health and safety. The remaining reservations were cancelled by visitors due to travel adjustments caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The temporary change to the reservation launch will help to ensure visitors can experience Parks Canada administered places safely and reduce the number of reservations that may need to be cancelled due to COVID-19 measures.



PARKS CANADA WINTER OFFER

ISSUE

- Canada's national parks and national historic sites offer Canadians places and opportunities to enjoy the mental and physical benefits of being outdoors and in nature while respecting the guidance of public health experts. Parks Canada will continue to welcome visitors to some of our places during the winter months.

POINTS TO REGISTER

- The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded all Canadians of the value of access to the outdoors and the importance of parks and protected places for the health of individuals and communities.
- Parks Canada is committed to providing Canadians with access to national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas and is delivering winter experiences at a number of national parks and historic sites.
- Parks Canada is following the advice and guidance of public health experts and continues to make every effort to limit the spread of COVID-19. Parks Canada team members continue to work hard to ensure a safe, clean, healthy and enjoyable experience is available to all visitors.
- Parks Canada is asking Canadians to be cautious and conservative in their use of Parks Canada administered places this winter. Visitors should observe all travel restrictions, respect the guidance of public health experts, make conservative decisions on activities, and make every effort to flatten the curve and keep one another safe.
- Parks Canada works closely with the tourism industry in the delivery of winter visitor experiences and the Agency has also provided commercial rent relief to lease holders. The Fall Economic Statement includes a number of announcements supporting highly impacted sectors, like the tourism industry, as well as provisions for commercial rent assistance.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- The majority of national parks and national historic sites will maintain their normal operating seasons this year. The Parks Canada website provides detailed information on what locations are opened, their opening hours, and their operating season. Visitors are asked to plan ahead by checking the website before they travel.
- With the end of the summer, visitor services at most national parks and national historic sites across the country have concluded for the season, but the grounds may be open for day use activities.



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- For national parks and national historic sites that do offer winter services, visitors should not expect the kind of experience that they have had in the past. Parks Canada continues to adapt to the COVID-19 situation and visitor access and services may be limited.



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 (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.

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.



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- 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 (Let's Talk Parks Canada dot CA). More than 13,000 Canadians participated in the consultation.



INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP

ISSUE

Through Indigenous stewardship initiatives, Parks Canada works collaboratively with Indigenous groups 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;
 - 5 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 parks, historic sites, and 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.



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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.



PARKS CANADA NATIONAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ISSUE

- Under the *Canada National Parks Act*, Parks Canada is responsible for managing wildland fire activity across the of federal lands under its jurisdiction. The Agency fulfills this responsibility through its National Fire Management Program.
- Parks Canada is the only federal organization with operational wildfire management resources. As a steward of 350,195km² of federal Crown lands in Canada that include a number of high profile townsites, such as Banff, Jasper and Waterton, Parks Canada has an obligation to prepare for and respond to wildfires and wildfire risks.
- Parks Canada regularly contributes fire management resources to assist provinces, territories and international governments through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).

POINTS TO REGISTER

- Parks Canada is proud to have sent members of its fire management team to Australia earlier this year and most recently to the United States during their devastating wildfire seasons. As part of the Canadian response, Parks Canada deployed 13 team members to Australia and 25 team members recently returned home from supporting the fight against wildfires along the west coast of the United States.
- Parks Canada is working in collaboration with other government departments to advance sustainable fire management and to improve our ability to understand and manage fire on the landscape to enhance the resilience of national parks to the impacts of climate change.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT STATUS

- Parks Canada's fire management program has four objectives: (1) to mitigate wildfire risks, and control and manage wildfires to protect "values at risk"; (2) to maintain the role of fire as a natural ecological process; (3) to maintain readiness to respond to wildfires; and (4) to maintain Parks Canada's obligations to partner agencies.
- Parks Canada collaborates with federal, provincial, territorial, and international governments as well as the academic, non-profit, and private sectors to prepare for and respond to wildfires as well as to better understand, prevent, and manage increasing risks. Parks Canada is also a member of CIFFC, which coordinates the sharing of resources for wildfire response across Canada and internationally.
- Climate change is driving more intense, faster moving and longer lasting wildfires, increasing risk to the safety and security of Canadians, to economic activity, and to critical infrastructure. Canada, including Parks Canada, is facing wildfire resource and capacity challenges as the frequency and damages resulting from wildfires are increasing.



Speech

For

**The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change**

**To The Standing Committee
on Environment and Sustainable Development**

2020-21 Supplementary Estimates (B)

**House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario**

December 2, 2020

Check Against Delivery

Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the committee.

I'm happy to be here with you, once again, to discuss the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates (B) for Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Parks Canada Agency.

I'm joined today by Christine Hogan, Deputy Minister for Environment and Climate Change Canada and Ron Hallman, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Parks Canada Agency.

I would like to start by recognizing that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Algonquin people.

Mr. Chair, last month, when we reviewed the 2020-21 Main Estimates, I spoke about the essential work Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Parks Canada Agency perform for Canadians.

Since then, there have been tremendous developments with the introduction of the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*. A central element of the government's strategy to achieve a durable post-pandemic economic recovery and long-term prosperity in a low-carbon world.

And on November 30th, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance tabled the Fall Economic Statement, which puts climate action at the centre of our plan to create a million jobs and make substantial

investments in nature based climate solutions including our Government's plan to plant two billion trees.

A resilient economy is not just a more inclusive economy but also one that is sustainable, competitive, and responsive to global demand.

We are investing in meaningful climate action. We know that failure to do so will only increase the costs and the risks of climate change to all Canadians. COVID-19 has reminded us all of the importance of early, sustained action to address systemic risks that threaten our daily lives.

The Supplementary Estimates (B) allow us to continue delivering on important programs, initiatives and regulations that protect the health, safety and security of Canadians, our economy and our environment.

Starting with Environment and Climate Change Canada, its 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates (B) amount to a net increase of \$5.2 million bringing the department's total authorities to \$2,028.8 million.

These funds support significant priorities such as implementing the Pan Canadian Framework and meeting our commitments under the Paris Agreement.

They include an internal reallocation within the Low Carbon Economy Fund contributions funding of \$0.5 million.

This reallocation is necessary as provincial and territorial delays in submitting their proposals led to delays in accessing funding notionally allocated to them. This in turn impacted their ability to initiate approved programs lowering their capacity to spend their anticipated funding.

There is a transfer of \$3.4 million in Grants and Contributions to Natural Resources Canada to support the Forest Ontario 50 Million Tree Program, advancing nature-based climate solutions.

This funding will also help us to protect Canada's nature, parks and wild spaces... through the Canada Nature Fund...with a carry over of funding from 2019-20 that will increase its contributions by \$1.3 million.

It will help improve the ecological integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem...with a transfer of \$1.0 million to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

In addition, they will also support the implementation of the Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste...through the transfer of \$5.3 million in Grants and Contributions to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada to help to develop plastics science.

And now let's turn to Parks Canada, Mr. Chair.

This spring, Parks Canada temporarily suspended visitor access and some services in an effort to support Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19.

This temporary suspension led to a significant shortfall in revenue for the Agency for the 2020 visitor season.

Through the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates (B), the Agency is seeking to increase its reference levels in the amount of almost \$84 million.

The majority of this amount – up to \$74 million – will be used to partially compensate the Agency for the unexpected revenue shortfall due to the decline in visitation from April 1 to September 30, 2020, as well as for the remission of a portion of the annual payments on non-residential leases and licenses of occupation to businesses located in Parks Canada administered sites.

The Supplementary Estimates (B) will also support Parks Canada's collaborative efforts, with Natural Resources Canada, by providing funding of \$2.2 million to mitigate the impacts of the mountain pine beetle infestation in the Rocky Mountain National Parks in Alberta.

This funding also includes \$7 million that is being moved from last year to this year to protect Canada's nature, parks and wild spaces, in support

of an impact benefit agreement with the Dehcho First Nations and the establishment of the Nahanni National Park Reserve.

Mr. Chair, I am going to stop here. I hope that this summary provides committee members with an overview of the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates (B).

I am happy to take your questions.

Thank you.

**Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable
Development**

Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Members

(12)

**Matt Jeneroux
Yvan Baker
Laurel Collins
Dan Albas (Vice-Chair)
Lloyd Longfield
Joël Godin**

**Monique Pauzé (Vice-Chair)
Brad Redekopp
Francis Scarpaleggia (Chair)
Peter Schiefke
Raj Saini
Ya'ara Saks**

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

Peter was first elected as a Member of Parliament by the citizens of Vaudreuil-Soulanges in October 2015. Shortly thereafter he was appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary for Youth by Prime Minister Trudeau and in 2018 was given the additional responsibilities of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction. In 2019 Peter was re-elected and was shortly thereafter appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

Prior to entering into politics Peter worked in numerous capacities lending his expertise in sustainable development to both domestic and international causes. His passion for positive social change inspired his work as the Director and Co-Founder of Youth Action Canada, the CEED Program based in Uganda, East Africa and his work as the 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 a Federal Minister's Commendation, 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 as well as a Master of Science in Renewable Resources from McGill University and currently lives with his wife and two children in his riding of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Quebec.

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.

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 and have had three daughters together.

Joël Godin



Political Affiliation: Conservative
Constituency: [Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier](#)
Province / Territory: Quebec
Preferred Language: French

Joël worked in the communications field, and was director of sales at FM93, CITF and TQS, to name a few. He started his company, AJC Communication inc., in the fall of 2008, capitalizing on his leadership abilities.

He then worked for Louis-Hébert MLA Sam Hamad, first as his political advisor in his office as Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region and then, as manager of his constituency office.

His interest in municipal and provincial politics and his deep attachment to his community led to his involvement and work with a number of organizations, groups and people. He sat on a number of boards including the Québec Winter Carnaval, Laval University's Rouge et Or golf club, the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Fondation Sourde, as well as on a number of sports associations and groups where his children were participants.

His political experience, his experience dealing with people in a variety of contexts and his skills in the communications field provided him with the necessary tools to well represent his riding of Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier and defend its interests. He works on behalf of its citizens, organizations and institutions and as a former business owner, he knows that a region's economic prosperity starts with the individuals who live there, investing their time and money.

Joël Godin and his family have lived in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures for nearly 20 years. As someone who has been and continues to be actively engaged in his region, he knows its issues very well. This is why you can count on him to shine a light on the 28 municipalities that make up the magnificent constituency of Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier.

Dan Albas (Vice-Chair)



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[20] 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

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 Pausé (Vice-chair)



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 Pausé 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 Pausé 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 Pausé poursuit les mêmes objectifs et travaille à améliorer le sort de ses concitoyens.

Ya'ara Saks



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

Ya'ara Saks is the Member of Parliament for York Centre in Toronto. As a long-time community advocate and Bathurst Manor resident, she is committed to making life better for families in York Centre.

Ya'ara brings a Canadian and global perspective to the work it takes to create community engagement and achieve real progress. She believes deeply in the values of equality and diversity, and has devoted her career to addressing societal inequalities. She has experience in advisory roles for policy, communications, and project management, having worked in the Office of the Mayor of Jerusalem and in advancing people to people programs as part of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Before her election in 2020, Ya'ara was a successful small business owner and a strong advocate for better access to mental health services as a founder and director of Trauma Practice for Healthy Communities, a Toronto-based mental health charity.

In Parliament, Ya'ara sits as a member of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee.

She holds an undergraduate degree from McGill University in Political Science and Middle East Studies, a master's degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in International Relations and Diplomacy, and is the mother of two teenage daughters.

- Q-160² — October 20, 2020 — Mr. Albas (Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola) — With regard to the government's promise to protect 25 percent of land area and 25 percent of marine area by 2025, and 30 percent of land area and 30 percent of marine area by 2030: (a) how much land and marine area is now protected; (b) how much land or marine area was protected every year over the past 20 years, broken down by year; (c) what is the historical timeline for first looking at a piece of land or marine area and when it is ultimately protected; (d) what are all the classifications for land or marine area that the government considers to be protected; (e) what is the historical timeline for consultations with First Nations peoples before a piece of land or marine area can be protected; (f) has the government identified enough specific areas of land and marine area to reach the 25 percent level by 2025 and, if so, what specific areas has it identified to meet the target; (g) has the government provided the provinces, territories, and First Nations with a detailed map or plan indicating which areas they plan on protecting and, if so, what are the details, including (i) date the plan was provided, (ii) recipients, (iii) description, including locations and square kilometres of areas planned for protection; (h) will natural resource development be banned on all areas protected to meet the 25 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030 commitment and, if so, what are the details of any analysis, including findings, on such a ban; (i) will transportation of extracted natural resource products be banned on all areas protected to meet the 25 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030 commitment and, if so, what are the details of any analysis, including findings, on such a ban; (j) what level of economic development will be allowed on land that is protected under the commitment to protect 25 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030; and (k) does the government project meeting the 25 percent by 2025 target for protecting lands under this commitment?

A) how much land and marine area is now protected;

At the end of 2019, Canada had 12.1% (1,211,813km²) of its land and freshwater conserved, and 13.8% of its marine territory conserved (794,974km²).

