



Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

PO Box 19673 Vancouver, BC V5T 4E7
fmcdbc@mountainclubs.org
www.mountainclubs.org
Tel: 604.873.6096

January 26, 2016

By Email: FIN.Minister@gov.bc.ca

The Honourable Michael De Jong, Q.C.
Minister of Finance
PO BOX 9048 STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

RE: Select Standing Committee's Recommendation for Increased Funding to BC Parks

I am writing to you on behalf of the Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC (FMCBC). Our organization promotes self-propelled activities, such as hiking, mountaineering, trail running and backcountry skiing through leadership, advocacy and education. We are a federation of 35 outdoor clubs with a membership of over 5000 people from across the province. By working with outdoor recreation organizations, industry and government agencies, the FMCBC works to protect and maintain access for quality non-motorized recreation in B.C.'s mountains and wilderness.

Our organization would like to state our support for the recommendation of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government that funding for BC Parks be increased in the 2016 Budget.

Allocating surplus funding to BC Parks was rated as third most important by those who participated in the Select Standing Committee's public consultations. In addition, our members feel that over the past decade our parks have been significantly underfunded and the result is that many trails within our parks are hazardous because they are seriously worn and eroded, bridges in need of repair are being closed, enforcement of restrictions which are in place to protect our parks is becoming near impossible because of lack of personnel and user enjoyment of our parks is being negatively impacted.

A funding increase would have a significant positive impact for our parks and therefore we encourage an increase to BC Parks funding in the 2016 Budget.

Respectfully,

Jodi Appleton
Executive Director
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

cc. Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Environment. Via email: env.minister@gov.bc.ca
BC Parks. Via email: ParkInfo@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca