



August 25, 2014

Lori Halls
Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks & Conservation Officer Service Division
Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9339 STN PROV GOV
Victoria BC
V8W9M9

Dear Ms. Halls

In establishing the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area in 1999, the Premier of B.C. at that time also appointed an Advisory Board for this significant area of British Columbia. The Advisory Board's representation, role and responsibilities are outlined in the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Act* and the *Muskwa-Kechika Management Plan Regulation*.

For the Advisory Board to provide advice to the Province of B.C., it was integral for the Province to complete local strategic plans for resource development, park management, wildlife management and recreation management.

These local strategic plans were to be developed and completed to ensure that the Vision and objectives for the Management Area would be maintained for future generations. Statutory decision makers would make decisions based on direction in these plans and not in isolation of them.

The current Advisory Board members, recently appointed by Premier Clark, are very concerned with the long delays in finalizing the Park Management Plans for the Parks and Protected Areas in the Management Area.

Without these plans being in place, our concern is that there is no direction for the management of these Parks and Protected Areas that ensures management decisions are consistent with the Management Area vision and objectives.

The Advisory Board has worked closely with BC Parks over the years since Northern Rocky Mountain, Redfern Keily and Graham Laurier Park management plans were being developed back in 1999-2000. Monies from the Muskwa-Kechika Trust Fund were used over several years to support Parks Management planning in the Management Area. There have been meetings with First Nations communities and leadership. Public advisory groups were established and public meetings were held to develop these plans.

M-K Secretariat: Don Roberts

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However long delays in finalizing any of the Park Management plans have taken place.

The current Planner for completing these management plans, Dani Money, has made a strong effort since joining the Northern Region to keep the Advisory Board up to date on the final steps to complete Northern Rocky Mountain and Redfern Keily Park plans. We had anticipated a recommended final draft of these two plans over a year ago to be presented to the Advisory Board for review.

However, Dani has advised us that over the past year, she has been given other priorities to work on, resulting in further delays in these 2 plans along with other plans required in the Management Area.

We would like to strongly recommend to you to put Muskwa-Kechika Management Area Park Management plans as priority for BC Parks. Over 14 years of staff and public time, along with our Advisory Board work has been put into these plans to date. We do not want to see that time and effort lost with further delays.

It is time to have these plans finalized through the processes and commitments made by BC Parks over the past 14 years.

On behalf of the Advisory Board, we would welcome your input into this and to have a thorough discussion with you, either by conference call or by attending a future meeting with our Advisory Board.

I look forward to hearing from you, contact me through the District of Mackenzie office at (250) 997-3221 or by email: stephanie@district.mackenzie.bc.ca

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Killam
Chair
Muskwa-Kechika Advisory Board

Cc; Dani Money, Parks Planner, Planning Section Head, Northern Region

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