



Reference: 357597

June 3, 2020

Brad Sperling, Chair
and Directors
Peace River Regional District
PO Box 810
1981 Alaska Avenue
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8

Sent via email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

Dear Chair Sperling and Directors:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 2020, regarding the temporary closures of BC Parks.

On May 6, Premier Horgan announced that most provincial parks would be opening on May 14 for day-use only. On June 1, many remaining facilities, including campgrounds, re-opened. A small number of parks that attract large crowds, or where re-opening would pose a health risk to nearby communities, will remain closed.

BC Parks' goal is to open as much of the parks system as soon as possible, while providing safe outdoor recreation opportunities for British Columbians and meeting the orders and guidelines directed by the provincial health officer. However, parks that experience levels of use that cannot be adequately managed for community, public, staff and park operator safety will remain closed. These park areas will be re-opened on a case-by-case basis.

When determining if a park will open or remain closed, the considerations include the practicality of social distancing, and the presence of adequate staff and park operators to ensure safety and adherence. Some high-use parks with congested parking lots and narrow trails may remain closed all season. For these parks, campgrounds will also remain closed.

For example, as we re-open parks, it will still be necessary to respect continued measures such as travel restrictions. Accessing parks close to home will be the rule, and clear safety and cleaning protocols will be established to protect parks staff and visitors alike.

Any change to provincial park access or services will be posted on the [BC Parks website](#).

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Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Heyman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

George Heyman
Minister

cc: Kyla Traichevich, Community Services Clerk, Peace River Regional District



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

May 8, 2020

Honourable George Heyman
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
PO Box 9047
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

via Email: ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Heyman,

RE: Provincial Parks

At the April 23, 2020 meeting of the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Board of Directors, the following resolution was passed:

"That a letter be forwarded to the Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and to the Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, to request that the closure of BC Provincial Parks be considered on a regional basis, and share concerns that public recreation on Crown land, due to park closures, may potentially incite disregard for current provincial fire bans and restrictions, increasing the risk for wildfires."

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this resolution, please contact Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services, at 1-250-784-3200.

Yours truly,

Brad Sperling
Chair, Peace River Regional District Board

c: Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

diverse. vast. abundant.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

☒ Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8 Tel: (250) 784-3200 or (800) 670-7773 Fax: (250) 784-3201 Email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
☐ 9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 Email: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca