

Via email

January 26, 2017

Jodi Appleton

Executive Director

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Email: jodi.appleton@mountainclubs.org

Dear Ms. Appleton:

Thank you for your letter of October 14, 2016, addressed to the Honourable Christy Clark, Premier, regarding funding for BC Parks. I am pleased to respond on behalf of Premier Clark and I apologize for the delay in doing so.

I appreciate you taking the time to write and offer your support for additional funding for BC Parks.

I am pleased to inform you that the Province has committed to build on its world-renowned provincial parks system by hiring more park rangers to enhance conservation, improving services for persons with disabilities and launching a new BC Parks Foundation so community groups, businesses and individuals can come together and have a voice in BC Parks' priorities.

In addition, we will add more than 1,900 new campsites to help meet growing demand. More than 800 of the sites will be in provincial parks and over 1,000 will be in recreation sites, delivering a range of camping experiences in areas of highest demand. The commitments are contained in a new BC Parks Future Strategy, "Protecting our Legacy Together."

As part of the BC Parks Future Strategy, the Province will invest up to \$22.9 million over five years for campsite expansion in provincial parks and recreation sites, and will allocate funding in 2017 for other recreation and conservation initiatives. The Province continues to invest approximately \$15 million to maintain and refurbish existing campsites and backcountry recreation sites throughout British Columbia.

For more information on the BC Parks Future Strategy, please visit <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/future/>.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I appreciate receiving feedback from organizations such as yours as it helps us understand the issues that are important to British Columbians. I hope you continue to enjoy our provincial parks system well into the future.

Sincerely,

Mary Polak
Minister

cc: Honourable Christy Clark, Premier