



Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

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April 4th, 2017

Mr. Jim Standen, ADM
Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9811 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W9W1

Dear Mr. Standen:

I am the new Executive Director of the Federation and am working through the many issues that are aspects of the organisation's mandate. One matter that has arisen concerns the flurry of government announcements related to BC Parks that, quite frankly, some of our members are unable to understand. I quote from one member's email to the Executive:

"The reality is that the 20 backcountry sites in Garibaldi Park were funded out of the BC Parks capital budget from a previous year and were built last summer. In fact, visitors were camping on these tent pads before the BC Parks Future Strategy or new funding allocation was even announced. After the BC Parks Future Strategy was announced, there were some criticisms that it did not include a commitment to new backcountry sites above and beyond what was in existence at the end of 2016. The government appears to be trying to re-write history by suggesting that those old existing sites are actually part of a new set of campsites.

I contacted the Ministry of Environment and they confirmed that the sites are at Helm Creek. You can look at this website archive on September 3rd, 2016 when it showed 9 sites at Helm Creek and on November 15th, 2016 when it had been updated to reflect the summer/fall addition of the 20 sites. The BC Parks Future Strategy was not released until November 28th, 2016. "

FMCBC would greatly appreciate BC Parks clarifying the province's recent announcements related to this additional funding – ostensibly for both staff and structures. Could you please help clarify exactly what new BC Parks initiatives and infrastructure are being created in the Lower Mainland - South Coast region, where this apparent new funding is being spent and how?

FMCBC is hopeful that future and further investments in the BC Parks system could be undertaken following meaningful dialogue with key stakeholders – FMCBC especially - so the funds can be best invested. I look forward to building on the respectful relationship the Federation has established with the province and thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Barry J. Janyk
Executive Director