



28 May 2010

The Honourable Barry Penner,
Minister of Environment.

By email: Barry.Penner.MLA@leg.bc.ca
and fax: (250) 387-1356.

The Honourable Kevin Krueger,
Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts.

By email: TCA.Minister.bc.ca
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Dear Ministers,

Re: Proposed Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS) Resort

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC) is an umbrella organization of approximately 20 outdoor recreation clubs having a total membership of about 3500 individual members dispersed throughout the province. For over three decades we have represented the interests of self propelled/non-motorized backcountry recreationists by maintaining and/or improving backcountry and wilderness experiences for our members and the public.

The Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC understands that the Environmental Assessment Office has recently sent you their comments on the proposed Garibaldi at Squamish (GAS) resort, and that you will soon be making a decision on whether or not to allow the project to proceed. The EAO report indicates that the GAS proposal did not properly account for water supply, design of large dams, and fisheries impacts. We wish to express our concern about an additional impact of the GAS proposal, which we do not believe has been adequately considered by the EAO or by the GAS proponents. This is the impact of the resort on backcountry winter recreation.

If this project proceeds, there are two highly significant likely impacts of the GAS proposal on backcountry winter recreation:

1. There will be adverse effects on non-motorized backcountry recreation in Garibaldi Park. This is the single most important park, and the only large intact area of land remaining in the lower mainland which is valuable for winter non-motorized backcountry recreation. Small strips of "undisturbed" land between the resort and the park will do nothing to protect the park and its wilderness values against the numerous human, aesthetic, and noise intrusions likely from the proposed resort. Were the resort to go ahead, we believe that the park would forever have its non-motorized recreation and wilderness values compromised. Loss of these values cannot be mitigated.
2. There will be adverse effects on the winter backcountry sharing accord reached by different winter backcountry recreation groups, and adopted by the Sea-to-Sky LRMP, which the government has accepted. This accord zoned land for different types of backcountry



recreation uses, for example Brohm Ridge, within the proposed GAS resort area, has become an important snowmobiling area. Snowmobilers would be displaced from this area by the proposed resort and have already been attempting to obtain a snowmobiling corridor through Garibaldi Park if they are displaced. Even if they were not given such a corridor, they would likely be given another area as compensation for displacement. This would inevitably result in the loss of a non-motorized recreation area, disrupting the accord and the LRMP zoning, resulting in a further loss of non-motorized winter recreation opportunities.

The lower mainland is home to most of the Province's non-motorized recreationists and Garibaldi Park is a local, national, and international drawcard because of its wilderness non-motorized recreation values. The proposed GAS resort would have a major adverse impact on non-motorized recreation and the values for which Garibaldi Park has become well known, and should therefore not be allowed to proceed.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Wood,
President, FMCBC