The next update to track progress is being undertaken now, and revised results will be ready in January 2021.

B) how much land or marine area was protected every year over the past 20 years, broken down by year;

The annual percentage increase has been approximately 0.2% per year for the past 30 years. Since the inception of the Pathway to Canada Target 1 in 2017, and the investments of Nature Legacy in 2018, the annual percentage increase has increased to about 0.7% because of recent investments and collaboration.

The protected area trends over the past 20 years are contained in the *Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators* data table (<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/conserved-areas.html>).

- C) what is the historical timeline for first looking at a piece of land or marine area and when it is ultimately protected;

The historical timeline from the time a site is considered to the moment when it is ultimately protected varies considerably from site to site and depends on national, local and site-specific factors. Typically, local and regional consultations, socio-economic and ecological assessments, identification of boundaries, partnership-building, fund raising and designation or recognition of lands or waters are required.

The timeline can take from 1 to 20 years of work depending on the type of protection selected and the local and regional circumstances. For example, other effective conservation measures on working landscapes can proceed to designation more quickly than formal protected areas or parks requiring legislative or regulatory designation. In addition, increased public and governmental support, investment and a collaborative approach, along with the recognition of interim areas, can accelerate the process.

- D) what are all the classifications for land or marine area that the government considers to be protected;

ECCC reports all Canadian protected and conserved area hectares and categories into an international database following the International Union for the Conservation of Nature guidance that Canada and the world follows: Category IA- Strict protection; Category IB – Wilderness Area; Category II – National Park; Category III – National Monument; Category IV- Habitat Species Management Area; Category V – Protected Landscape/Seascape; Category VI – Protected landscape with sustainable use of natural resources.

There are a wide range of tools available to conserve biodiversity, ecosystems, natural landscapes, wildlife and their habitats. This includes 55 separate pieces of federal, provincial, territorial and municipal legislation. These laws and other policies can create 77 types of protected areas. The most common classifications include parks and protected areas, interim protected areas, Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs), privately protected areas, and Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs). The right type of classification depends on the desired objectives of the area to be established and its natural, social, cultural, and economic context. Canada supports the international definitions of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures articulated in the FPT report called *One with Nature* (2019).

- E) what is the historical timeline for consultations with First Nations peoples before a piece of land or marine area can be protected;

Often times, the creation of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area follows the same process as other types of protected and conserved areas (see response to question C), however, IPCAs can also sometimes be subject to a land claims negotiation process if one is underway. Timelines can vary.

- F) has the government identified enough specific areas of land and marine area to reach the 25 percent level by 2025 and, if so, what specific areas has it identified to meet the target;

We are currently finalizing a concrete and ambitious plan that would achieve 25% by 2025, and set the stage for 30% by 2030. We have been, and are continuing to consult with provinces and territories, Indigenous organizations, foundations, the private sector and non-profit conservation organizations to get their views on how we can work together to achieve these ambitious targets. The Government is aware of specific landscapes and waterscapes that have been included in provincial, territorial and municipal land use planning and other protected areas systems plans including the Natural Areas Systems Plan (NASP) in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Grand Nord in Quebec, the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan in the Yukon, the Living Legacy protected areas plan in Ontario and Nova Scotia's Parks and Protected Areas Plan among others.

- G) Has the government provided the provinces, territories, and First Nations with a detailed map or plan indicating which areas they plan on protecting and, if so, what are the details, including (i) date the plan was provided, (ii) recipients, (iii) description, including locations and square kilometres of areas planned for protection;

In 2020, ECCC released a map of protected areas projects on its web site receiving funding from the Canada Nature Fund's Target 1 Challenge initiative. The department has not yet publicly released a comprehensive map containing additional sites as the plan is still under consideration and discussion.

- H) will natural resource development be banned on all areas protected to meet the 25 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030 commitment and, if so, what are the details of any analysis, including findings, on such a ban;

In order to count towards the targets, a protected and conserved area needs to have a clearly defined geographical area, and be managed in ways that effectively conserve the space in the long term. Some natural resource development, such as sustainable ranching on grasslands, actually contributes to the health of the grassland habitat.

For National Parks, mining, oil and gas development, forestry and agriculture are not permitted. Mining, oil and gas development and ocean dumping are not permitted in Parks Canada's national marine conservation areas (NMCAs). Sustainable use of NMCAs, such as commercial fishing, may continue.

In other protected areas some sub-surface development could occur, such as through horizontal drilling, provided the long term conservation of the surface was not impacted. Given the importance of protected and conserved areas, and the contributions they make to Canada's biodiversity, species at risk, Indigenous reconciliation and climate resilience, some types of intensive natural resource development would not be expected to be permitted.

It is important to note that, during the feasibility phase of establishing a protected and conserved areas, consultations are held with those who have an interest in the land. In many cases the borders and permissible activities are adjusted to integrate the conservation, cultural and economic interests of the area. Areas with high economic potential are often “carved out” or excluded from protected or conserved areas during the planning phase. In cases where licenses or tenure exist on a landscape, proponents of protected areas will often seek to reimburse or compensate natural resource companies wishing to sell their tenure or licenses so that a protected area can be created. In some cases, companies are voluntarily relinquishing their development licenses to allow a protected area to be established (eg., Shell Oil in the case of the Scott Islands National Marine Wildlife Area).

- I) will transportation of extracted natural resource products be banned on all areas protected to meet the 25 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030 commitment and, if so, what are the details of any analysis, including findings, on such a ban;

Please see the response to question H. If the transportation of products can occur without negatively impacting the overall conservation objectives of the area, then transportation could occur. If the transportation is deemed to have a negative impact on the area, then the borders of the area could be adjusted, or the transport route could be changed.

In cases where a national park is created in an area where a pipeline or road already exists, the transportation of extracted natural resource products may be permitted to continue. The creation of new transport systems for extracted natural products in national parks – for example, new pipelines and new roads – is prohibited by legislation.

Shipping is allowed in NMCA's. Transportation regulations related to NMCA's is under the responsibility of the Minister of Transport

- J) what level of economic development will be allowed on land that is protected under the commitment to protect 25 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030;

The type of economic activity on the area would depend upon the protected areas objectives to be achieved and the social, cultural economic and environment/health interests of the government, industry or individual that has tenure over the land. Economic activity such as tourism, hunting and fishing, sustainable ranching, and traditional logging can occur in protected areas. Other economic activity would have to adjust to the space, or the geographic area of the protected area would have to adjust.

Economic development in Parks Canada sites is related to supporting visitor experiences in conjunction with management plans. National parks, national marine conservation areas and urban parks support the local economy, including by creating opportunities for tourism development and by directly and indirectly creating jobs. 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. In 2017-2018, Parks Canada places generated \$4.1 billion in gross domestic product and supported over 40,000 jobs across the country.

Consistent with Park Canada's findings, there is a considerable body of economic evidence in the U.S. and internationally demonstrating that protected areas have positive economic impacts on nearby communities including increased property values. Recent studies by McKinsey Consulting, former U.S. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, Nicolas Stern and Joseph Stiglitz among others cite the positive economic impacts associated with protected areas.

The Canadian Task Force for a Resilient Recovery recently published a report calling on the Government to consider investments in protected areas and nature-based climate solutions as part of its COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

K) does the government project meeting the 25 percent by 2025 target for protecting lands under this commitment?

We are currently developing a plan to deliver on the 2025 commitment. We have been, and are continuing to consult with provinces and territories, Indigenous organizations, foundations, the private sector and non-profit conservation organizations to get their views on how we can work together to achieve these targets.



FRANCIS SCARPALEGGIA
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT / DÉPUTÉ
LAC-SAINT-LOUIS

July 5, 2019

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Dear Minister,

I am writing following correspondence I received from a constituent, [REDACTED]
whose letter to me I have enclosed herein.

[REDACTED] has related to me her insights from a recent visit to Jasper, Alberta. She mentioned, in particular, the pessimism that reigns in the community surrounding the threat to the forest posed by the mountain pine beetle. She goes on to list a number of recommended actions that reflect the views of the local population concerned about the damage done to pine forests in the region, and the risks for the future.

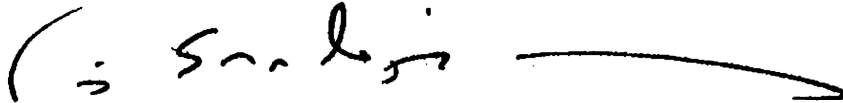
As such, I was hoping you could provide your department's perspective on the matter, including relating to any action the federal government has taken or plans to take to combat the pine beetle infestation in the region. For example, although Natural Resources Canada has reported a 98 percent mortality rate among the local pine beetle population over this past winter, scientists have stressed the need for continued vigilance in order to keep numbers down. Is Parks Canada currently undertaking or developing any kind of

.../2

initiatives to this end? A response to this question, and to the other solutions proposed by [REDACTED] in her letter, would be very much appreciated.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Scarpaleggia", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Francis Scarpaleggia

Enclosure

RECEIVED
JUN 27 2019

June 9, 2019

Francis Scarpaleggia
1 Holiday Avenue
Suite 635 East Tower
Pointe-Claire, Quebec
H9R 5N3

Dear Mr. Scarpaleggia,

I write with a heavy heart after my return from Jasper, Alberta. My brother has lived in this community for the last forty years of his life establishing an excellent career with friendships that are his family. I was devastated by the destruction of the pine needle through the forests in the mountains.

I write to share some of their thoughts trusting you are already aware of some of the solutions. The individuals within the community are quietly waiting through this crisis prepared to leave their town. In their words "we are waiting for it to burn to the ground".

The bottles of water are packed, choices of who to travel with in which direction are a conversation piece shared over a beer or two. I take pictures not knowing if I will return to this magical place that my brother calls home.

In listening to their conversation the following concerns and potential solutions were suggested.

1. More removal of the forest needs to be expanded in the range of one and a half miles wide completely through the circumference of the mountain range.
2. The camp grounds need to be closed, especially the fire pits sealed with no availability to anyone. Only a few have been closed, some still remain open.
3. The forest areas that have been cleared could be further cleaned. I understand the return growth of new trees and the impact on animals etc but their greatest fear is of fire.

4. Research to find another insect that could eliminate the pine beetle, I have been told is another solution to the problem.

I recognize and understand that change is a natural part of all forests. I fear that the wild fire behavior and severity will change the aesthetics and visual quality of the land. I have been to Jasper every year to visit my brother and his friends. I believe it is our responsibility to protect the place for the present people who live and visit this town and for future generations. With this in mind my connection to this issue is because of my own meaningful experiences.

I will help, just let me know how I can. And I will. "He that plants trees, loves others than himself".

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

AUG 29 2019

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia, M.P.
Lac-Saint-Louis
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Scarpaleggia:

Thank you for your correspondence of July 5, 2019, enclosing a letter from your constituent, [REDACTED] regarding mountain pine beetle and wildfire preparedness in Jasper National Park.

Please note that Mr. Alan Fehr, Parks Canada's Field Unit Superintendent for Jasper, recently addressed a response to [REDACTED] as she also wrote directly to Parks Canada on this subject. A copy of his letter is enclosed for information.

Parks Canada's utmost priority is always the safety of the public, its staff, park infrastructure and neighbouring lands. The Government of Canada takes wildfire preparedness very seriously. Wildfire is a significant risk to many Canadians living in forested communities across the country, including the town of Jasper.

Climate change is extending the fire season and contributing to outbreaks of forest insects and disease. Parks Canada is working with local, provincial, and federal partners to monitor and manage the impacts according to the 2016 Mountain Pine Beetle Management Plan for Jasper National Park. This plan includes using the Agency's expertise in fire management to conduct prescribed burns, as well as mechanical tree removal where appropriate, to address the impact of mountain pine beetle and the associated fire risk, while improving the ecological health of forests and grasslands. A project to remove an accumulation of dead pine trees upwind of the community was recently completed and reinforces areas around the town previously treated to reduce forest fuels.

Mountain pine beetle populations were significantly reduced this past winter, which will help slow the outbreak. Parks Canada will continue to monitor and work with partners as the situation changes. Furthermore, as active partners in the FireSmart Canada program, the Agency and the Municipality of Jasper will work together on community protection in the months and years ahead.

