



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-01117**

BY: **MR. STEWART (BURNABY SOUTH)**

DATE: **FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE MCKENNA**

Response by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

National parks

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Parks Canada manages 46 national parks and national park reserves, 171 national historic sites, one national urban park and four national marine conservation areas.

Parks Canada offers one of the country's most diverse trail system, ranging from wilderness routes to accessible, family-friendly trails. These trails, totalling over 7000 kilometres, provide access to some of the most stunning places Canada has to offer. While some trails are single-use, catering to one activity, such as hiking, biking, skiing, horseback riding, snowshoeing, winter fat-biking or skate skiing, most of the trails are multi-use and allow for more than one user group to share them.

In addition, the Government of Canada is supporting the Trans Canada Trail Foundation through a grant agreement for the completion of The Great Trail. The Great Trail is a route that, once completed, will allow Canadians and visitors to travel through Canada from coast to coast to coast on foot, passing near several national parks and national historic sites.

At most national parks, at the national urban park and at some national historic sites and national marine conservation areas, Parks Canada offers a broad range of camping and accommodation opportunities, including backcountry/random camping, group camping, un-serviced camping, semi- to full-serviced camping, oTENTik tents, cabins and other forms of

accommodation. In 2017, camping rates ranged from \$5 per person for group camping, \$16 to \$38 for backcountry to fully serviced campsites and \$70 to over \$120 per night for accommodation services.

Currently, a little over 90 percent of frontcountry campsites and accommodation units as well as some backcountry campsites can be reserved through Parks Canada's national reservation service. Other campgrounds, including some backcountry campsites and some un-serviced frontcountry campgrounds, are available on a first-come, first-served basis only. Generally, group campgrounds can be reserved locally at the park.

Parks Canada made the decision to implement reservations at most sites in order to allow for its visitors to better plan for their trips and to secure campsites before embarking on their journey, either by vehicle, foot or cycle.

Depending on their markets and on visitor demand, some parks may choose to leave some campgrounds or campsites open for walk-ins. This is the case in several parks where visitors, including hikers and bikers, can check-in locally or use self-registration kiosks.