



JUL 06 2016

Mr. Hunter McGill
Chairman
Friends of the Rideau
P.O. Box 1232 STN Main
Smiths Falls ON K7A 5C7

Dear Mr. McGill:

Thank you for your letter of November 9, 2015, regarding Parks Canada's protection of the natural and cultural heritage of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As part of its commitment to the designation, Parks Canada continues to preserve the Rideau Canal and to ensure that Canadians have the opportunity to experience and connect to this important part of Canadian heritage. Connecting visitors to Canada's meaningful places is a priority for the Agency. New initiatives such as the Visitor Centre at Ottawa Locks, and the interpretive voyageur canoe rides provide new ways for Canadians to experience this important heritage site. New accommodation products like o'TENT'iks have been installed in three locations along the Canal, providing visitors by land or water an opportunity to forge a deeper connection as well as contribute revenue for reinvestment towards further protection and presentation of canals. Parks Canada will continue to add new opportunities for visitors to learn about this important heritage site.

Since 2014, the Government of Canada has announced investment of \$103 million into rehabilitating the Canal's infrastructure. This investment will significantly contribute to protecting the cultural resources that, in part, warranted the inscription of the Canal on the World Heritage List. Key projects include concrete wall rehabilitation and replacement in Ottawa, repairs and replacements of fixed and swing bridges crossing the Canal, masonry repairs to locks, and most recently, the addition of two paddle access points to the Rideau Canal at *Clegg Avenue and Patterson Creek in Ottawa*. *Additional heritage staff have been hired in association with the implementation of this infrastructure program.*

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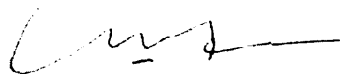


In accordance with the World Heritage Committee recommendation, Parks Canada worked with First Nations as well as municipal, provincial and federal government partners to create the Landscape Corridor Strategy Steering Committee and develop a Landscape Character Assessment aimed at strengthening the protection of the visual setting of the Canal. The Committee continues its efforts to guide the development and implementation of tools and strategies for responsible planning and management along the Rideau Corridor.

Parks Canada has embarked on the next management planning process for the Rideau Canal, which will involve engaging Canadians in meaningful discussions that will form the framework and direction for Canal management over the next 10 years. I encourage you to participate in the consultation process scheduled for summer 2016.

I appreciate your ongoing support of the Rideau Canal.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Thanks for your letter.
Please do participate
in the consultations.
I appreciate the efforts
of the Friends of the
Rideau. I hope you
take advantage of the
new canal access points!
C.