.../2



- 2 -

I appreciate you bringing your constituent's concerns to my attention. Rest assured that through safe and effective fire management, Parks Canada is working proactively to ensure public and visitor safety and to address mountain pine beetle impacts on Jasper National Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

Enclosure



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

43rd PARLIAMENT, 2nd SESSION

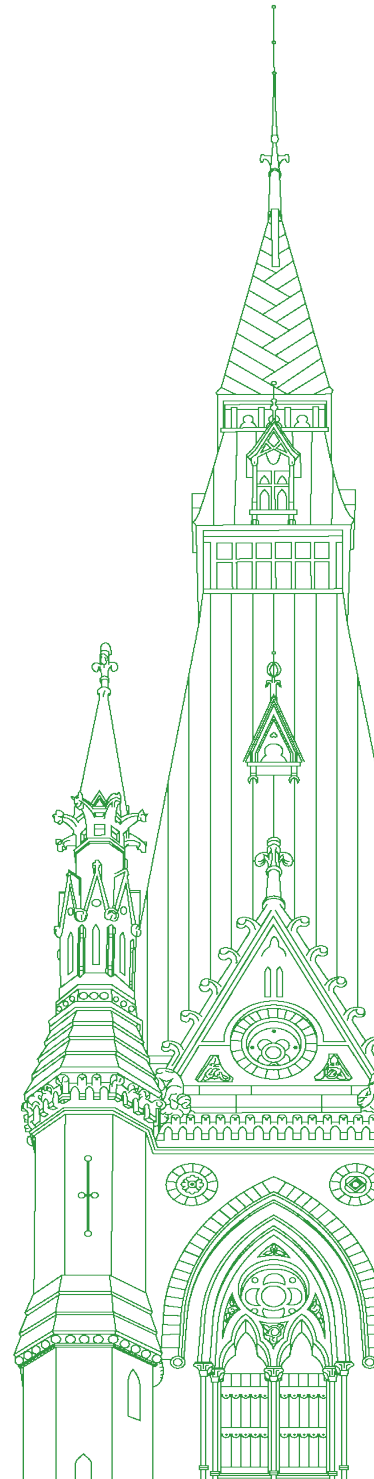
Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

EVIDENCE

NUMBER 005

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Chair: Ms. Yasmin Ratansi



Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

• (1600)

[English]

The Chair (Ms. Yasmin Ratansi (Don Valley East, Lib.)): I call the meeting to order.

Welcome to meeting number five of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. The committee is meeting today to consider the main estimates.

The committee meeting is taking place in a hybrid format, pursuant to the House order of September 23, 2020. The proceedings will be made available via the House of Commons website. You all know the rules for muting your mikes, addressing everything to the chair, etc.

I'd like to welcome our witnesses. We have with us today the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Minister Wilkinson. We also have Madam Martine Dubuc, associate deputy minister, Department of the Environment; Mr. David McGovern, president, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada; and Ron Hallman, president and chief executive officer, Parks Canada Agency.

Minister, I believe you have five minutes for your opening remarks. You will be with us for one hour, after which I guess your department officials will be taking over and answering any additional questions.

Minister, the floor is yours.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson (Minister of Environment and Climate Change): Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the committee.

I'm certainly happy to be here with you to discuss the 2020-21 main estimates for Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Parks Canada Agency and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. I am joined by my officials, as the chair has noted. They will certainly be happy to take questions from you in the second hour.

I would like to start by recognizing that this meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Algonquin people, although I am situated on the traditional territory of the Tsleil-Waututh, Musqueam and Squamish first nations.

Without question, the world has changed significantly since we last met. COVID-19 has created tremendous loss and uncertainty here in Canada and all around the world. What has become increasingly clear is that we cannot choose between COVID-19 recovery efforts, climate action and the protection of nature. We must ad-

dress COVID-19, but we must address the looming crises on the horizon of climate change and rapid biodiversity loss. The work before us, supported by the 2020-21 main estimates, is essential to ensuring that we can move forward effectively. The work we are discussing today is focused on continuing to deliver real and effective results.

The total funding in the 2020-21 main estimates for Environment and Climate Change Canada is approximately \$2 billion. This represents an increase of about \$154.8 million from the previous year's total estimates.

At home, the department is continuing to implement the pan-Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change. With over 50 measures, this framework supports everything from electric vehicles and public transit to energy efficiency and renewable energy. At the same time, the department is leading government-wide work to develop further plans to ensure that we exceed Canada's 2030 emissions reduction goal and firmly put the country on a path to net zero by 2050.

In addition to the new measures, in the months ahead we will seek advice from experts and consult with Canadians about pathways to achieve our goal of a net-zero economy by 2050 while growing the economy and making life more affordable for all Canadians.

• (1605)

[Translation]

These pathways must also integrate nature protection, which is vital to our efforts to combat climate change and a significant priority.

Moving forward, we plan to conserve 25% of Canada's land and 25% of Canada's oceans by 2025, and we are working to reach 30% of each of those goals by 2030.

[English]

The Chair: Minister, the translation is not working. The French is not being translated into English.

When you're speaking French, do you have it on the French channel or the English channel?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: I'm pretty sure it was on the French channel.

Let me try it again.

[Translation]

Can you understand me now?

[English]

The Chair: Yes. Please proceed.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Okay.

[Translation]

The department is also continuing its work to protect biodiversity and species at risk.

Collaboration in that is also essential to all of our work, including our goal to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030, and ban harmful single-use plastics by 2021.

[English]

Another vital service, Madam Chair, is the weather and environmental prediction services the department provides to Canadians 24 hours a day.

The department is also developing further protections and taking steps to clean up the Great Lakes, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Simcoe and other large lakes.

In addition, we are working to modernize and strengthen the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

[Translation]

Let us now turn to Parks Canada.

After a brief suspension of visitor services, Parks Canada adapted its delivery to respond to the challenge of COVID-19 and reopen national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas on June 1.

[English]

From June through September, over 13.4 million Canadians were able to safely spend their recreational and vacation time in Parks Canada-administered places. Through the fall and winter, operations will continue in a number of parks and sites.

The main estimates for 2020-21 for Parks Canada are \$1.1 billion. Parks Canada will continue protecting nationally significant examples of natural and cultural heritage in Canada and sharing the stories of these treasured places with Canadians. Parks Canada is also working on a proposal to develop a legislative framework that would strengthen the protection of cultural heritage in Canada.

As for the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Madam Chair, its main estimates total \$76.5 million.

Madam Chair, I hope this summary provides committee members with the insight on the 2020-21 main estimates for Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada that they are seeking.

I am very happy to engage in conversation and to try to respond to your questions.

The Chair: Thank you, Minister. Thank you for keeping within your time.

We have the first round of questions for six minutes with Mr. Albas.

Mr. Dan Albas (Central Okanagan—Similkameen—Nicola, CPC): Thank you, Madam Chair.

Minister, thank you for the work you do and for your commitment to our country.

Minister, your party committed to plant two billion trees over 10 years. We now know that none have been planted because there is no budget and there is no plan.

As trees take time to grow, have any trees been ordered for planting next year?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Thank you, Mr. Albas.

Certainly our government remains committed to planting two billion trees to help fight climate change and to address biodiversity issues. During this period, of course, there has not been a federal budget during the pandemic, but we have provided \$30 million to the forest sector so that businesses could safely continue tree-planting operations during COVID-19. This has helped to ensure the scheduled planting of 600 million trees.

We certainly remain committed to the two billion trees. I think you will see that we have been developing a plan, and you will see that coming forward in the near term.

Mr. Dan Albas: Well, Minister, the estimates process and the supplementary estimates allow for you to be able to put something into a budget. As you know, in our province of British Columbia, 314 million trees were planted this year.

This initiative was raised again as a commitment in your throne speech. Why the discrepancy? Why are you simply saying that we are going to get to it some day without actually having a plan?

● (1610)

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: With respect, I think the fact that it was in the throne speech is a measure of the commitment this government has to moving forward with that commitment. We certainly do intend to move forward with it.

In the interim, during the COVID period, we worked very closely with the forestry sector to ensure that they would be able to get the tree-planting done that they had planned to do, but obviously that planting was impacted by COVID-19. That was 600 million trees, and we certainly intend to move forward with the two-billion-tree commitment in the near term.

Mr. Dan Albas: Minister, this was in your election platform. This was a major announcement by your predecessor and by the Prime Minister himself. To say that it was simply raised again in the throne speech and is a priority is not giving sufficient indication that you're serious about it. Have you identified locations to facilitate the planting of two billion trees?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Yes. Certainly, the development of the plan involves looking at locations. It obviously looks at the partnerships we would be utilizing in the context of developing those locations. It looks at urban and rural planting of trees. Those considerations all go into the development of a plan.

Again I would say, with due respect, that it certainly was a commitment during the campaign. As all of us are aware, COVID-19 came upon us in March just in advance of the budget. We do intend to move forward with it in the near term, and I think this is the appropriate time to do that, in the same way that we are moving forward with a commitment to developing and bringing forward a plan to exceed our climate target.

Mr. Dan Albas: Minister, as I said earlier in my comments, it takes time for trees to be ordered and then to be grown. By not having a budget right now for this allocation for these trees, you won't see anything planted next year, so is the plan to do this in year three? Isn't that hundreds of millions of trees behind schedule?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: As I say, we will be coming forward with visibility in terms of what the planting looks like over the coming number of years.

I think you have to take a step back and look at why we're planting trees. The reason we're planting trees is that it has to be part of an ongoing climate plan. It's part of the nature-based solutions elements of the climate plan, but it's also a key element in trying to prevent further biodiversity loss in this country, such as protecting species like caribou, which are in steep decline in pretty much every province and territory in this country. That is a critical piece. As I say, it remains a critical part of this government's agenda, and we intend to move forward in the near term.

Mr. Dan Albas: Minister, another commitment you've made is to double Canada's protected areas by 2025 to 25% of our land base. How will you equal over 150 years of planned protection in only 50 months? It takes years to create protected lands. There are many steps with local and provincial and first nations consultation. Have you identified all the areas that will need to be protected to meet the 25% promise? If not, there's no possible way to get there.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: I will tell you a couple of things. I mean, it's a good question, but I would start by saying that when our government came to office in 2015, less than 1% of marine areas were protected in this country. Right now it's just a little bit less than 15%, so in four years we made an enormous amount of progress relative to what had been done before.

We've also made progress with respect to terrestrial protection, although obviously terrestrial is more complicated. You have to involve provinces and territories in those conversations. We have active work going on to achieve the 17% number, which was the initial Aichi target. We have identified a number of different areas that will allow us to move forward to the 25% across this country. We feel very confident that we will be able to achieve that number.

Mr. Dan Albas: Can you give us an example of where this would be located?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: I can tell you that there are areas in every province and territory in this country. Those are things that we have been discussing with provinces and territories and with indigenous communities. They have been the leaders on many of

these issues, whether that's first nations in the south or Inuit in the north.

As I say, we feel confident that we will be able to meet that number. Obviously, we need to work through a range of issues with our partners.

Mr. Dan Albas: When do you plan on telling Canadians where these will be? Do you have a detailed plan?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Well, as I say, we have a very detailed plan with respect to the 17% number. We have a range of areas that are identified with our partners. This is something we will be discussing with a range of stakeholders, and of course that information will be public.

Mr. Dan Albas: Minister, you've given me zero visibility, so perhaps we can move to something where perhaps you might be able to.

As part of the electric vehicle subsidy, why doesn't the Canadian government collect data on user—

The Chair: Mr. Albas, your time is up. I am sorry. I thought I gave you a 30-second warning, but I was on mute.

At any rate, thank you. You can come to that in the next round.

Mr. Longfield, you have six minutes.

• (1615)

Mr. Lloyd Longfield (Guelph, Lib.): Thank you, Madam Chair. I'll be sharing my time with Mr. Saini.

I want to continue on the tree topic. On page 102 of the main estimates, there's a line item for conserving nature, under "operating", of \$174 million, with revenues and transfers to the provinces as well. I'm looking at how in Guelph we have a tree canopy goal of reaching 40% of tree canopy, but the municipality hasn't been able to move that forward in the last few years. I know that Minister McKenna previously announced some tree-planting in Ottawa, which was recovering a cancelled program from the Province of Ontario, where they eliminated tree-planting as part of their focus.

Minister, could you comment on how the federal government is supporting our communities in combatting climate change with programs like natural climate solutions?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Nature-based solutions and natural infrastructure are important. They're important in a whole range of ways, but certainly they're important from a sequestration perspective in helping us to meet goals. They're important from a resilience and climate adaptation perspective. They can be very important in terms of the protection of biodiversity. These are certainly part of how we need to go about addressing the two crises we face, one of which is climate and the other biodiversity loss.

We have taken significant steps to empower communities like Guelph to implement nature-based solutions in locally significant ways. One example is our government's EcoAction community funding program, which provides funding to protect, rehabilitate, enhance and sustain the natural environment in communities across the country. Of course, communities will be involved as we begin to roll out the issue we were talking about earlier, which is the commitment to two billion trees and the restoration of wetlands. On this project, we will be partnering not only with provinces and territories but also with communities across this country.

Mr. Lloyd Longfield: Great. Thank you, Minister.

I have another question on zero plastic waste. That has drawn a lot of very positive attention in Guelph, but I've had calls—quite a few calls, actually—about the plastic waste coming from water bottles. Nestlé Waters has a bottling plant just south of Guelph, which draws a lot of local attention in terms of environmental protection of water and also on the zero plastic stream.

When we're looking at achieving zero plastic waste by 2030, I wonder how these concerns fit into the plans that you're announcing on eliminating plastic waste.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: That's a good question. I've had that question a few times myself.

What we announced was a comprehensive approach to achieving zero plastic waste by 2030. That focus is on keeping plastics in the economy, out of the environment and out of our landfills.

Plastic water bottles certainly are found at times as litter, but they do actually have high recycling rates, and they're relatively simple to recycle. Given the deposit system, they are one of the items with a generally higher recycling rate.

Our plan is very much founded on working collaboratively with provinces and territories to strengthen recycling programs to increase our capacity to reuse and recover plastics using tools under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. We are proposing to develop regulations to establish higher standards for plastic products and packaging to make them more recyclable. We could include recycled content requirements and greater responsibilities for producers, as they are now doing in Ontario and have been doing in British Columbia.

The ban we brought into place that a lot of people focus on is focused on three things. The first is that they're harmful in the environment. The second is that they're very difficult or costly to recycle, and they gum up the recycling system. The third is that there are readily available alternatives. This plan is a comprehensive plan focused on ensuring that we keep the value of plastics in our economy but we deal with the really problematic ones through a ban.

Mr. Lloyd Longfield: Thank you, Minister.

I will give the floor to Mr. Saini.

The Chair: You have two minutes. Unmute yourself.

Mr. Raj Saini (Kitchener Centre, Lib.): Thank you very much for coming today, Minister, and for bringing your officials along. It's been a great discussion so far.

I'm going to change tack a bit, because the riding I'm from is a leader in innovation. It's a global leader. It's Kitchener Centre. We have one of the world's fastest-growing tech sectors and the highest number of new start-ups after Silicon Valley. This sort of culture of innovation is going to be very crucial for us in our fight against climate change.

How do you see the government working to leverage this innovative potential of Canadian businesses and incentivizing them to develop the sort of technology we're going to need to meet our future climate goals?

• (1620)

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Climate change is an environmental threat. It's a very significant one, but it's also a huge economic opportunity with respect to the markets that are going to be created for technologies and for a range of services associated with reducing emissions.

I spent over 15 years as a CEO and senior executive in the clean-tech space, and certainly this is an issue that I find very important and that is definitely worth discussing.

Our government has tried to develop a very comprehensive plan for addressing and growing the clean-tech sector. We've invested over \$3 billion since 2016 in that, and it's showing fruit. Canada had 12 out of the top 100 clean-tech companies in the world in 2020, and we were named by the Global Cleantech Innovation index as the number one country for innovation in the sector.

This is something that we need to do. It has to be a thoughtful strategy that goes all the way from research and development through to commercialization. We have been spending time on it and we will be spending more time on it.

Mr. Raj Saini: How much time do I have, Chair?

The Chair: You have 15 seconds.

Mr. Raj Saini: That's okay. Thank you very much, Minister.

The Chair: Thank you.

[Translation]

Ms. Pauzé, go ahead for six minutes.

Ms. Monique Pauzé (Repentigny, BQ): Minister, thank you for joining us.

In your document, you talk about oceans and protecting biodiversity. Yet you have carried out major offshore drilling projects of the project assessment process.

For instance, last March, 735,000 square kilometres of drilled wells were exempted. That rule applies even to drilling projects carried out in marine refuges created by the federal government to protect those marine environments. We are being told that those regions will be critical over the next few years, especially for species at risk.

In July, it was the same thing for drilling projects in eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. It is said that international standards are clear and that they reject any type of industrial activity in protected areas and those subject to other conservation measures. Even the developer recognizes that the zone overlaps with parts of a marine refuge and an important area in terms of ecology and biology. There are apparently 36 species listed as at risk or of special concern in terms of conservation.

Minister, isn't there a contradiction in the current narrative where the government is favouring oil drilling in protected areas?

[English]

Mr. Peter Schiefke (Vaudreuil—Soulanges, Lib.): On a point of order, Madam Chair, I'm sorry, but I just want to make sure of this. I don't use the translation, but some of the other members were shaking their heads, and I'm wondering if the translation was functioning properly for them.

The Chair: For me it was, but I'm going to ask the rest of the members.

Was it working for everyone? Could you tell me, Alexandre, if anybody was complaining?

Mr. Peter Schiefke: I think it's a thumbs-up, Madam Chair.

The Chair: It's a thumbs-up, yes. The only thing is that we couldn't see Madam Pauré.

[Translation]

Ms. Elizabeth May (Saanich—Gulf Islands, GP): We don't see Ms. Pauré. We just see an empty chair.

[English]

The Chair: Yes.

Is there a problem with the video for Madam Pauré? She's in the committee room, isn't she?

The Clerk of the Committee (Mr. Alexandre Roger): Yes, but we're having technical difficulties right now. They're looking into it. We're going to try to have the camera on her when she speaks. I'm sorry about that.

The Chair: Okay. Let her know that I've stopped the clock for her.

Minister, can you respond, please? Thank you.

[Translation]

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Thank you for your question.

Of course, biodiversity issues, especially those related to right whales and southern resident killer whales, in western Canada, are

very important. I was minister of Fisheries and Oceans in the past, and I worked a lot on those issues.

As for your question, we have always said that environmental processes should guarantee very strong environmental protections, but they should also be very effective. That is what the published ministerial regulations do. They establish a clear and effective process for assessing offshore exploration drilling projects in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area.

The regulations will guarantee that all drilling projects are consistent with high environmental protection standards by establishing clear rules and using existing scientific knowledge. We can protect the environment and provide certainty for industry.

• (1625)

Ms. Monique Pauré: Of course, I am not satisfied with that answer, especially since international standards are telling us the opposite, but let's move on.

Your document talks about strengthening the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. The Speech from the Throne talked about modernization. Eighty-seven of the commissioner's recommendations come from the old committee. I would like to know how far along the department is in its work to review the act based on those 87 recommendations.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Thank you for your question.

We have already begun this work. The recommendations of the environment committee, which worked very hard on this issue, are very important to us. I am very pleased to have those recommendations, and we will consider them in our work.

Ms. Monique Pauré: Last, I have seen a lot of announcements of money provided to oil and gas companies to improve their production. I find it difficult to justify public money being given to those companies, which, after all, are not really on the street. They are still making large profits.

I understand wanting to help them produce less greenhouse gas, but it seems to me that the speech should rather talk about reducing fossil fuel development. That is what all the ITCC stakeholders and other stakeholders globally are saying.

Instead of helping those businesses with public money, why not head toward decreasing fossil fuel development in order to slowly wean ourselves off fossil fuels?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Thank you for your question.

There are two things to be said on this. On the one hand, subsidies are given to the fossil fuel industry, and on the other hand, we have to see how we can work with that industry on reducing its greenhouse gas emissions.

Regarding subsidies given to the fossil fuel industry, our government has committed to eliminate them by 2025. We are currently doing that. We have already eliminated eight of them. We are in contact with Argentina to compare our respective work in that area. We have made the commitment, through the G20, to eliminate those subsidies.

When it comes to greenhouse gas reduction, it is important to work with industry. That is part of the solution to reduce the impact of climate change.

[English]

The Chair: Minister, her time is up, actually.

[Translation]

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: That is part of a plan to reduce climate change.

[English]

The Chair: We go now to Madam Collins for six minutes.

Ms. Laurel Collins (Victoria, NDP): Thank you, Madam Chair.

We are not on track to meet our Paris climate targets. The committee recently heard that Canada is currently not even close to being on track to meeting our targets for selling 100% zero-emission vehicles by 2040. The government committed to plant two billion trees by 2030. Then we learned there wasn't a single dollar allocated to plant these trees.

I could go on with a list of other Liberal commitments and environmental targets that this government has missed or is on track to missing, but on trees, to many points by Mr. Albas, the minister responded that with all due respect, we put it in our throne speech, or we were facing a pandemic. My response is that, with all due respect, repeating promises with no action is in no way reassuring.

As was mentioned, the B.C. government managed to plant millions of trees during the pandemic. Planting trees is actually a very feasible activity while physically distancing, and could have given students or people who were laid off a job.

Has Environment and Climate Change Canada requested any funds in these main estimates to support that work?

• (1630)

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: I would probably take issue with a couple of things you said. The first is that planting trees during a pandemic is simple and easy. It is not. There was certainly a lot of work done to try to enable the forestry industry and the tree-planting industry to be able to do this in a thoughtful way that protected workers. We were part of that. We committed money to doing that. We worked actively with British Columbia and with other provinces to ensure that it took place.

As I say, the government remains fully committed to the two billion trees. As you will know, most of the tree-planting activity, being a natural resources-related function, typically falls to provinces and territories. We will be working with them and with other stakeholders as well to ensure that we implement that promise. Planting trees is important from a climate perspective, but perhaps even more so from a biodiversity perspective. We will be moving forward with it.

Ms. Laurel Collins: Thank you. Just to clarify, I did not say it was “easy” during a pandemic; I said “feasible”.

We learn in the estimates that funding for the youth employment strategy has decreased. Looking at the departmental plan for 2020-21, the target for the number of green jobs created under the youth internship program is down to just 179 from the target last year of 969. In 2018-19 the actual results were 887 jobs.

Can you explain why there's this large reduction in green jobs for youth? As well, given that we could be investing in a tree-planting program that could be done with physical distancing, why haven't we been providing this kind of employment opportunity to students over the summer?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Let me start with the first. I'll ask my associate deputy minister to respond to the second.

We will be ensuring that as we move forward with the commitment to plant two billion trees, obviously it will create employment for a range of different folks, whether those are indigenous communities, young people or many people who live in rural areas. That certainly is an important part of ensuring that we're building back in the recovery from the pandemic.

With respect to the specifics around youth employment within the department, maybe I can ask Martine to make a response.

[Translation]

Dr. Martine Dubuc (Associate Deputy Minister, Department of the Environment)sous-ministre déléguée, ministère de l'Environnement): In supplementary estimates (B), an \$11-million investment is planned for youth engagement. That covers the innovation and nature aspect. So a very good investment will support youth employment across the country.

[English]

Ms. Laurel Collins: In terms of the target, does it remain at 179 for this year? Is that correct?

[Translation]

Dr. Martine Dubuc: Regarding the target established for this year, I could provide you with figures at a later date. That said, this target is comparable to last year's target.

[English]

Ms. Laurel Collins: Okay, because that doesn't appear to be correct. I would love a follow-up, if you could send information to the committee.

[Translation]

Dr. Martine Dubuc: Yes, we will do that.

[English]

Ms. Laurel Collins: Madam Chair, how much time do I have left?

The Chair: You have one and a half minutes.

Ms. Laurel Collins: Great. Thank you.

We are not on track to meet our climate targets. In the fall 2019 report, the commissioner of the environment found that there was no support for the government's statement that we're "on track" to meet our climate targets of reducing emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. We also know that these targets are not adequate and that we need to increase our ambition.

Can the minister account for the discrepancy in the statement from this government that we are "on track" when the evidence shows that we're not actually on track?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: I would say a couple of things.

The first is that, as you know, the pan-Canadian framework contained about 50 different initiatives that identified about 223 megatonnes in reductions to 2030. That is most of the way there, but we've always said that there was a gap to getting to the actual target that was 77 megatonnes.

During the campaign, we committed not only to meet but to exceed, and one of the things that I am working on every day is the plan we will be bringing forward to ensure that we actually not only meet but do exceed—as you indicate—the target as part of our response to the international community.

Ms. Laurel Collins: Minister—

The Chair: Thank you, Ms. Collins. Your time is up.

We now go to a five-minute round. The first questioner is Mr. Redekopp.

• (1635)

Mr. Brad Redekopp (Saskatoon West, CPC): Thank you, and thank you, Minister, for coming to us today.

Under vote 5, "Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account", there was just under \$10 million set aside. That's down from last year's estimates, which were around \$26 million, so it's a significant reduction.

In the throne speech, your government promised that the "Government will work with municipalities as part of a new commitment to expand urban parks". I've raised Saskatoon's Meewasin Valley with you and your officials on multiple occasions, formally and informally. As you are aware, there is an appetite at the provincial, regional and municipal levels to explore expanding and improving the Meewasin Valley as part of the federal government's plan to expand urban parks.

On October 21, I sent you a letter, along with correspondence from the Meewasin, asking for a formal meeting with you. To date, I'm not aware of a response. How do you intend on keeping the throne speech promise of new urban parks with a reduction in estimates under "new parks"? Why don't you start with low-hanging fruit like Meewasin in Saskatoon?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Well, first of all, let me say a couple of things. I'm very familiar with Meewasin.

As you know, I grew up in Saskatoon, and I think the idea of an urban park in the Meewasin area is a very interesting one. I would tell you that there are many urban municipalities that have reached out to us in the aftermath of the commitment to say that they are interested in similar kinds of things. I would be more than happy to meet with you and with the Meewasin people in the context of the discussion about how we move forward.

Maybe I can ask Ron Hallman, the CEO of Parks Canada, to speak a bit about the broader issue.

Mr. Ron Hallman (President and Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada Agency): Thank you, Minister, and thank you, Chair.

First of all, to the member's question, I can confirm that Parks Canada met with the individuals locally. Today, in fact, the executive director for the Prairies did that.

On the broader issue of urban parks, we are very much interested in working with willing partners across the country to identify those areas that might be identified as urban parks, recognizing that not all of them would necessarily be like the Rouge. They might not all need to be owned and operated by Parks Canada even, but we're at the early stages of understanding what such a network of urban parks might look like. We're interested in having the discussion such as the member raises right now, in addition to a whole bunch of other ones that would provide us a network across the country.

Mr. Brad Redekopp: Yes, well, Meewasin is a great example of the Prairie ethic. The park was funded by local governments and private donors, so their needs are fairly modest. I think it encourages exactly what we want, which is governments and individuals putting their money together to build great projects for our communities. I really don't understand why the government doesn't jump all over that.

Let's switch over and talk about the trucking industry. Page 8 of the departmental plan talks about the heavy vehicle sector. It says, "The Department will also implement regulations amending the Heavy-duty Vehicle and Engine GHG Emission Regulations".

In my discussions with them, the trucking industry has indicated a strong desire for a working group, which includes government, truck manufacturers, engine manufacturers, the fuel industry, etc., to work together to develop a road map for decarbonization in the trucking industry. It's a very complicated issue, with significant greenhouse gas impacts.

We've asked several of your officials about this idea. They don't seem to be aware that consultations are even a thing to pursue. Why are you not creating a trucking industry working group? Do you plan to impose carbon targets on the trucking sector and just wash your hands of the economic consequences?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: I'm not sure who you've been talking to in the department. I'm certainly happy to learn the names, but obviously there is a need for consultation when we're looking at how we enhance the efficiency and/or the technology used in a range of sectors. That's true of light-duty vehicle standards and it's true of heavy-duty vehicle standards. That relates to short-term issues around enhancing energy efficiency. It also relates, as I said, to long-term technologies like hydrogen and fuel cells that may be a replacement for the internal combustion engine or the diesel engines that are typically used.

I know my officials have already been having some of those conversations, but if there are specific folks who have not been reached out to who you think should be reached out to, I'm happy to do that.

Mr. Brad Redekopp: Are there working groups that have been created on the heavy-truck industry class 8 engine situation?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: There are all kinds of consultations that have been going on at the officials' level, whether that's with associations or individual companies. That's true on the light-duty side, it's true with coal regulations, it's true with natural gas. It's true with everything.

• (1640)

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Redekopp.

We now go to Mr. Saini for five minutes.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Do you mean Mr. Baker?

The Chair: I have Raj Saini here. Is it Mr. Baker?

Mr. Raj Saini: No, it's Mr. Baker, yes.

The Chair: Go ahead, Mr. Baker, for five minutes.

Mr. Yvan Baker (Etobicoke Centre, Lib.): Thank you very much, Chair.

Minister, thank you very much for being here and for answering our questions.

Minister, in my community of Etobicoke Centre, my constituents talk to me about climate change regularly. They talk to me about it all the time, and I think many of them consider it to be the existential issue of our time, which we need to act on to save our planet for this generation and our future ones.

To save our planet, we all know that Canada and countries around the world need to reduce their emissions. Could you share with me and for the benefit of my constituents what emission reduction targets our government has committed to, and to what degree these targets will reduce our emissions?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: There is no doubt that it is the existential issue of our time, and it is something that we must take action on in the short term if we want to leave a livable planet for our kids and our grandkids.

When this government took office in 2015, we developed a plan, the pan-Canadian framework, which was really the first real climate

plan that had begun to be implemented that Canada has ever had. It identified 223 megatonnes in reductions on a pathway to achieving 30% lower greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 than existed in 2005. Subsequent to that, of course, we have committed to exceeding those targets. Part of the work we are doing is to identify the remaining megatonnes that we must find in order to hit the target and to go beyond. That is something we are working on every day.

We've also committed to net zero by 2050, and we will be bringing in binding legislation with five-year targets to ensure that this is the case.

Climate change is an enormous priority for this government, and we are doing the work to ensure that we are moving forward in a manner whereby Canada can look our children in the eyes and also be part of the international conversation.

Mr. Yvan Baker: Thanks, Minister.

You alluded a little bit to it in your answer, but maybe I'll ask you to expand on it. It's one thing to say we have targets we want to hit and it's another thing to have the mechanisms to make sure we're bound, and future governments are bound, to deliver on them. Can you talk a little about the legislative measures or any other measures that will be put forward and passed to ensure that this government and future ones actually live up to those commitments that we've made?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Yes. In terms of legislation, we committed to legislating Canada's goal of net zero by 2050. We are not alone in this regard. There are a number of countries around the world, including the United Kingdom, that have done this. We will be setting legally binding five-year milestones that will be informed by advice from experts. We will be ensuring that we are putting in place transparency mechanisms that will be enforcing functions for all future governments with respect to the work that needs to be done to achieve the net zero target, which science tells us we need to do. That is something we do intend to move forward with and we certainly intend to do that in the near term.

Mr. Yvan Baker: Okay.

Just to recap, we've committed to meet certain emission reduction targets, and you described in your prior answer the mechanism to bind us to get there. The big question, and the question I imagine you wrestle with, the question I hear from my constituents, is how do we actually do that? How do we actually reduce our emissions? Can you share with us how we're going to do that? What are the most important actions we're going to take to achieve those emission reduction commitments?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: I think the focus, obviously, has to be on all the areas in the economy where there are significant sources of emissions, and eventually on all sectors of the economy where there are any emissions. That means looking at transportation, buildings, industry, the oil and gas sector and waste, and ensuring that we have plans that allow us to have visibility about how we're going to take big chunks out of those emissions by 2030 to ensure we are not only meeting but also exceeding our target, and also that we're thinking forward to 2050 so that we're not going down blind alleys that may help us to get to 2030 but are dead ends to getting to net zero.

That is part of the work we are doing right now. Again, I hope to be in a position to speak a little more generally about exactly how we're going to do that in the relatively near term.

The Chair: Mr. Baker, you have 30 seconds, if you have a quick question.

Mr. Yvan Baker: No.

Minister, I don't know if you wanted to add anything to that answer in the remaining 30 seconds or if there's anything you weren't able to respond to with the prior members.

• (1645)

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: The only way you could do this, and meet these kinds of targets, is if you take a comprehensive view. That means you need to think about a whole range of issues—regulatory mechanisms, investments, tax mechanisms—and it means pricing pollution.

In the absence of a comprehensive plan that utilizes all the available tools, it's very difficult to see how to have a plan that has any credibility in hitting those targets.

Mr. Yvan Baker: Thank you, Minister.

The Chair: Thank you.

I understand that Madame Paupé has left the room, so there will be a replacement. Who is it?

[Translation]

The Clerk: Mr. Savard-Tremblay is replacing her.

The Chair: Mr. Savard-Tremblay, go ahead for two and a half minutes.

[English]

The Clerk: He does not seem to be in front of his camera at the moment.

The Chair: I'll have to stop his time.

Does he have technical difficulties?

The Clerk: He's just not in front of his camera at the current moment.

The Chair: Where is he?

The Clerk: I don't know where he is.

The Chair: Then I suggest that Ms. Collins take the next round. It is two and a half minutes.

Ms. Laurel Collins: Thank you, Madam Chair.

In his response to Mr. Baker, the minister mentioned that his government would be bringing forward climate accountability legislation in the near term. I find this language concerning, especially since, in the throne speech, the word used was “immediately”. That was back in September. It's now November. I'm curious about the timeline for enacting climate legislation and bringing forward this very important, much-needed and long-delayed plan to exceed our climate targets.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: First of all, the word “immediately” in the throne speech referred to the 2030 plan, not to the legislation for 2050, but certainly I am in agreement with the member that we do need to ensure we are moving swiftly. The year 2030 is not very far away, and while people think that 2050 is a long way away, if we do not start to take action soon, it will certainly be problematic.

Ms. Laurel Collins: Minister, is there a timeline?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: The focus for us is essentially moving forward in the very near term. You will see some action on these fronts soon.

Ms. Laurel Collins: In terms of the plan for exceeding our climate targets and having a plan for 2030, the word “immediately” was used. Will that be coming in the next few weeks, the next few months...?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: I think you should stay tuned. I anticipate we will be bringing forward some things to talk to Canadians about soon.

Ms. Laurel Collins: That is not really an answer, but....

The committee, as I mentioned, has heard that we're not on track to meet our target of selling 100% zero-emission vehicles by 2040. According to Transport Canada, we're on track to get to 4% to 6% by 2025, well short of the 10% target. It's about half. We're on track to get to 5% to 10% by 2030, again well short of the 2030 target, which is 30%. That's a third to a sixth of the targets.

I'm curious to know the minister's response on how we're going to get back on track with these targets for zero-emission vehicles.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: You're correct in the sense that the sales of zero-emission vehicles across the country are probably not as rapid as we would like to see. We need to think about measures that we will put in place to accelerate those sales.

That's not true everywhere. Certainly in British Columbia, your home province and my home province, almost 10% of the new cars being sold are zero-emission electric vehicles.

Part of that is a function of the fact that the infrastructure for electric and hydrogen vehicles in British Columbia is far better developed than it is in many parts of this country. Part of it is—

The Chair: Thank you, Minister. I have to use your time wisely.

[Translation]

Are you there, Mr. Savard-Tremblay?

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay (Saint-Hyacinthe—Bagot, BQ): Good afternoon.

The Chair: You have the floor for two and a half minutes.

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Good afternoon, Minister. Thank you for your presentation. I would like to hear you on the Trans Mountain issue. We know that is a financial disaster that could have an environmental impact.

What is the level of political will to carry out this project? As you know, we are not especially attached to it.

• (1650)

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Thank you for your question.

This project will create thousands of good jobs for the middle class and will open up new paths to indigenous economic prosperity. That is part of our green and fair transition to a zero net emission economy. We are convinced that the project is still a responsible investment and that it will generate a positive outcome for Canadians of today and tomorrow. Every dollar earned through this project will be invested in building a cleaner economy that will create jobs, attract investments and fuel our homes and businesses in the years to come.

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay: I understand that it is always a matter of following a logic whereby we don't really want to get rid of oil. That is somewhat in line with what we were being told a year and a half ago, during the election campaign—not to worry about the pipeline because trees would be planted.

We will need to have a real will to transition. I understand that we are talking about transition, and not about stopping oil development overnight. That is not the issue. We want to know when a real transition plan will be presented to aspire to true electrification and true carbon neutrality.

In other words, as the saying goes, when will the government walk the talk?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Thank you.

I agree with my colleague's last sentence. It is essential for us to have a transition plan to reach our objectives by 2030, but also to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. In the short term, we will come up with a plan to reach those objectives by 2030 and present a piece of legislation related to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Of course, we have to have a plan, and we do have one.

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay: Okay, but what is that plan?

The Chair: Thank you very much. Your time is up.

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay: Okay. I will save it for later.

[English]

The Chair: We'll now go to Mr. Jeneroux.

You're sharing your time with Mr. Godin, yes?

Mr. Matt Jeneroux (Edmonton Riverbend, CPC): I am.

Minister, it's good to see you again.

Has your government conducted an analysis on job losses or job growth due to the clean fuel standards?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: I think it's important to think about what the clean fuel standard is. It's about reducing the carbon content of our fuels, creating opportunities for farmers and companies to produce renewable fuels and encouraging investment in energy efficiency to save Canadians money.

To your question, as we bring forward the clean fuel standard to CGI, Canada Gazette part I, we certainly will be providing a detailed cost-benefit analysis.

Mr. Matt Jeneroux: You haven't done it up to this date, though. Am I correct in saying that?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: As I say, as we move forward to CGI—and we said that will happen this fall—we will be providing a detailed cost-benefit analysis.

Mr. Matt Jeneroux: In your announcement on September 11, 2020, you said, "It will create jobs in farming, clean tech and zero-emissions vehicles."

Can you not tell us right now how the clean fuel standards will do that?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: It's going to drive demand for biofuels, just like the renewable fuel standard does. It's going to incent investments in energy efficiency, in carbon capture and in sequestration in a whole range of different technologies. It's going to boost the clean technology sector. It will incent deployment of electric vehicles, and you will see that when it's out for public comment.

It absolutely is the key driver for economic development and green economic development going forward.

Mr. Matt Jeneroux: I hear that, Minister, and you can say that. However, how come you can't give us the exact number of job projections that this will create, either job growth or job losses?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: As I say, we are going to be bringing this forward to CGI in the near term, and you will see a detailed cost-benefit analysis. Stay tuned.

Mr. Matt Jeneroux: What would the added costs be for farmers to dry their grain, heat their barns, ship their goods by truck or rail and for any other fuel use?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: As I say, the focus is on decarbonizing our fuels. It's a critical part of the climate plan. It's 30 megatonnes in reductions.

I would hazard a guess that if you take out a price on pollution and take out a clean fuel standard, both of which your party opposes, you are going to have a very interesting time trying to meet your commitments to the Paris targets.

It will be done in a cost-effective way. In the same way that alarmists said that taking lead out of gasoline or banning chlorofluorocarbons to save the ozone layer was going to cause economic catastrophe, this measure will drive innovation and it will be implemented in a manner that is fully cost-effective.

• (1655)

Mr. Matt Jeneroux: Minister, you've had five years to tell us, though, how many jobs this is going to—in my opinion—lose, particularly in my province of Alberta. I look forward to your detailed analysis and I hope it comes soon, because there are many, many Canadians, particularly Albertans, who are very worried about what the clean fuel standard means.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Alberta has a lot to gain economically through this, as does Saskatchewan—

Mr. Matt Jeneroux: I will share my time with Mr. Godin. Thank you.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: —which was the province in which I grew up.

