

March 21, 2016

Jodi Appleton, Executive Director
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Email: jodi.appleton@mountainclubs.org

Dear Jodi Appleton:

Thank you for your email of January 26, 2016, regarding funding for BC Parks. As Minister of Environment, I am pleased to have this opportunity to respond.

We very much appreciate you taking the time to write and to offer your support for additional funding for BC Parks. I also want to acknowledge your concerns regarding reduced services and activities within BC Parks.

This year's budget did see BC Parks receive a modest increase to enhance our capacity for working with First Nations. Aside from this, the BC Parks budget remains stable. However, with the rising costs of materials and labour, the cost of running the BC Parks system has increased. In response, and in order to continue to offer the world renowned experiences that BC Parks is famous for, we have implemented modest fee increases. The revenue generated by these increases will flow directly back into operating the parks system and will help offset some of these increased operational costs. In addition, BC Parks continues to work very closely with its park operators to ensure we provide quality front country recreation experiences.

The provincial government commitment to capital investment levels in parks also remains unchanged from previous years with approximately \$13.3 million allocated in 2015/16. The guiding principles for facility investments focussed on public safety, safe drinking water, protecting park values, refurbishing central buildings in campgrounds and day use areas and putting in place long-term development plans for the highest use parks to ensure services remain relevant.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. We appreciate the feedback that we receive from individuals and local community groups as it helps us understand the issues that are important to British Columbians. I hope you continue to enjoy our provincial park system well into the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Polak
Minister