



## Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Accessing the backcountry one step at a time

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December 16, 2016

By Email: [ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honorable Mary Polak, M.L.A.  
Minister of Environment  
PO BOX 9047 STN PROV GOVT VICTORIA, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister,

Re: BC Parks' Future Strategy,

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 outdoor clubs with a membership of over 5500 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.

We read with interest the recently released "BC Parks' Future Strategy". We commend your government for planning to increase funding for BC Parks, something that the FMCBC has been advocating in favour of for the past decade. Throughout the document we read that your government "aims to open the door even wider to public engagement". We applaud your willingness to increase public engagement as it is the public who will ultimately judge the success of this new strategy.

The FMCBC is in a unique position to engage with your ministry on finding solutions to problems in both the front-country and back-country that are affecting our members and the public at large. Some solutions would be as simple as having stakeholders abide by existing Park Master Plans. Our members also have suggestions on where to prioritize new funding as anticipated in the upcoming provincial budget.

The FMCBC has many very knowledgeable members who are out in our provincial parks on a daily basis and regularly assist BC Parks staff in the maintenance of trails and facilities. We urge you to make use of our experience to focus your strategy where it would make the most impact from day one.

We look forward to discussing our ideas with you at your earliest convenience and request a meeting with yourself and the appropriate staff. We will contact your office to discuss possible times for such a meeting.

If any questions, please contact myself or the FMCBC office.

Sincerely,

Dave Wharton  
FMCBC President