Biofuels can be produced very easily on the Prairies. It's a great place to do that. A lot of the technology that we're talking about will be driven through the Prairies and through British Columbia. There are enormous economic opportunities for Alberta in this, and I look forward to working with companies, entrepreneurs and with the Province of Alberta to ensure that this happens.

[Translation]

The Chair: Mr. Godin, you have one and a half minutes.

Mr. Joël Godin (Portneuf—Jacques-Cartier, CPC): Thank you, Madam Chair. I will hurry up then.

Minister, thank you for participating in this exercise. I also thank you for speaking French and congratulate you on that.

You know that I respect you as an individual. However, some of your comments are problematic for me.

You said the following in your opening remarks:

However, let me make it clear from the outset: the work we are discussing today is continuing to deliver real and effective results.

Last week, the environment and sustainable development commissioner tabled a report titled “Report 2—Progress in Implementing Sustainable Development Strategies—Safe and Healthy Communities”. Yet he says the following in his report:

...the organizations [and departments] reporting was at times unclear or incomplete, making it difficult for parliamentarians and Canadians to gain a clear sense of overall progress against the goal.

Minister, I just want to remind you that you have five objectives and five plans to implement in order to achieve those targets. As all the experts have said, the Paris agreement targets are currently unachievable. As my colleague Mr. Albas said, none of the two billion trees to be planted have been planted so far. The Department of

Transportation has confirmed that it will be impossible to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Minister, given the current situation, the objective in terms of zero-emission vehicles by 2040 will be practically impossible to reach. I think this is smoke and mirrors.

What is your response to that?

[English]

The Chair: Minister, I'm going to give Mr. Godin 30 more seconds for your response.

[Translation]

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Thank you.

Of course, I respect you and everyone else here today. We are having a good discussion.

It goes without saying that we must have a plan to achieve the 2030 and 2050 targets. That is not a political issue; it is a scientific one. We all want a future where our children and our grandchildren will have a good life. I am certain that we will have a plan to deal with climate change.

You also talked about things we said we wanted to do....

[English]

The Chair: Minister, I have to stop you. I've been too generous.

This is the last question for the minister. His hour is up.

Mr. Scarpaleggia, you have five minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia (Lac-Saint-Louis, Lib.): Thank you, Madam Chair.

Climate change must be fought across the globe. So it is important for Canada to help developing countries limit their greenhouse gas emissions.

To what extent will those projects funded by Canada internationally play into our commitments made under the Paris agreement?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Climate change is still a global security issue that knows no borders and requires a global solution. That is why Canada is playing a key role internationally in protecting the environment.

To support the Paris agreement, since 2015, our government has provided \$2.65 billion in international climate financing to help developing countries transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

Earlier this year, Global Affairs Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada launched a series of consultations with our partners to find the best ways to enable our country to continue to make strategic, targeted and significant investments.

We will continue to support that important work, as the global fight against climate change has concrete benefits for all Canadians.

• (1700)

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia: Thank you.

Madam Chair, do I have enough time to ask one or two other questions? I hope so.

[English]

The Chair: Yes, you do. You have about three minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia: That's great.

Earlier, we were talking about targets regarding which, I hope, Parliament will legislate through a bill that will be submitted.

What is the provinces' role in the setting of those targets? Are you holding consultations with industrial sectors and the provinces to define those targets? What kind of progress has been made in that process?

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Of course, we have to hold consultations with provinces and territories, but also with industry, environmental groups, aboriginals and other Canadians interested in those issues. We have also promised to create an organization that would advise us on achieving the zero net emission target by 2050. That is something we will be doing over the short term. That organization will have to have discussions with industry and all other stakeholders. It goes without saying that a lot of discussions and consultations will be required. We have to all work on it together in Canada.

[English]

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia: Thank you.

Minister, we've been looking into zero-emission vehicles. I was wondering if you could tell us how you see the clean fuel standard contributing to the expansion of the fleet of zero-emission vehicles in Canada. I know that the clean fuel standard in California has been quite effective in advancing the objective of having more ZEVs on the road.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: The clean fuel standard is a very important part of Canada's climate plan. It achieves 30 megatonnes, which is almost 10% of the reductions Canada needs to achieve in order to meet and exceed our 2030 climate goals. It is a measure that focuses on how we reduce the carbon content of the fuels we use.

We're not the first to do it. It's been done in British Columbia and it's been done in California. It's been done in a number of different places around the world.

There are different ways in which to satisfy that reduction in carbon content. Some are energy efficiency measures. Some are a blending of ethanol and other biofuels. The third is accelerating the

deployment of zero-emission vehicles, which essentially lowers the overall carbon content of the vehicle fleet.

We believe that the clean fuel standard is going to accelerate work in all of those areas. It will accelerate employment. It's going to accelerate technology. It's going to be something that's very good from an economic perspective for very many Canadians.

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia: Thank you.

Is my time almost up, Madam Chair?

How are the consultations on the Canada water agency coming along? As you know, this is one of my—

The Chair: Oh, I'm sorry. I had muted myself. Your time is up.

Voices: Oh, oh!

Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia: Okay. That's too bad.

The Chair: Minister, I guess you've given us your hour. If you'd like to take your leave, you can go and we'll keep the officials here.

[Translation]

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay: Madam Chair, I have a point of order.

The Chair: Go ahead, Mr. Savard-Tremblay.

[English]

It was going to be for an hour.

[Translation]

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay: Yes, of course, but, since all the parties, aside from the Bloc Québécois and the NDP, have been able to ask three sets of questions, could the minister be with us for another five minutes, so that we can each ask questions for a minute and a half?

[English]

The Chair: It is going against the order in which we pose questions, and this is a routine proceeding that has been adopted. Unless I have unanimous consent on it, and the minister has time, I cannot change the routine proceedings.

• (1705)

Mr. Dan Albas: We are okay with adding an extra five minutes, Madam Chair.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Unfortunately, I am actually late for my next meeting.

The Chair: Sorry, we don't have unanimous consent, so I will have to then let the minister go. You can ask the questions of the departmental officials.

Monsieur Albas, you are—

Mr. Dan Albas: I was just waving good-bye.

The Chair: Okay, thank you.

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson: Thank you, everybody. I appreciate your time and the conversation.

Certainly with respect to Mr. Rasmussen, follow up with me again. We'll set that meeting up with Wanuskewin.

The Chair: Thank you.

Now we have the departmental officials. The first round of five minutes goes to Mr. Albas.

Mr. Dan Albas: I would like to start by thanking our witnesses today. I know they're very committed to this country, and I hope that they can answer the questions.

I will start by asking in regard to Parks Canada. The Parks Canada budget is declining significantly this year. I know there were budgetary impacts from free admission to parks as part of the Canada 150 initiative, as well as the increased demand this year due to COVID.

How do those realities reconcile with the significant decline?

Mr. Andrew Campbell (Senior Vice-President, Operations, Parks Canada Agency): Thank you, Mr. Albas. I will ask my colleague, who is the vice-president of finance, if she is on. Catherine, are you there?

Ms. Catherine Blanchard (Vice-President, Finance Directorate, Parks Canada Agency): Yes, I'm here. Thank you very much for the question.

Yes, you're right. There is a decrease in authorities for Parks Canada this year. It's primarily related to our infrastructure funding, and it's more of a timing issue. We will be accessing additional infrastructure funding in our supplementary estimates B and through other vehicles. It shows as a decrease a main estimates to main estimates comparison, but it isn't really a true decrease. It is more about timing.

We will, as I said, be accessing funding in supplementary estimates A for capital, at \$141 million. We're also carrying forward some funding from 2019, about \$130 million, into 2020-21. Again, it's more of a timing issue and a function of how the estimates process works.

I will add, though, that our capital funding does sunset later on, at the end of March—March 31, 2022—but for this year, it is not a real decrease; it's more of a timing issue.

Mr. Dan Albas: Okay.

I have been hearing serious concerns from across Canada about the planned decommissioning of Weatheradio broadcast towers. I know the government is consulting and believes they are only looking at towers in areas with adequate cell service, but let me tell you that in areas of my riding as well as others, such as Kelowna—Lake Country, there is zero cell service in certain parts, and we are served by a tower that is up for decommissioning.

What is the status of this consultation, and will you proceed with removing these towers?

Madam Chair, I do hope that—

The Chair: Yes, I'm stopping your time. Who is answering?

Ms. Diane Campbell (Assistant Deputy Minister, Meteorological Service of Canada, Department of the Environment): Madam Chair, my name is Diane Campbell—

The Chair: Okay. Madame Campbell, could you please answer the question?

Ms. Diane Campbell: I will proceed. Thank you so much.

I'm the assistant deputy minister of the Meteorological Service of Canada. Thank you very much for that question.

We offer a range of services to Canadians over a multitude of dissemination channels. Weatheradio has been one of the lesser known channels to many Canadians. We have used it for many years, and its origins were very much using VHF radio frequencies.

We embarked on this consultation so that we could understand how Canadians are currently using that service. We sent out letters. We also put broadcasts on Weatheradio channels in order to generate that feedback.

This is part of an active consultation. The information and the feedback we're getting are being looked at right now. For those communities and those individuals who have raised concerns, we will be pursuing their use actively with them so that we understand the nature of their needs, and then we will be reassessing, based on that information.

Mr. Dan Albas: Okay. Well, I would just say, first of all, that many areas on the water in my riding have no cell service. I've heard from boaters. I know this is true right across Canada. In Manning Park, we recently had a Vancouverite lost. Even the Prime Minister mentioned his case. The weather in Manning Park can change quite quickly.

When will you announce which towers will be removed, and can people still try to stop this?

• (1710)

Ms. Diane Campbell: We will be looking at a second round of consultations. Right now we haven't finished getting the first round through. Our intention is to engage directly with some of the communities themselves.

We want to do two things. First, we want to see whether there are other mechanisms to be able to meet their needs. You've given a good example. Some of the examples from other communities raise different issues and perhaps different service options. At this point, there will be no plans to announce any closures of stations until that round has been fully looked at and we've had the chance to connect with the users themselves who have raised the issues.

Mr. Dan Albas: My suggestion is, again.... Saying that the fact that there's cell service means that you don't need this...when cell service is clearly not in many parts of my riding and quite honestly across this country. My suggestion would be to really look at those two, because they are not as you've said in the consultation website.

Regarding aquatic invasive species, what is the amount budgeted for addressing this issue in British Columbia?

The Chair: Are people having technical difficulties? I have to stop Mr. Albas's time.

Who's responding, Mr. Albas? Did you have a particular person to respond?

Mr. Dan Albas: Well, we have so many wonderful public servants here, I'm sure there's someone who knows exactly what I'm speaking about.

Mr. Niall O'Dea (Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Services, Department of the Environment): The reason we may have been struggling to find you an answer, sir, is that aquatic invasive species are under the responsibility of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. As such, we don't have an identified line item for them within our own main estimates.

Mr. Dan Albas: Okay. So I take it there's no budget for this.

Mr. Niall O'Dea: Not within Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The Chair: With all my time-stopping, Mr. Albas, your time is up.

I'll now go to Mr. Schiefke for five minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Peter Schiefke: Madam Chair, I'd like to thank all the witnesses for being here today.

When our government took office, less than 1% of our coastline was protected. Today, that number stands at nearly 15%—a tremendous improvement in very little time.

Thanks to a partnership between our government, Nature-Action Québec and the City of Rigaud, in my riding of Vaudeuil—Soulanges, we recently announced an initiative to protect 63 hectares of Rigaud Mountain.

In the main estimates, Environment and Climate Change Canada is seeking \$319 million for nature conservation, an increase of around 7% over last year's main estimates.

Can you tell us how that additional money will help our government continue to advance nature conservation across the country and ensure a healthy future for generations to come?

Mr. Niall O'Dea: My name is Niall O'Dea, and I am the assistant deputy minister of the Canadian wildlife service.

The expenditure is certainly tied to our 2018 investment of \$1.3 billion and will help us make great strides in our efforts to protect biodiversity all over the country.

As far as species at risk go, we are seeing significant progress in the protection of priority species such as caribou. We have seven conservation agreements with our provincial counterparts and three with our first nations partners. We have agreements covering 11 priority places in the country, and we are seeing major progress thanks to collaborative planning to protect species at risk in urban interface zones.

We have also seen considerable improvement when it comes to protected areas. We are aiming to have 16.6% of our land mass protected by 2023, in co-operation with first nations, the provinces and territories, and other partners. That is equivalent to increasing protected areas by three Nova Scotias—

• (1715)

[English]

The Chair: Mr. O'Dea, could you hold your microphone closer to your mouth, please? The interpreters are sending a note.

[Translation]

Mr. Niall O'Dea: My apologies.

Yes, I certainly will, but that was the end of my answer.

The Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Peter Schiefke: Thank you.

[English]

The next question I have is for Parks Canada representatives.

The agency was to lead the Government of Canada's preparation for the 2020 International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the congress has been postponed, unfortunately, until an undetermined date. How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected international co-operation on the conservation of nature?

Ms. Darlene Upton (Vice-President, Protected Areas Establishment and Conservation, Parks Canada Agency): Thanks for the question. I'm the vice-president of protected areas establishment and conservation with Parks Canada. I can start, and perhaps my colleagues might have something to add as well.

A few things are happening now. A number of conferences have been postponed. The World Conservation Congress has been postponed twice, and we're waiting for rescheduling. Additionally, the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress has also been postponed until June 2022. However, a number of elements are going on online.

Recently, Canada voted on over 100 motions related to the World Conservation Congress. That coordination, both domestically and internationally, feeding into that process, along with conversations and a transition to a more virtual...are allowing a lot of international discussions to continue. Again, despite the pandemic, we have a number of agreements with other countries, such as Mexico and the U.S., and the work under those agreements continues.

Mr. Peter Schiefke: Thank you.

Madam Chair, how much time do I have left?

The Chair: Seconds.

Mr. Peter Schiefke: I guess I'll just use my time to thank the witnesses again for being here and for providing their responses and their expertise, and thank them for the incredible work they're doing on a multitude of very important files for Canadians.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The Chair: Thank you.

[Translation]

Mr. Savard-Tremblay, you may go ahead. You have two and a half minutes.

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay: Good afternoon.

Thank you for being here to answer our questions.

My first question is about numbers, since one of today's dominant issues is obviously greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions have been on the rise since 1990. Back then, we were at 602 megatonnes. In 2017, the last year for which calculations are available, emissions stood at 716 megatonnes. Do you have more recent numbers?

[English]

The Chair: May I make a request, please? Respond quickly because their time is very precious. I clock them off, but I've stopped the clock.

Thank you.

Mr. Matt Jones (Assistant Deputy Minister, Pan-Canadian Framework Implementation Office, Department of the Environment): I will simply note that the greenhouse gas inventory that counts emissions has historically been produced and submitted to the United Nations every year and is made available on our website. Emissions projections based on federal, provincial and territorial measures are also conducted on an annual basis, and those emissions are projected to decrease significantly, but as the minister has noted, there is a remaining gap of about 77 megatonnes based on our most recent projections.

[Translation]

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay: One of the reasons why it seemed as though emissions were decreasing is that the base year was changed as time went on.

Nevertheless, I will move on to another topic, electrification. As you know, it is doubly important. It is important environmentally, and for Quebec, it is extremely important economically. In terms of the newly announced funding for electric vehicles, does the department plan to enhance what the transportation sector will be offering when it comes to purchase incentives?

● (1720)

[English]

The Chair: Who is responding? I have to stop time again.

[Translation]

Ms. Helen Ryan (Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Department of the Environment): Sorry. Can you hear me? I was having an issue with my microphone.

[English]

The Chair: Okay.

[Translation]

Ms. Helen Ryan: Thank you for your question about incentives for the purchase of low-emission vehicles.

As you saw, the government allocated funding in the previous budget for the purchase of these vehicles and for infrastructure. The funding is significant and supports much of our efforts to increase the number of low-emission vehicles.

[English]

The Chair: Thank you very much.

[Translation]

Mr. Simon-Pierre Savard-Tremblay: How much time do I have left?

[English]

The Chair: We now go to Madame Collins for two and a half minutes.

Ms. Laurel Collins: Thank you, Madam Chair.

The departmental results report shows that the ECCC target of 21% improvement in emissions from light-duty vehicles wasn't met, and that there was only about a 16% improvement. The clean fuel standard that folks have been talking about is a key part of the pan-Canadian framework on climate change. It has been delayed and back-end-loaded in terms of the reduction standards.

How does ECCC or this government really expect to meet the emissions reduction targets without putting these strong standards in place in the near term?

Mr. John Moffet (Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Branch, Department of the Environment): Hi. I can respond to that.

There are a bunch of components to that question.

On the clean fuel standard, we did indeed delay the rollout. We have back-ended it. That's quite deliberate, in response to two issues. One, of course, is the reduced capital available for investments at the moment due to the pandemic. The other is just the reality that for some of the major decarbonization activities that we're hoping to promote, it will take a number of years for those investments to actually result in reductions. That's appropriate phase in the reductions.

Nonetheless, we do anticipate that by 2030 the clean fuel standard will drive—

Ms. Laurel Collins: Thank you so much. I'm just going to jump to my next question, which is about the actual spending on the low-carbon economy fund, which was 50.2% under budget. I'm just curious what the reasons for this underspending were. It was 2018-19 actual spending. How and to what extent have these kinds of underspending issues been addressed?

The Chair: Who is responding? I've stopped your time, Ms. Collins.

Mr. John Moffet: We have a small technical issue here. Matt Jones is getting his headset reapplied. He'll probably be appearing as Helen Ryan.

The Chair: Fair enough.

Mr. Ryan or Ms. Ryan, would you like to continue? You have 15 seconds.

Oh, I'll have to stop it again.

Mr. John Moffet: I would perhaps suggest that we get back to Ms. Collins with the answer so that we don't further delay the questions.

The Chair: Her time is up, but I don't want her to go without being answered. This is our last round.

Ms. Laurel Collins: I would love the 15- or 20-second answer. I would also love for them to follow up with some written material if there's more information beyond those 15 seconds.

The Chair: Ms. Collins, I'll be a little generous with you because otherwise it's not fair, given all these technical difficulties.

Who is responding now?

Can somebody else respond?

Ms. Carol Najm (Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services and Finance Branch, Department of the Environment): I will, Madam Chair, if you'll permit me.

In answer to the original question, why the full monies were not spent on the LCEF, the high-level version is that due to COVID and the need for negotiations, the work didn't occur in time to use the money this fiscal year. That money has been reprofiled to the next fiscal year, when we will be able to continue the conversation and ensure that it is spent.

• (1725)

The Chair: Thank you very much.

Thank you, Madame Collins, for your patience.

We will now go to Monsieur Godin, for five minutes.

[Translation]

Mr. Joël Godin: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Thank you to the Environment and Climate Change Canada officials for making themselves available this evening. Now you, too, understand the technological reality of a hybrid Parliament and committee. I am actually here in person.

My question is about Environment and Climate Change Canada's estimates.

Under the 2019-20 main estimates, the total statutory vote is \$94,569,422, but under the estimates to date, the vote is \$206,017,525.

How do you explain the difference? What did you accomplish with the additional \$111 million?

Ms. Carol Najm: Thank you for your question.

[English]

I will tell you that we have a number of...time-limited funding, where we need to go back and renew certain programs. That explains, high-level, the difference in funding available from year to year. We would be happy to provide the committee with additional details more specific to the question.

[Translation]

Mr. Joël Godin: A comparison of 2019-20 and 2020-21 reveals something interesting. Under main estimates, the total statutory vote is \$206,017,525 for 2019-20, and \$204,984,083 for 2020-21. The total budgetary vote under main estimates is \$1,828,095,018, and the total budgetary vote under estimates to date is \$1,962,992,504. To that \$1,962,992,504, some \$40 million has been added.

You are dragging along this so-called temporary expenditure. You start with a budget and you add to it. Here is the problem. You have to come back to the main estimates, not the estimates to date. If, as you say, they are temporary expenditures, they shouldn't be pushed into next year.

[English]

Ms. Carol Najm: Many of these programs are multi-year and have varying profiles from year to year. Depending on where it is and where the money is needed, the amount of funding per year will vary. That's why there are some shifts in the numbers.

Overall, when we do get—

[Translation]

Mr. Joël Godin: I have to stop you there. I understand, but does that mean you did not budget properly when you determined that the total statutory vote for the 2019-20 main estimates was \$94,569,422? It went up to \$206,017,525. The same mistake is made year after year, with Canadian taxpayers' money. You have to be mindful of that.

Ms. Carol Najm: We are very mindful when it comes to our department's expenditures.

That said, I can tell you that we work with many partners and stakeholders to deliver our programs.

Mr. Joël Godin: Ms. Najm, I'm going to stop you there. I got the answers to my questions, even though I am not satisfied with them.

I'm not sure whether this next question is for you. It pertains to the goal of protecting 17% of Canada's land and freshwater by the end of 2020, and protecting 25% of these areas by 2025.

As I understand it, between 2005 and 2019, the proportion of protected land and freshwater went from 10.8% to 12.1%. That leaves 5% with a month and a half to go before the target deadline.

Is that realistic?

Ms. Carol Najm: I will ask my colleague Mr. O'Dea to answer that.

Mr. Joël Godin: Very well.

Mr. Niall O'Dea: Thank you, Ms. Najm.

Thank you for your question. As far as our projections to date are concerned, we are aiming to achieve the target by 2023. It's going to take a little longer than anticipated because of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19—

• (1730)

Mr. Joël Godin: Thank you. That's fine.

The Chair: Mr. Godin, you are out of time. Thank you.

Mr. Joël Godin: Madam Chair, I had a great question lined up, but I understand we must respect the clock.

[English]

The Chair: I know. You could always send your question over to the witnesses later.

The last one goes to Mr. Longfield.

You have five minutes.

Mr. Lloyd Longfield: Thanks, Madam Chair.

My first question is for Environment and Climate Change Canada. I'm looking at the main estimates. I've been seeing some significant changes over the last few years. One of them is on the line item with contributions in support of "Predicting Weather and Environmental Conditions" going from \$480,000 two years ago to \$3 million, and then this year to about \$2.9 million.

I'm also noticing on your department evaluation plan that you're planning an audit on environmental climate services in 2021-22. It looks like some significant things are happening there. Could you maybe clarify where those investments are happening and how things are changing?

I was up in the Arctic a couple of years ago and saw Environment Canada up there doing some tremendous work. I'm hoping that has something to do with predicting climate.

Ms. Carol Najm: In terms of the funding you see and the changes in the main estimates from year to year, it is a function of sunseting funds. Within that co-responsibility of predicting weather and weather conditions, we have a number of programs that are on various renewal cycles. For that reason, you will see the fluctuation in the dollars in our main estimates from year to year.

I will turn it over to Diane to respond to the second half of your question.

Mr. Lloyd Longfield: Thank you.

Ms. Diane Campbell: Thank you very much.

Building on what my colleague Carol has said, the Meteorological Service of Canada does have a base budget that supports the basic monitoring infrastructure across Canada. You might have been up in Eureka, perhaps, when you saw that.

Mr. Lloyd Longfield: Exactly.

Ms. Diane Campbell: Yes. That's our weather station. We let weather balloons go and we do base climate monitoring of temperature, etc., there. It's one of the most unique places in the world to do so.

The base budget for those types of activities is ongoing. However, when we are able to acquire funds to upgrade infrastructure, let's say, or to clean up, to adjust programs or to do innovation programs, usually that is time-bound, and that is what my colleague Carol was talking about.

We are in the midstream of some programming right now. Others have wound down. Also, of course, we're thinking about what the needs would be for the future.

Mr. Lloyd Longfield: Thank you. That station had been defunded under a previous government. It's good to see that we're making those investments. Even on the runway to get in and out, that was very important. I'm glad to see that reflected in the mains.

I have another question on a line item going up for the Impact Assessment Agency. The contributions have gone from \$800,000 two years ago to \$2.5 million last year. In the coming fiscal year, the mains have it at \$3,060,000. I also see that there are audits coming up.

I sit on the public accounts committee—can you tell? I'm looking at where your audits are heading. To me, that's a predictor of some investments that are probably changing some functions within the department. Could you maybe comment on where that money is going?

Mr. Terence Hubbard (Vice-President, Operations Sector, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada): Actually, I'll ask my colleague Brent Parker to comment on the grant and contribution programs and where those dollars are going.

Mr. Lloyd Longfield: Thank you.

Mr. Brent Parker (Acting Vice-President, Strategic Policy, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada): Thank you for that question.

You're quite right. There are new dollars that are coming into the agency. Those grant and contribution dollars are flowing into four new programs. We have existing funding that goes into supporting projects, so that's our participant funding program. That goes out to the public and to indigenous groups to support their engagement in actual project reviews.

The new funding you're noting is going into three different streams. One is a research program. It's really aimed at building the capacity across Canada when it comes to expertise in impact assessment because, as you will know, the environmental assessment agency grew, in terms of its mandate, to look at the full spectrum of impacts from projects. That research program is supporting that.

Then there is the indigenous capacity program. That particular program is new. It's supporting activity with indigenous communities to support their development in being prepared and engaging in project reviews, and—

• (1735)

Mr. Lloyd Longfield: Terrific. Thank you.

We're out of time—

Mr. Lloyd Longfield: —but my constituents want to know that there is impact, and I'm glad that you're investing in it.

Thank you very much.

The Chair: Yes, we are out of time.

The Chair: Thank you.

I thank all the witnesses.

Committee members, we're not adjourning until we vote.

If the witnesses would like to log off, please, the committee can vote. By the way, don't forget that the clerk will send you the requests made here from any of the members.

Committee members, we were studying the main estimates. We now have to do votes on different vote items. You can say "yea", "nay" or "on division". You can't lower the amount; you can agree to it.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Vote 1—Operating expenditures.....\$858,313,855

Vote 5—Capital expenditures.....\$89,793,534

Vote 10—Grants and contributions.....\$829,881,990

(Votes 1, 5 and 10 agreed to on division)

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AGENCY OF CANADA

Vote 1—Operating expenditures.....\$51,710,081

Vote 5—Grants and contributions.....\$18,939,140

(Votes 1 and 5 agreed to on division)

PARKS CANADA AGENCY

Vote 1—Program expenditures.....\$898,652,518

Vote 5—Payments to the New Parks and Historic Sites Account.....\$9,992,000

(Votes 1 and 5 agreed to on division)

The Chair: Shall I report the votes on the main estimates to the House?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Chair: Perfect.

Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, you've been good. Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr. Dan Albas: Madam Chair, just before you move on, while I appreciate that we're all becoming acquainted with this hybrid format, I really have to say that we should be having recorded divisions, unless we agree. Perhaps we could have some discussion between parties.

If we had just done that, saying we oppose all of the estimates, we could have done it in a block vote, with one recorded division. I said "no". In some cases, I didn't hear anyone even say "on division".

Certainly I do think we can improve on the committee functioning when it comes to taking a recorded vote.

The Chair: This type of vote is yes or no, or you can say "on division". You're right; somebody did say "on division". Then the chair has to decide to do it on division, but it has to be taken individually. These are estimates. Main estimates votes have to be taken one by one, and it's not recorded. It's normal practice.

Mr. Dan Albas: Madam Chair, we do have the capacity to ask for a recorded vote, and that really should be how we do it. It should be either by unanimous consent or by a recorded vote. I'm just asking perhaps to talk with the clerk. Maybe we can have some consideration among all parties. I have to say that's not the way that I think we can conduct ourselves. I'm not saying this is any criticism of you or anyone else. I just think it should be either a recorded vote or unanimous. Clearly, I said "no" in every single case.

The Chair: I heard you.

With that, are there any other questions before I move to adjourn?

Thank you, everybody.

The meeting is adjourned.

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1. Examples of iconic national scale projects

- a. *Twinning the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) segments through the Mountain Parks*: Since 2016, Parks Canada has spent \$68M to twin over 40 kilometres of the TCH through our National Parks in the Rocky Mountains. This project has created jobs, stimulated the economy of Western provinces, improved the condition of the most important domestic trade corridor in the West, reduced human-wildlife conflict, and improved safety for those visiting our Parks or just those travelling through them.
- b. *Province House*: Since 2014, Parks Canada, in partnership with the Province of PEI, has undertaken a multi-phase project valued at \$92M to completely restore the more than 170 year old building. Doing so will ensure that the building is available for generations and that the story of Canada's Confederation can continue to be told in its birthplace.
- c. *Trenton Dam 1*: Since 2016, Parks Canada has been refurbishing Dam 1 at Trenton, ON, the largest single dam along the Trent-Severn Waterway. This \$51M project will improve the performance and safety of the dam.
- d. *Halifax Citadel and the Halifax Defence Complex*: Since 2015, Parks Canada has been investing up to \$18M to address structural deficiencies and to restore the Halifax Citadel.
- e. *Grosse-Ile and Irish Memorial*: Since 2015, Parks Canada has spent \$6M to address various structural and visitor-experience related deficiencies at Gross-Ile, thereby ensuring that Canada's history of immigration continues to be told at this important site.

2. PCA projects from the ridings of ENVI committee members

Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI)

Member	Riding	Highlighted capital projects in, or near, the Riding
Yasmin Ratansi, Chair	Don Valley East (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.
Dan Albas, Vice	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	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-
Laurel Collins	Victoria (BC)	\$13M across four projects at Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse NHS. All projects complete by end 2020-21
Joel Godin	Portneuf - Jacques-Cartier (QC)	\$64M across 7 projects to restore and refurbish the Quebec Walls. Projects to be completed in 2021-22.
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 of 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.
Francis Scarpaleggia	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.
Peter Schiefke	Vaudreuil-Soulanges (QC)	\$6.1M to restore and refurbish Manoir Papineau NHS. Project to be completed in 2020-21.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Mandate Letter

December 13, 2019



Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

Thank you for agreeing to serve Canadians as Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

On Election Day, Canadians chose to continue moving forward. From coast to coast to coast, people chose to invest in their families and communities, create good middle class jobs and fight climate change while keeping our economy strong and growing. Canadians sent the message that they want us to work together to make progress on the issues that matter most, from making their lives more affordable and strengthening the healthcare system, to protecting the environment, keeping our communities safe and moving forward on reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. People expect Parliamentarians to work together to deliver these results, and that's exactly what this team will do.

It is more important than ever for Canadians to unite and build a stronger, more inclusive and more resilient country. The Government of Canada is the central institution to promote that unity of purpose and, as a Minister in that Government, you have a personal duty and responsibility to fulfill that objective.

That starts with a commitment to govern in a positive, open and collaborative way. Our platform, *Forward: A Real Plan for the Middle Class*, is the starting point for our Government. I expect us to work with Parliament to deliver on our commitments. Other issues and ideas will arise or will come from Canadians, Parliament, stakeholders and the public service. It is my expectation that you will engage constructively and thoughtfully and add priorities to the Government's agenda when appropriate. Where legislation is required, you will need to work with the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and the Cabinet Committee on Operations to prioritize within the minority Parliament.

We will continue to deliver real results and effective government to Canadians. This includes: tracking and publicly reporting on the progress of our commitments; assessing the effectiveness of our work; aligning our resources with priorities; and adapting to events as they unfold, in order to get the results Canadians rightly demand of us.

Many of our most important commitments require partnership with provincial, territorial and municipal governments and Indigenous partners, communities and governments. Even where disagreements may occur, we will remember that our mandate comes from citizens who are served by all orders of government and it is in everyone's interest that we work together to find common ground. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs is the Government-wide lead on all relations with the provinces and territories.

There remains no more important relationship to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples. We made significant progress in our last mandate on supporting self-determination, improving service delivery and advancing reconciliation. I am directing every single Minister to determine what they can do in their specific portfolio to accelerate and build on the progress we have made with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

I also expect us to continue to raise the bar on openness, effectiveness and transparency in government. This means a government that is open by default. It means better digital capacity and services for Canadians. It means a strong and resilient public service. It also means humility and continuing to acknowledge mistakes when we make them. Canadians do not expect us to be perfect; they expect us to be diligent, honest, open and sincere in our efforts to serve the public interest.

As Minister, you are accountable for your style of leadership and your ability to work constructively in Parliament. I expect that you will collaborate closely with your Cabinet and Caucus colleagues. You will also meaningfully engage with the Government Caucus and Opposition Members of Parliament, the increasingly non-partisan Senate, and Parliamentary Committees.

It is also your responsibility to substantively engage with Canadians, civil society and stakeholders, including businesses of all sizes, organized labour, the broader public sector and the not-for-profit and charitable sectors. You must be proactive in ensuring that a broad array of voices provides you with advice, in both official languages, from every region of the country.

We are committed to evidence-based decision-making that takes into consideration the impacts of policies on all Canadians and fully defends the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. You will apply Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) in the decisions that you make.

Canada's media and your engagement with them in a professional and timely manner are essential. The Parliamentary Press Gallery, indeed all journalists in Canada and abroad, ask necessary questions and contribute in an important way to the democratic process.

You will do your part to continue our Government's commitment to transparent, merit-based appointments, to help ensure that people of all gender identities, Indigenous Peoples, racialized people, persons with disabilities and minority groups are reflected in positions of leadership.

As Minister of Environment and Climate Change, you will lead in implementing the whole-of-government plan for climate action, a cleaner environment and a sustainable economy. This includes exceeding current 2030 targets and developing a plan to achieve a net-zero emissions economy by 2050.

I will expect you to work with your colleagues and through established legislative, regulatory and Cabinet processes to deliver on your top priorities. In particular, you will:

- Implement the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, while strengthening existing and introducing new greenhouse gas reducing measures to exceed Canada's 2030 emissions reduction goal and beginning work so that Canada can achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Lead government-wide efforts to develop a plan to set Canada on a path to achieve a prosperous net-zero emissions future by 2050. This includes:
 - Setting legally-binding, five-year emissions-reduction milestones based on the advice of experts and consultations with Canadians; and
 - Working with the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry and the Minister of Natural Resources to position Canada as a global leader in clean technology.
- Work with the Minister of Natural Resources and provinces and territories to complete all flood maps in Canada.
- Support the Minister of Natural Resources to operationalize the plan to plant two billion incremental trees over the next 10 years, as part of a broader

commitment to nature-based climate solutions that also encompasses wetlands and urban forests.

- Work with the Minister of Natural Resources to help cities expand and diversify their urban forests. You will both also invest in protecting trees from infestations and, when ecologically appropriate, help rebuild our forests after a wildfire.
- Expand the Learn-to-Camp program to meet the target that 400,000 kids each year learn basic camping skills.
- Provide a bursary for children and their families who live in poverty or underprivileged circumstances that create significant barriers to visiting national or provincial parks.
- Advance Parks Canada's efforts to play a leadership role in natural and cultural heritage conservation and promotion, and work to ensure that Canada's national parks and national historic sites are a source of national pride and enjoyment today and for future generations.
- Work with the Minister of Canadian Heritage to provide clearer direction on how national heritage places should be designated and preserved, and to develop comprehensive legislation on federally owned heritage places.
- Work with the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to introduce a new ambitious plan to conserve 25 per cent of Canada's land and 25 per cent of Canada's oceans by 2025, working toward 30 per cent of each by 2030. This plan should be grounded in science, Indigenous knowledge and local perspectives. Advocate at international gatherings that countries around the world set a 30 per cent conservation goal for 2030 as well.
- Implement our plan to ban harmful single-use plastic products and take steps toward eliminating plastic pollution in Canada. This includes working with provinces and territories to develop national targets, standards and regulations that will make companies that manufacture plastic products or sell items with plastic packaging responsible for collecting and recycling them.
- Work with the Minister of Health to better protect people and the environment from toxins and other pollution, including by strengthening the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*.
- With the support of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, create a new Canada Water Agency to work together with the provinces, territories,

Indigenous communities, local authorities, scientists and others to find the best ways to keep our water safe, clean and well-managed.

- Develop further protections and take active steps to clean up the Great Lakes, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Simcoe and other large lakes.
- Continue to work to protect biodiversity and species at risk, while engaging with provinces, territories, Indigenous communities, scientists, industry and other stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of the existing *Species at Risk Act* and assess the need for modernization.
- Support the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard in implementing the Oceans Protection Plan.
- Work with the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Natural Resources to advance toward our zero-emission vehicles targets of 10 per cent of light-duty vehicles sales per year by 2025, 30 per cent by 2030 and 100 per cent by 2040.

These priorities draw heavily from our election platform commitments. As mentioned, you are encouraged to seek opportunities to work across Parliament in the fulfillment of these commitments and to identify additional priorities.

I expect you to work closely with your Deputy Minister and their senior officials to ensure that the ongoing work of your department is undertaken in a professional manner and that decisions are made in the public interest. Your Deputy Minister will brief you on the many daily decisions necessary to ensure the achievement of your priorities, the effective running of the government and better services for Canadians. It is my expectation that you will apply our values and principles to these decisions so that they are dealt with in a timely and responsible manner and in a way that is consistent with the overall direction of our Government.

Our ability, as a government, to implement our priorities depends on consideration of the professional, non-partisan advice of public servants. Each and every time a government employee comes to work, they do so in service to Canada, with a goal of improving our country and the lives of all Canadians. I expect you to establish a collaborative working relationship with your Deputy Minister, whose role, and the role of public servants under their direction, is to support you in the performance of your responsibilities.

We have committed to an open, honest government that is accountable to Canadians, lives up to the highest ethical standards and applies the utmost care and prudence in the handling of public funds. I expect you to embody these values in your work and observe the highest ethical standards in everything you do. I want Canadians to look on their own government with pride and trust.

As Minister, you must ensure that you are aware of and fully compliant with the *Conflict of Interest Act* and Treasury Board policies and guidelines. You will be provided with a copy of *Open and Accountable Government* to assist you as you undertake your responsibilities. I ask that you carefully read it, including elements that have been added to strengthen it, and ensure that your staff does so as well. I expect that in staffing your offices you will hire people who reflect the diversity of Canada, and that you will uphold principles of gender equality, disability equality, pay equity and inclusion.

Give particular attention to the Ethical Guidelines set out in Annex A of that document, which apply to you and your staff. As noted in the Guidelines, you must uphold the highest standards of honesty and impartiality, and both the performance of your official duties and the arrangement of your private affairs should bear the closest public scrutiny. This is an obligation that is not fully discharged by simply acting within the law.

I will note that you are responsible for ensuring that your Minister's Office meets the highest standards of professionalism and that it is a safe, respectful, rewarding and welcoming place for your staff to work.

I know I can count on you to fulfill the important responsibilities entrusted in you. It is incumbent on you to turn to me and the Deputy Prime Minister early and often to support you in your role as Minister.

Sincerely,



Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada