



Reference: 209473

October 21, 2014

Stephanie Killam
Chair
Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board
c/o 8923 83A Street
Fort St John BC V1J 6M1

Via email: stephanie@district.mackenzie.bc.ca

Dear Stephanie Killam:

Thank you for your letter to ADM Lori Halls of August 25, 2014, regarding the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board's concerns with the delays in completing management plans for the parks and protected areas in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area. ADM Halls recently moved to the ADM position in the Environmental Protection Division of the Ministry of Environment. I am now the ADM for the BC Parks and Conservation Officers Division and am pleased to respond to your letter.

BC Parks recognizes the importance of completing management plans for all of its protected areas in the province. In 2013, the Ministry approved BC Parks' *Strategic Management Planning Policy for Ecological Reserves, Parks, Conservancies, Protected Areas and Recreation Areas*, which commits to completing management plans for all protected areas within the BC Parks' protected areas system. The intent of this strategic policy is not being met in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area as many parks and protected areas do not have management plans, particularly the large new areas established in the 1990s.

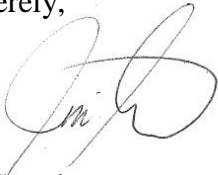
In recent years, BC Parks has been facing a number of resource pressures and challenges across the province, including in the northeast. We will continue to work diligently to overcome those obstacles and fulfill our commitments, including those to the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board. On behalf of BC Parks, I will ensure that increased resources are available to support management plan preparation in the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area with the initial focus being on completing the management plans for Redfern-Keily Park, and Northern Rocky Mountains Park and Protected Area.

I appreciate the invitation to attend a future meeting of the Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board and would be interested in connecting further with the Advisory Board at some point.

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Thank you again for taking the time to write to advise me of your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Standen', written in a cursive style.

Jim Standen
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division

cc: Scott Back, Planning Section Head, BC Parks, Northern Region
Dani Money, Planning Section Head, BC Parks, Northern Region