


SO - QA Package

Monday, February 26, 2018
2:07 PM

Subject	SO - QA Package
From	Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
To	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX; Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Sent	Thursday, August 10, 2017 4:30 PM
Attachments	 QA_SouthO kanaganN...

Attached is the latest draft of the QA package. It can also be found at the following link [M:
\WANS\SHARE\BC Parks\Common\Parks and Protected Areas\South Okanagan Land Use
Discussions\QA_SouthOkanaganNationalParkReserve \(Aug 10 2017\).docx](M:\WANS\SHARE\BC Parks\Common\Parks and Protected Areas\South Okanagan Land Use Discussions\QA_SouthOkanaganNationalParkReserve (Aug 10 2017).docx)

I think the QA package still needs some work. Possible additions include how will range, the HNZ permit and other tenures be handled and a bit more explanation of the national park establishment progress. Please take a look at this draft and make changes in tracked change mode.

Ken Morrison

Manager, Planning and Land Administration

BC Parks | Provincial Services Branch | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

New phone number: 778 698 4264

4th Floor - 2975 Jutland Rd | Victoria, BC | V8W 9M9

Page 02 to/à Page 08

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

FW: SO - QA Package

Monday, February 26, 2018
2:07 PM

Subject	FW: SO - QA Package
From	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
To	Trewhitt, John ENV:EX
Cc	Weston, Mark R ENV:EX
Sent	Monday, August 14, 2017 3:22 PM

From: Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Sent: Monday, August 14, 2017 8:50 AM
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Cc: Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Subject: RE: SO - QA Package

I did not accept 15 as I believe considerable more work will be required to determine the actual process. The latest draft can be found at [M:\WANSWARE\BC Parks\Common\Parks and Protected Areas\South Okanagan Land Use Discussions\QA Package\QA_SouthOkanaganNationalParkReserve \(August 14 2017\).docx](M:\WANSWARE\BC Parks\Common\Parks and Protected Areas\South Okanagan Land Use Discussions\QA Package\QA_SouthOkanaganNationalParkReserve (August 14 2017).docx)

From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 11:03 AM
To: Morrison, Ken ENV:EX; Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Subject: RE: SO - QA Package

Hi:

I inserted two new bullets 6) and 15)....have a look when you have a moment.

From: Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 4:30 PM
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX; Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Subject: SO - QA Package

Attached is the latest draft of the QA package. It can also be found at the following link [M:\WANSWARE\BC Parks\Common\Parks and Protected Areas\South Okanagan Land Use Discussions\QA_SouthOkanaganNationalParkReserve \(Aug 10 2017\).docx](M:\WANSWARE\BC Parks\Common\Parks and Protected Areas\South Okanagan Land Use Discussions\QA_SouthOkanaganNationalParkReserve (Aug 10 2017).docx)

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Ken Morrison

Manager, Planning and Land Administration


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4th Floor - 2975 Jutland Rd | Victoria, BC | V8W 9M9

FW: For Review Please - South Okanagan EP

Monday, February 26, 2018
2:06 PM

Subject	FW: For Review Please - South Okanagan EP
From	Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
To	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Sent	Monday, August 21, 2017 12:20 PM
Attachments	 EP_SouthOk anagan

Confidential. If you have any comments, send them to me by 1:30 today.

From: Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2017 12:07 PM
To: Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Subject: For Review Please - South Okanagan EP

Hi Ken,

Please find attached an event proposal regarding South Okanagan. Note I've included shortened background summary from QA, hopefully that works.

If you had a chance to please review and let me know this afternoon, that would be very much appreciated! Thanks ☺

DANIELLE BELL

Public Affairs Officer, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
Direct Line: 250-387-9630 | **Media Line:** 250-953-3834

Media Event Plan

Event Title: B.C. declares its support for a South Okanagan National Park Reserve

Date: Week of September 4 th , 2017 TBD Time: TBD	Media Market: Provincewide
Location: Osoyoos, B.C. TBD	English Media Spokesperson: Environment & Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman
	Multicultural Media Spokesperson: Environment & Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman
Author: Danielle Bell	Communications Director Signoff: _____
Version #: 1	Date: August 21, 2017

THE EVENT

PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- Proactive event led by Environment & Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman to announce the Province's support for a South Okanagan National Park Reserve.
- Federal Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna will also provide remarks in support of the announcement, which will see a new national park reserve under federal jurisdiction.
- Osoyoos Indian Band Chief Clarence Louie will also provide remarks in support of the announcement.

EVENT

- Minister Heyman and Minister McKenna will provide remarks regarding plans for a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan.
- There will be a photo-opportunity for media, as well as a QA session so media can ask more specific questions around what led to this decision, and next steps moving forward, etc.
- Desired News Headline: B.C. declares its support for a South Okanagan National Park Reserve

WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- GCPE ENV + Events
- Danielle Bell, 250 387 9630

BACKGROUND NOTES

- In October 2003, Canada and B.C. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to study the feasibility of establishing three new federal protected areas in B.C. including the potential national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen.
- The feasibility study began in 2004 and included two rounds of broad public consultations in 2004 and 2006, community forums in 2007 and extensive consultations with affected stakeholders. A socio-economic impact assessment was completed in 2008.
- In 2010, senior officials representing B.C. and Canada agreed that the feasibility study, with the exception of First Nations consultation, was substantially complete, and that the proposed National Park Reserve in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen was feasible. However, in January 2011, Cabinet directed that the Province would not proceed with establishment of the national park reserve at this time.

- In December 2012, through capacity funding provided by Parks Canada, the Okanagan Nation released Building a Syilx Vision for Protection: Assessing Feasibility of a Syilx/Parks Canada Protected Area:
 - The report cited several key recommendations, one of which was an action for the Province to re-engage in future discussions of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan.
- In August 2015, following a series of meetings with local stakeholders and member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Ministry of Environment released an Intentions Paper identifying a proposed land protection framework for the South Okanagan for public consultation. The Intentions Paper proposed two concept areas as potential national park reserve sites, and one area as a potential provincial conservancy.
- The public comment period on the Intentions Paper ended on October 31, 2015 and a consultation summary was released in May 2016. Ministry staff reviewed over 3,400 responses to the Intentions Paper.
- On January 27, 2017, the Province issued a news release indicating that it was moving forward on discussions to implement the three concept areas identified in the Intentions Paper, and would continue to work closely with three Okanagan Nation communities (Osoyoos Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band and the Penticton Indian Band) and seek to re-engage with the Federal Government.

VENUE DESCRIPTION

Suggested Potential Locations:

*Option 1 - Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, Osoyoos
1000 Rancher Creek Road*

- An interpretive centre owned and operated by the Osoyoos Indian Band, the property features theatres, indoor and outdoor galleries and walking trails.
- A podium could be set up inside or outdoors, depending on weather. Mount Kobau provides a stunning natural backdrop (IS THIS ACCURATE?)

*Option 1 - British Columbia Visitor Centre, Osoyoos
9912 Highway 3*

- At the junction of Hwy 3 and Hwy 97, the centre provides visitors a wide range of travel services, including transportation and community information in the region and beyond.
- A podium could be set up inside or outside, depending on weather.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS (SPEAKERS)

- Minister George Heyman – speaker
- Minister Catherine McKenna – speaker
- Okanagan Nation representative (possibly Osoyoos Indian Band Chief Clarence Louie) – speaker and/or emcee

KEY VALIDATORS & STAKEHOLDERS

- First Nations
- Parks Canada
- Tourism agencies
- Recreation organizations

TARGET AUDIENCE

- British Columbians
- The public

- Media

Draft Program

9:30	5 mins	Emcee welcomes media and guests, and introduces the first speaker.
9:35	5 min	Speaker 1: Minister Heyman gives remarks
9:40	5 min	Speaker 2: Minister McKenna gives remarks
9:55	5 min	Speaker 3: FN representative gives remarks
10:05	5 min	Media Photo-Op/Q&A

VISUAL MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)

- Photo of Environment & Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman with federal Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna and OIB Chief Clarence Louie at interpretive centre, with Mount Kobau in the background.

Digital (social media) opportunities

- The NR and event pictures will be shared online and via government social channels, including Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE

- As a new government, we are responding to the wishes of British Columbians, who have overwhelmingly expressed their desire to have a new national park reserve, and one that incorporates a larger land area.
- Businesses, tourism agencies and other stakeholders all recognize the importance of establishing a national park reserve in the South Okanagan.
- The South Okanagan is home to significant geographic and cultural values, as well as many recreation and tourism opportunities, and we will ensure these are protected in our work to establish a federal park.

RE: SO

Monday, February 26, 2018
2:06 PM

Subject	RE: SO
From	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
To	Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Sent	Friday, September 15, 2017 10:35 AM

s.13

From: Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 9:16 AM
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Subject: RE: SO

Yes please.

From: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 9:10 AM
To: Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Subject: RE: SO

Did you still need the numbers..? Just back in the office now...



From: Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Subject: SO

s.13

Ken Morrison
Manager, Planning and Land Administration
BC Parks | Provincial Services Branch | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
New phone number: 778 698 4264
4th Floor - 2975 Jutland Rd | Victoria, BC | V8W 9M9

SO

Monday, February 26, 2018
2:05 PM

Subject	SO
From	Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
To	Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Cc	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Sent	Sunday, September 17, 2017 8:38 AM
Attachments	<div> 311959 - Burger - IN...  311959 - Burger - D...</div>

Attached is some incoming correspondence respecting SO and the draft response prepared by the Correspondence Unit. Any comments?

Ken Morrison

Manager, Planning and Land Administration

BC Parks | Provincial Services Branch | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

New phone number: 778 698 4264

4th Floor - 2975 Jutland Rd | Victoria, BC | V8W 9M9



September 13, 2017

The Honourable George Heyman
Minister of the Environment
PO Box 9047, Stn Prov Govt
Room 112, Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2

By email ENV.minister@gov.bc.ca and mail

Dear Minister Heyman,

Re: South Okanagan Similkameen National Park

I am writing on behalf of BC Nature, the umbrella organization representing more than 6300 naturalists in 53 clubs in the Province, regarding our wish to see a national park reserve created in the South Okanagan Similkameen. Many individuals and clubs as well as BC Nature itself have written letters of support over the 14 years since the park was initially proposed and have participated in the local efforts to have it established.

I wish to congratulate you on being appointed Minister of the Environment and Climate Change in the BC NDP government. We are encouraged already by actions of your government since taking power on behalf of our natural environment and its wild inhabitants. We urge you to move forward with Parks Canada as quickly as possible to establish a national park reserve in the South Okanagan Similkameen, support for which was part of the NDP's election platform.

Under your leadership, this could be one of the first election promises that come to fruition. Your government has the opportunity to establish a national park reserve that is of international stature, protects and restores endangered species, and provides species with the habitats and conditions they need to adapt to climate change. The park will also have significant economic benefits in the local region.

The Liberal government's 2016 proposal for a combination of national park reserve and provincial conservancy in the South Okanagan Similkameen has a number of serious flaws, one of them being the exclusion of Mount Kobau and the surrounding area from the national park reserve. We urge you to have this area, called T'xasqin by the Sylix (Okanagan) people, included in negotiations with Parks Canada. From an ecological viewpoint, this area is critical for the protection and restoration of populations of endangered species inhabiting it and to provide connectivity with areas further north and at higher elevations as species move in response to climate change.

BC Nature – 1620 Mt. Seymour Road, North Vancouver, BC V7G 2R9
Tel (604) 985-3057 ~ Fax (604) 985-3059 email: manager@bcnature.ca - Web site – www.bcnature.ca

The protection of this grassland-dry interior forests ecosystem is crucial as well for the economic well-being of communities in the surrounding area which depend greatly on tourism. All local and regional tourism organizations, the South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce, and local communities support the inclusion of all three of the former government's proposed areas in a national park reserve. With Mount Kobau included, the national park can be designated a Dark Sky Preserve, providing additional benefits to wildlife and bringing an international audience to an already established internationally-acclaimed astronomy site.

Professional polls of individuals in the South Okanagan Similkameen and resolutions and letters from business organizations, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, and local governments indicate a very high and increasing level of support for the park.

We look forward to your government negotiating with Parks Canada a national park reserve in the South Okanagan Similkameen which you and all who value our unique natural ecosystems and their wild inhabitants can be proud of. It will be an achievement for which future generations will remember your government with gratitude.

Yours truly,



Alan E. Burger, PhD
President: BC Nature
(Federation of BC Naturalists)

Cc: Deputy Mark Zacharias - DM.ENV@gov.bc.ca
Assistant Deputy Minister, Jim Standen - Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca

EMAIL RESPONSE

Reference: 311959

Alan Burger
President
BC Nature
Email: manager@bcnature.ca

Dear Mr. Burger:

Thank you for your email of September 13, 2017, regarding **<topic>**.

As our new government proceeds to chart the path forward for protecting our environment and creating new and sustainable jobs for British Columbians, I assure you that working with the federal government, South Okanagan communities, and local First Nations to create a robust plan to protect the large number of endangered species in that area will be a key focus for achieving our goals. I have begun discussions on this unique and important area and assure you that our new government understands the importance of strong and permanent measures to preserve this unique area and its biodiversity.

<Insert body here>

Thank you again for **<finish ending here>**.

Sincerely,



George Heyman
Minister

ARCS: 280-30
ORCS:

For your review please - South Okanagan invite/guest list

Monday, February 26, 2018

1:48 PM

Subject	For your review please - South Okanagan invite/guest list
From	Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX
To	Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Cc	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Sent	Monday, October 16, 2017 2:41 PM
Attachments	<div> INV South Okanagan ...  Copy of Guests list...</div>

Hi Jim,

Please find attached the invitation and guest list from Parks Canada for South Okanagan, for your review please. Keith has reviewed. We've added the suggestions in blue.

I can follow up on this with a call – if you had a chance to look at it by tomorrow afternoon, that would be much appreciated, thanks!

DANIELLE BELL

Public Affairs Officer, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

Direct Line: 250-387-9630 | **Media Line:** 250-953-3834



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy



Government of Canada,

the Government of British Columbia

and

The Okanagan Nation Alliance

invite you to an event related to a

**Proposed national park reserve in the
South Okanagan area**

The event will take place on
Friday, October 27th, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

at the

Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre
1000 Rancher Creek Road
Osoyoos, British Columbia

RSVP: 418-648-3601
melissa.larose@pc.gc.ca

*Please note that the information contained in this
invitation is under embargo*



Gouvernement
du Canada

Government
of Canada



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy



Le gouvernement du Canada,
le gouvernement de la Colombie-Britannique,

et

l'Okanagan Nation Alliance
vous invitent à un événement
concernant

**l'examen d'une réserve de parc national
dans le secteur Sud de l'Okanagan**

L'événement aura lieu
le vendredi 27 octobre 2017 à 10 h

au

Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre
1000, chemin Rancher Creek
Osoyoos (Colombie-Britannique)

R.S.V.P. : 418-648-3601

*Veuillez prendre note que l'information contenue dans
cette invitation est en suspens.*


Organization	Title	Name	email	Confirmation
Government of British Columbia	Minister of Environ	The Honourable George Heyman		X
Government of Canada	Minister of Environ	The Honourable Catherine McKenna		X
Government of Canada	Member of Parlian	Richard Cannings		
Government of Canada	Member of Parlian	Stephen Fuhr		
	Senator (retired)	The Honourable D. Ross Fitzpatrick		
Government of British Columbia	Member of the Le	Dan Ashton		
Municipal government	Mayor of Osoyoos	Sue McKortoff	smckortoff@osoyoos.ca	
Municipal government	Mayor of Oliver	Ron Hovanes	rhovanes@oliver.ca	
Municipal government	Mayor of Penticton	Andrew Jakubeit	andrew.jakubeit@penticton.ca	
Municipal government	Mayor of Princeton	Frank Armitage	farmitage@princeton.ca	
Municipal government	Mayor of Kereme	Manfred Bauer	mayor@keremeos.ca	
Municipal government	Mayor of Greenwood	Ed I Smith	ed.smith@greenwoodcity.ca	
	Former Mayor of C	Stu Wells		
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association	President and Chic	Glenn Mandziuk	ceo@totabc.com	
Destination Osoyoos	Executive Director	Kelley Glazer		
Destination Osoyoos	Chair	Joanne Muirhead		
Tourism Penticton				
South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network	Coordinator	Doreen Olson	s.22	
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC	Chairperson	Mark Hornell		
South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program	Chair	Bryn White		
South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance	Chair	Janet Wilson		
Okanagan Similkameen Park Society	Chair	ian Graham		
CPAWS	President	Robert Penrose		
Osoyoos Desert Society	President	Lee McFayden		
Badger Recovery Team				
The Nature Trust of BC	Chair	Ron Anderson		
Nature Conservancy of Canada	President and CEO	John Lounds		
Western Canada Wilderness Committee	Chair	Shannon Daub		
The South Okanagan Rehabilitation Center for Owls	Board Chair	Dave Whitton		
BC Nature (aka Federation of BC Naturalists)	President	Alan Burger	s.22	
Conservation Northwest (Washington State)	President	Bill Donnelly		
BC Wine Institute				
Southern Interior Stockmen's Association	President	Ace Elking		
Southern Interior Stockmen's Association		Harvey Andrusak		
BC Wildlife Federation	President			
Sylx Working group				
Osoyoos Indian Band	Chief	Clarence Louie		

Organization	Title	Name	email	Confirmation
Lower Similkameen Indian Band	Chief	Keith Crow	chief@lsib.net	
Okanagan Nation Alliance				
Upper Similkameen Indian Band	Chief	Rick Holmes		
Penticton Indian Band	Chief	Chad Eneas	yilmixm@pib.ca	
		Mel Wooley		
Nature Trust of BC	Okanagan Conserv	Nick Burdock		
Nature Conservancy of Canada	Area Director, Sou	Barb Pryce		
Okanagan Nation Alliance	Grand Chief	Stewart Phillip		
BC Cattleman's Association	Okanagan Zone	Linda Allison		

RE: For your review please - South Okanagan invite/guest list

Monday, February 26, 2018

1:47 PM

Subject	RE: For your review please - South Okanagan invite/guest list
From	Standen, Jim ENV:EX
To	Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX
Cc	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Sent	Monday, October 16, 2017 3:56 PM
Attachments	 South Okanagan

Looks like you captured everyone. **s.13**
s.13

Jim Standen

Assistant Deputy Minister
BC Parks | Ministry of Environment
Telephone: 250-387-1288
jim.standen@gov.bc.ca
www.bcparks.ca



BC Parks has recently launched new speciality plates! [Get your BC Parks licence plate today.](#)

From: Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, October 16, 2017 2:41 PM
To: Standen, Jim ENV:EX
Cc: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX; Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Subject: For your review please - South Okanagan invite/guest list

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Please find attached the invitation and guest list from Parks Canada for South Okanagan, for your review please. Keith has reviewed. We've added the suggestions in blue.

I can follow up on this with a call – if you had a chance to look at it by tomorrow afternoon, that would be much appreciated, thanks!

DANIELLE BELL

Public Affairs Officer, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
Direct Line: 250-387-9630 | **Media Line:** 250-953-3834

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.22;s.13

QA_SouthOkanaganNationalParkReserve (August 14 2017)

Monday, February 26, 2018

1:46 PM

Subject	QA_SouthOkanaganNationalParkReserve (August 14 2017)
From	Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
To	Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX
Cc	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Sent	Tuesday, October 17, 2017 4:51 PM
Attachments	 QA_SouthO kanaganN...

Version that Keith mentioned in his email.

Thanks.


Page 30 to/à Page 37

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

South Okanagan Event - Draft Sequence of event

Monday, February 26, 2018
1:43 PM

Subject	South Okanagan Event - Draft Sequence of event
From	melissa.larose@pc.gc.ca
To	allison.fleischer@pc.gc.ca; Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX; Crebo, David GCPE:EX; Shelley.Bird@pc.gc.ca; Baric, Keith J ENV:EX; XT:Baptiste, Myrah ENV:IN; Shelley.Bird@pc.gc.ca
Cc	marie-helene.brisson@canada.ca
Sent	Wednesday, October 18, 2017 8:36 AM
Attachments	 SEQ South Okanagan ...

Hello everyone!

As discussed during our call, please find attached the draft sequence of event for October 27th.

If you have any concerns let me know!

Mélissa Larose

Conseillère en communications, Communications corporatives
Parcs Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
3, passage du Chien-d'Or, Québec, QC, G1R 3Z8
melissa.larose@pc.gc.ca / Tél. :418-648-3601/ Tél. cell.: 418-803-6536

Communications Officer, Corporate Communications
Parks Canada / Government of Canada
3 Passage du Chien-d'Or, Québec QC G1R 3Z8
melissa.larose@pc.gc.ca / Tel: 418-648-3601 / Cel: 418-803-6536

2017 - Votre entrée libre vers la découverte | 2017 - Your Free Pass to Discovery

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISCUSSIONS FOR A PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK
RESERVE IN THE SOUTH OKANAGAN AREA
OSOYOOS, BRITISH COLUMBIA
OCTOBER 27, 2017

Field Code Changed

VENUE: Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, 1000 Rancher Creek Road (2 km east of Osoyoos), British Columbia



DRESS: casual

OFFICIAL PARTY:

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada
The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, British Columbia
Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band
XXXX, Master of Ceremony (MC)

Comment [MB1]: should be neutral. i will talk to Kevin. Nick Irvin? Me? FN?

OFFICIAL PARTY NON-SPEAKING ROLE:

Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton Indian Band
XXXX (elder), Dignitary

PRE-EVENT

- 8:30 a.m.** Minister McKenna, the Honourable George Heyman and the Okanagan Nations Alliance meet in the lobby of the Nk'Mip Cultural Centre.
- 8:45 a.m.** Trilateral meeting with **Minister McKenna**, the **Honourable George Heyman** and the **Okanagan Nations Alliance** (meeting room TBD).
- Gifts exchange between the Government of British Columbia, Okanagan Nations Alliance and the Government of Canada (TBC)
- Pre-event briefing with **Official Party**
- 9:45 a.m.** End of Trilateral meeting
- 9:45 a.m.** Preparation time for all parties prior to the media event
- 9:55 a.m.** Official party walks outside to the stage under the tent

FORMAL EVENT BEGINS

- 10:00 a.m.** Welcoming remarks by **MC** and invites **XXX** for opening blessings
- 10:02 a.m.** Opening blessings
- 10:10 a.m.** **MC** thanks **XXX** for the blessings and invites the **Honourable Catherine McKenna**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, and invites her to provide remarks
- 10:11 a.m.** Remarks by the **Honourable Catherine McKenna**
- 10:16 a.m.** **MC** thanks **Minister McKenna** and invites the **Honourable George Heyman**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, British Columbia to provide remarks.
- 10:17 a.m.** Remarks by the **Honourable George Heyman**
- 10:22 a.m.** **MC** thanks **Honourable George Heyman** and invites **XXX**, Okanagan Nations Alliance to provide remarks
- 10:23 a.m.** Remarks by **XXXX**
- 10:28 a.m.** **MC** thanks **XXX** and invites the **Official party** to the official hand shake.
- 10:30 a.m.** **MC** makes closing remarks and advises media that the official party is available for a question period off stage.
- 10:31 a.m.** **Scrum begins**

10:45 a.m. Scrum ends

END OF FORMAL EVENT

10:45 a.m. Beginning of short hike and photo opportunity with media

11: 30 a.m. Minister Mckenna's departure for Kelowna to catch flight to Victoria

Expected attendance: 100

CONTACTS

PARKS CANADA

Jason Bouzanis

National Director Corporate Communications

Cell: 613-808-4793

jason.bouzanis@pc.gc.ca

Marie-Hélène Brisson

Manager, Ministerial Events and Liaison

613-797-2730

marie-helene.brisson@canada.ca

OKANAGAN NATIONS ALLIANCE

Name

Title

Phone #

email

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Name

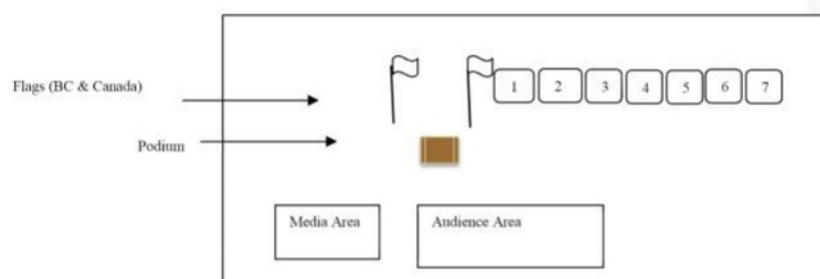
Title

Phone #

email

SEATING PLAN

Podium sign:



Official Party

1. **The Honourable Catherine McKenna**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada
2. **The Honourable George Heyman**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, British Columbia
3. **Chief Clarence Louie**, Osoyoos Indian Band
4. **XXXX**, Master of Ceremony (MC)
5. **Chief Keith Crow**, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
6. **Chief Chad Eneas**, Penticton Indian Band
7. **XXXX (elder)**, Dignitary

South Okanagan Surveys

Monday, February 26, 2018

1:43 PM

Subject	South Okanagan Surveys
From	Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
To	Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX
Cc	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Sent	Thursday, October 19, 2017 1:04 PM

There has been several surveys undertaken. The following bullets are from a note in June this year. Keith may have additional survey information as to numbers in support.

- On April 8, 2015, the South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network issued a news release about a poll which showed support for a national park has increased significantly over the past five years by local individuals, as well as activity groups such as hunters and snowmobilers.
- The poll, conducted by McAllister Opinion Research in March 2015, found 69% of area residents favour a national park, while 21% oppose. This is up from the last poll in 2010 that found 63% of residents supported the park while 26% opposed.
- This poll also found 79% of ranching and farming households and 67% of households that participated in activities like ATVing and snowmobiling supported a national park proposal.
- The poll consisted of 501 phone interviews from the ridings of Boundary-Similkameen and Penticton, as well as the Regional District of the South Okanagan-Similkameen.
- The release of the intentions paper generated 3,460 responses. The comments varied in detail and presentation and, while some respondents directly followed the seven question format outlined in the intentions paper, the majority of submissions used the release of the intentions paper as a platform to reinforce perspectives on the question of whether the South Okanagan was a suitable candidate for a national park reserve.
- The summary report of comments received was posted to the BC Parks website on May 19, 2016. www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/planning/pdfs/consultation-summary-so-ip.pdf

Ken Morrison

Manager, Planning and Land Administration

BC Parks | Provincial Services Branch | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy



New phone number: 778 698 4264

4th Floor - 2975 Jutland Rd | Victoria, BC | V8W 9M9

South Okanagan Correspondence

Monday, February 26, 2018

1:40 PM

Subject	South Okanagan Correspondence
From	Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
To	Davies, Heather J ENV:EX
Cc	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
Sent	Monday, October 23, 2017 7:29 AM
Attachments	<div> 312294 - Batch - SA...  312294 - Batch - DR...</div>

Please work with Keith to develop a “template” response to South Okanagan correspondence to be used after the October 27th announcement. A sample of the incoming correspondence and the template for the correspondence are attached. This assignment is due end of day tomorrow.

Ken Morrison

Manager, Planning and Land Administration

BC Parks | Provincial Services Branch | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

New phone number: 778 698 4264

4th Floor - 2975 Jutland Rd | Victoria, BC | V8W 9M9

Visco, Greg ENV:EX

From: Salkus, Beverley ENV:EX
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 12:52 PM
To: Visco, Greg ENV:EX
Subject: RUSH MO request

From: s.22
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 8:54 AM
To: Heyman.MLA, George <George.Heyman.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: We want a National Park Reserve in the South Okanagan!~Dear Minister Heyman, Thank you for your government's support of the proposed National Park Reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen region, as formally expressed in the 2017 NDP election platf...

We want a National Park Reserve in the South Okanagan!~Dear Minister Heyman,

Thank you for your government's support of the proposed National Park Reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen region, as formally expressed in the 2017 NDP election platform. This is one of Canada's most unique ecosystems – it is also one of the most endangered in the world. As Minister, you have the power to create a sustainable, secure future for both the wildlife and the people who share this region.

I urge you to make the creation of this park an absolute priority, and to use all of the tools at your disposal to formally re-open government-to-government negotiations immediately. I also urge your government to include all three areas identified for various protections by the previous B.C. government in the negotiations to create the National Park Reserve, to ensure that the full suite of economic, social, cultural, and ecological benefits of this park can be realized in the long-term.

A well-protected National Park Reserve, which respects First Nations culture and traditions, and preserves wildlife connectivity, is the best way to ensure that we are leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come.

I look forward to seeing your government follow through on your promise to deliver better protections for the landscapes of this region, which are so important for local families and First Nations, and for the species at risk and other wildlife that call this place home.

Sincerely,

EMAIL RESPONSE

Reference: 312294

Concerned Citizen

Email: <Email>

Comment [GV1]: Correspondence will compile distribution list

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Thank you for your recent email, regarding the creation of a National Park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen area.

<Insert body here>

Thank you again for <finish ending here>.

Sincerely,


George Heyman
Minister

ARCS: 280-30
ORCS:

RE: For Your Review Please - SOK SN's

Monday, February 26, 2018

1:37 PM

Subject	RE: For Your Review Please - SOK SN's
From	Baric, Keith J ENV:EX
To	Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX; Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Cc	Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Sent	Monday, October 23, 2017 4:17 PM
Attachments	 SN_SouthOK

I have filled in some of the species that are considered at risk in the South Okanagan...pulled in a wildlife biologist for confirmation. Noting that when the Minister states "threatened" that means species that are on the provincial **red** list (i.e., endangered, extirpated or threatened).

From: Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 3:56 PM
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX; Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Subject: RE: For Your Review Please - SOK SN's

FYI I will also check with MIRR on the FN references.

Thanks

From: Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2017 3:55 PM
To: Baric, Keith J ENV:EX; Morrison, Ken ENV:EX
Cc: Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX
Subject: For Your Review Please - SOK SN's

Hello,

Please find attached MGH speaking notes for South Okanagan.
There's also a one-pager at the end, for a style preference option.

If you could please let me know of any edits/concerns, that would be great!

***Please note, MGH is speaking after federal Minister McKenna.

Would like to get this to MO by EOD tomorrow.

Thanks!

DANIELLE BELL

Public Affairs Officer, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

Direct Line: 250-387-9630 | **Media Line:** 250-953-3834

Speaking Notes

for

Hon. George Heyman
Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
and MLA for Vancouver –Fairview

Protecting Lands in the South Okanagan

Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre
1000 Rancher Creek Road
Osoyoos, B.C.

Friday, October 27, 2017
Time: 10 a.m.

- Thank you, Minister McKenna.
- And thank you all again for being here today, on the beautiful lands of the ____FN____[program to fill in].
- I'm pleased to be here with my federal colleague, and the Okanagan Nation communities, as we announce the first steps towards establishing a national park reserve.
- The South Okanagan is a very special place and many British Columbians want to see this unique region protected.
- As a new government, we are listening to the wishes of British Columbians, who have overwhelmingly expressed their desire to have a new national park reserve –and one that incorporates a larger land area.

- We know people are passionate about preserving and protecting these biodiverse lands for future generations.
- This is why we immediately went to work resuming discussions with Parks Canada and the Okanagan Nation communities.
- We recognize there are a diverse range of interests in this area, including hunting, ranching, tourism as well as recreational and cultural aspects.
- And we will be renewing discussions with key stakeholders as we work towards establishing a national park reserve that will contribute positively to local economies.
- We will ensure all of these interests are taken into consideration as we work towards protecting these lands for everyone to admire and enjoy.
- This partnership also represents a valuable opportunity to move forward on reconciliation, and to strengthen nation-to-nation engagement with the Okanagan Nation communities.

- Our government has made reconciliation a priority.
- We have recognized the need to change how government works with First Nations, and all Indigenous people.
- That is part of why we are committed to adopting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which has been adopted by 148 nations, including the federal government.
- The new partnership model we are developing as we jointly work towards establishing a national park reserve highlights our commitment.
- The South Okanagan region is one of the most ecologically-diverse regions in the country – home to more than 60 species at risk.
- To help better protect British Columbia's species at risk, I'm pleased to tell you the Province has committed to developing endangered species legislation.

- This legislation would help protect threatened species which call the South Okanagan home, such as : Behr's Hairstreak Butterfly, Lewis's Woodpecker, Swainson's Hawk, Yellow Breasted Chat, Desert Nightsnake, Grasshopper Sparrow, American Badger, Spadefoot, and Blotched Tiger Salamander.

- I look forward to our collective work as we move towards preserving this magnificent landscape for future generations.
- Thank you.

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South Okanagan - Speaking Notes

- The South Okanagan is a special place; many British Columbians want to see it protected as a national park reserve.
- As a new government, we immediately went to work resuming discussions with federal government, Okanagan Nation.
- We know there are a range of interests in the area – hunting, fishing, tourism, etc.
- This partnership also represents an opportunity to move forward on reconciliation, UNDRIP.
- The South Okanagan is one of the most ecologically-diverse in the country – home to more than 60 species at risk.
- We are also committed to developing endangered species legislation.

- Future discussions with partners.

Questions and Answers

Proposed National Park Reserve in South Okanagan

Key Messages

- Canada's network of protected areas play an important role in helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change by protecting and restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems and contributing to the recovery of species at risk.
- The Governments of Canada and British Columbia, and representatives of the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation, are pleased to announce a renewed relationship to explore developing a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen.
- A new national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen would protect one of Canada's iconic natural and cultural landscapes and share this inspiring landscape with Canadians and visitors from around the world. A national park reserve in South Okanagan - Similkameen would represent one of these most southern and endangered natural regions of the national park system.
- Today's announcement represents a critical step in delivering on the Government of Canada's commitment to expanding our system of protected areas and protecting Canada's biodiversity.
- Canada has committed to conserve at least 17 per cent of our country's land and freshwater by 2020 in collaboration with the provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other key partners.
- Parks Canada is committed to working together collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to establish and manage national heritage places. We recognize that the natural and cultural values of these places have sustained Indigenous Peoples for thousands of years.

Qs and As

Q. What is today's announcement?

- A. Today, the governments of Canada and British Columbia, and representatives of the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation, are pleased to announce a renewed relationship to explore developing a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen.

Q. Why is this a significant announcement?

- A. Today's announcement represents a critical step in delivering on the Government of Canada's commitment to expanding our network of protected areas and protecting Canada's biodiversity.

This represents a valuable opportunity to move forward together on the journey of reconciliation and for nation-to-nation engagement with the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation.

After many years, we are pleased to be working in a tripartite partnership with the Province of BC and representatives of the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation to advance this important proposal.

Q. What will the boundaries be? Will the former BC government's proposal that was developed through consultation be adopted?

- A. No boundaries or park concepts have been considered at this time. Parks Canada was not involved in the development of the previous B.C. government's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review.

As we restart discussions, our area of interest will primarily focus on the areas that were the subject of previous consideration. We look forward to working together with the Province of B.C. and the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation to consider a national park reserve proposal in the South Okanagan region.

Q: Is a new feasibility assessment needed, or will the governments approve the previous version?

- A: The Canada-B.C. Steering Committee completed a feasibility assessment report, but it has not been approved by either government.

In addition, the Syilx/Okanagan Nation also completed a Syilx vision for a protected area and associated recommendations in 2012, but dialogue on this has not begun.

Q. What are the next steps?

- A. Following completion of the feasibility assessments, the next steps include determination by each party as to whether they find the final proposal feasible, and under what terms and conditions. Once there is agreement, the next step would be the negotiation of the required agreement or agreements.

Q. How long will this take?

- A. The creation of a new national park is a complex process and the governments of Canada and British Columbia, along with our Indigenous partners, will take the necessary time to ensure that all parties are engaged and that the appropriate consideration and time is given at each stage.

Q. Will local communities be involved in the next steps?

- A. Public consultations, particularly with local Indigenous communities, will play a key role in concluding the feasibility assessment. These discussions will also take into consideration the continuation of ranching and recreational activities in the region.

Q. Why is it important to protect the South Okanagan as a national park reserve?

- A. The Okanagan is one of the most ecologically-diverse regions of Canada, and protecting this area would support recovery of over 60 federally listed species at risk.

In addition, Canada's network of protected areas play an important role in helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change by protecting and restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems and contributing to the recovery of species at risk. As climate change continues, it is important to take protective measures to safeguard this significant and diverse region in B.C. interior as a national park reserve.

Q. Would a national park reserve in the South Okanagan make any significant contribution to the Government of Canada's conservation targets of 17 per cent?

A. While the area protected by a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen may seem small on a national scale, even small areas can contribute as part of a larger network of protected and conserved areas. In addition, the South Okanagan - Similkameen is an excellent representation of many qualities of these targets, including protecting representative natural areas and habitat for species at risk, and managing these areas in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

Q. Is there funding to establish this new national park reserve?

A. The Government of Canada is committed to expanding our system of protected areas and protecting Canada's biodiversity. Canada is committed to conserve at least 17 per cent of our country's land and freshwater and 10 per cent of coastal and marine waters through a network of parks, protected and conserved areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2020.

Previous federal budgets have provided funding for Parks Canada to continue its work to expand our system of national parks and reserves.

Q. Why did Parks Canada walk away from this process more than five years ago?

A. In 2011, the Government of British Columbia indicated that it was not prepared to continue pursuing a national park reserve in the South Okanagan region at that time. Given that it was not possible to move forward without the Province's support, Parks Canada paused work on the proposal.

We are grateful to the various Indigenous organizations and communities, conservation groups, private businesses, and many other tourism and municipal organizations that continue to advocate for a national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen.

Q. Will a national park reserve allow access for continued helicopter use and training?

A. During previous discussions on a national park reserve proposal in the South Okanagan - Similkameen, Parks Canada committed to respecting provincial permits for helicopter access and training within the proposed park. We stand by that commitment.

Q. What about the proposed conservancy?

A. Parks Canada was not involved in the development of the previous B.C. government's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review. While Parks Canada's preference is to focus on a national park reserve to provide for a more consistent land management regime, the designation of some areas as conservancy lands under BC legislation could be raised in the renewed discussions between all three parties.

Q. What about the community of Willowbrook that was included in previous concept areas for a national park reserve?

A. Parks Canada was not involved in the development of the previous B.C. government's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review. Parks Canada does not include communities within new national park reserves.

Q. What about private lands? Will Parks Canada expropriate?

A. Parks Canada would not expropriate lands for a national parks reserve. Any private lands would be acquired on a willing seller – willing buyer basis.

Q. What about the results from the provincial consultations on their protected areas framework?

A. Parks Canada was not involved in the development of the previous B.C. government's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review.

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**SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISCUSSIONS FOR A PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK
RESERVE IN THE SOUTH OKANAGAN AREA
OSOYOOS, BRITISH COLUMBIA
OCTOBER 27, 2017**

VENUE: Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, 1000 Rancher Creek Road (2 km east of Osoyoos), British Columbia



DRESS: casual

OFFICIAL PARTY:

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada

The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, British Columbia

Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band and Master of Ceremony (MC)

OFFICIAL PARTY NON-SPEAKING ROLE:

Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band

Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton Indian Band

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Okanagan Nation Alliance (TBC)

Osoyoos Indian Band (Elder), Dignitary

PRE-EVENT

8:40 a.m. Minister McKenna, the Honourable George Heyman and the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation (the Lower Similkameen, Osoyoos and Penticton Indian Bands) meet in the lobby of the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre (NDCC).

8:45 a.m. Trilateral meeting with **Minister McKenna**, the **Honourable George Heyman** and **the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation** (meeting room TBD).

Pre-event briefing with **Official Party**

9:45 a.m. End of Trilateral meeting

9:45 a.m. Preparation time for all parties prior to the media event

9:55 a.m. Official party walks outside to the stage under the tent

FORMAL EVENT BEGINS

10:00 a.m. Welcoming remarks by **MC** and invites OIB Elder for opening blessings

10:02 a.m. Opening blessings

10:10 a.m. **MC** thanks the OIB Elder for the blessings and invites **the Honourable Catherine McKenna**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, and invites her to provide remarks

10:11 a.m. Remarks by the **Honourable Catherine McKenna**

10:16 a.m. **MC** thanks **Minister McKenna** and invites **the Honourable George Heyman**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, British Columbia to provide remarks.

10:17 a.m. Remarks by the **Honourable George Heyman**

10:22 a.m. **MC** thanks **Honourable George Heyman** and invites the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation to provide remarks

10:23 a.m. Remarks by **XXXX**

10:28 a.m. **MC** thanks **XXX** and invites the **Official party** to the official hand shake.

10:30 a.m. **MC** makes closing remarks and advises media that the official party is available for a question period off stage.

MC informs media that a media opportunity will follow.

10:31 a.m. Media opportunity moderated by **Jason Bouzanis**, National Communications Director, Parks Canada.

10:45 a.m. Media opportunity ends

END OF FORMAL EVENT

10:45 a.m. Beginning of short walk through NDCC trails and photo opportunity with media (all guests present to the event invited on the walk)

11: 30 a.m. **Minister McKenna's** departure for Kelowna to catch flight to Victoria

Expected attendance: 100

CONTACTS

PARKS CANADA

Jason Bouzanis

National Director Corporate Communications

Cell: 613-808-4793

jason.bouzanis@pc.gc.ca

Marie-Hélène Brisson

Manager, Ministerial Events and Liaison

613-797-2730

marie-helene.brisson@canada.ca

THE THREE SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES OF THE SYILX/OKANAGAN NATION

NameS

Title

Phone #

email

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Name

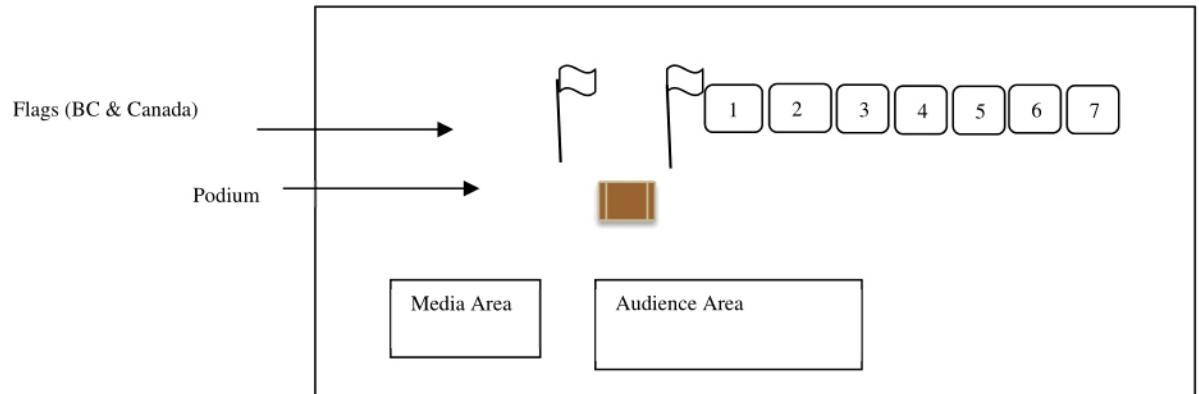
Title

Phone #

email

SEATING PLAN

Podium sign:



Official Party

1. **The Honourable Catherine McKenna**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada
2. **The Honourable George Heyman**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, British Columbia
3. **Chief Clarence Louie**, Osoyoos Indian Band and Master of Ceremony (MC)
4. **Chief Keith Crow**, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
5. **Chief Chad Eneas**, Penticton Indian Band
6. **Grand Chief Stewart Phillip**, Grand Chief, Okanagan Nation Alliance
7. **Osoyoos Indian Band (Elder)**, Dignitary

From: [Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Frampton, Caelie ENV:EX](#); [Xia, Eveline ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#); [Crebo, David GCPE:EX](#); [Cotton, Brian GCPE:EX](#); [Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX](#); [Karn, David GCPE:EX](#); [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#)
Subject: FYI South Okanagan Media - Parks Canada
Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 9:53:10 AM

Hello,

Parks Canada will be responding to the Osoyoos Times with the below response regarding South Okanagan.

Program has no concerns with the below.

Thanks,

Danielle

MEDIA REQUEST – NO-17-10-19-Proposed South Okanagan NPR – response to comments and criticism

Date/time received: November 11

Sensitivity: Medium

Media Outlet: Osoyoos Times/Aberdeen Publishing

Reporter: Richard McGuire

Contact: 902-523-3494, arankin@herald.ca

Deadline: November 22

Method of response: written response

Expected date of print/broadcast:

Context/Issue: The reporter writes that since the announcement on Oct. 27 that the federal government is renewing its commitment to a national park reserve in the South Okanagan, there's been a lot of buzz on social media and a lot of misinformation circulating.

He is hoping to do a story correcting some of the misinformation that he's been hearing. He says he is open to email responses or to speaking with someone from Parks Canada.

He is sharing some comments, concerns and misinformation he pulled from a Facebook page opposing the site. He would like Parks Canada to address the following comments and concerns.

We will also suggest an interview if the reporter has any questions regarding the establishment process, etc.

Parks Canada's response

The Government of Canada is committed to preserving and expanding the system of protected areas, including national parks and marine conservation areas, and delivering on Canada's commitment to protect at least 17% of Canada's land and inland waters and 10% of our oceans by 2020 in collaboration with the provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other key partners. Canada's network of protected areas also play an important role in helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change by protecting and restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems and contributing to the recovery of species at risk.

On October 27, 2017, the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, and representatives of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation, were pleased to announce a renewed commitment to work together to establish a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan.

A new national park reserve in the South Okanagan would protect ~~would protect~~ and represent one of the most southern and endangered natural regions in Canada and enabled this inspiring landscape to be shared with Canadians and visitors from around the world.

It should be noted that no boundaries or park concepts have been considered at this time. As we restart discussions, our area of interest will primarily focus on the areas that were the subject of previous

consideration. We look forward to working together with the Province of B.C. and the Syilx/Okanagan Nation to establish a national park reserve in the South Okanagan region.

The governments of Canada and British Columbia, along with our Indigenous partners, will take the necessary time to ensure that all parties are engaged and that the appropriate consideration and time are allocated. Public consultations and consultations with local Indigenous communities will play a key role in concluding the feasibility assessment. These discussions will also take into consideration the continuation of ranching and recreational activities in the region.

Parks Canada is committed to working together collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to establish and manage national heritage places. We recognize that the natural and cultural values of these places have sustained Indigenous Peoples for thousands of years.

Please see Parks Canada's response to some of the concerns that have been raised:

1. Area residents will have to pay a fee to access their homes by road or to receive guests

Area residents will not have to pay a fee to access their homes or to receive guests. Parks Canada does not include communities within new national park reserves.

2. Local residents will no longer be able to access the back country because they will either be prohibited or the fees will be priced so high that only the rich can use the park, as is the case in Banff and Jasper.

Local residents will be able to continue to access the backcountry as long as the activities they are planning on doing in the backcountry are permitted under the *Canada National Parks Act* and there are no public safety or resource protection concerns.

Canada's national parks belong to all Canadians. A National parks and national park reserves enable Canadians, including youth and newcomers, to experience the outdoors and learn about our environment.

Q3. Any land owner who lives within the park boundaries, or even nearby, will lose such property rights as the ability to keep domestic animals, to run a business, to build an addition or to sell their property to anyone other than Parks Canada. They'll be forced to sell to the federal government only and at the price Parks Canada dictates.

A3. As set out in the *Canada National Parks Act* Section 15 (6), the Government of Canada cannot expropriate private property in order to enlarge or establish a national park or national park reserve. Private lands would only ever be purchased on a willing seller-willing buyer basis, based upon independent property appraisals.

The federal government has no jurisdiction over property rights on privately owned land adjacent to the boundaries of a national park.

Q4. There will be no cattle grazing and ranches in the area will be shut down.

A4. Long term relationships with ranchers are critical to the future success of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen.

Throughout the feasibility assessment process for a national park reserve in the South Okanagan, Parks Canada has recognized the importance of building and maintaining strong relationships with ranchers and the local ranching industry. Although commercial livestock grazing is not typically allowed in a national park reserve, Parks Canada is committed to working with ranching families and the local livestock

association to build a model and framework for working together to manage grazing compatible with the national park reserve. This model will seek to provide ranching families with stability and certainty on crown grazing lands, tenures, water, and other resource values within the concept area.

Q5. With no cattle grazing, there will be no check on vegetation growth and this will lead to catastrophic wildfires. The smoke will harm orchard fruit and wine grapes. The fire will threaten neighbouring property.

Parks Canada is a recognized world leader in fire management. Through its national fire management program, Parks Canada is committed to reducing the risk of wildfires and protecting visitors, infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources on the lands it manages.

Fire management plan and a vegetation management plan will be developed. Parks Canada will engage with communities, neighbouring jurisdictions and the public in a dialogue about the objectives and techniques of wildfire control and fire use.

Management strategies are designed to minimise wildfire risk by reducing levels of dead and dry vegetation that act as fuel sources for wildfires. These fire management strategies may include cattle grazing, mechanised fuel reduction and prescribed burning (contained, intentionally lit fires that are only conducted under exacting conditions), in addition to fuel management actions undertaken directly adjacent to neighbouring communities and lands and nearby infrastructure, for example through the "FireSmart" programs that focuses on how individuals and communities can work together to reduce the risk of loss from wildfires in communities across Canada

The safety of the public, our crews, park infrastructure and neighbouring lands is always Parks Canada's number one priority. When wildfires occur and present a risk to people, property, cultural or ecological values, Parks Canada coordinates its efforts with provincial governments, local communities and other participants to respond immediately with focused effort to fully suppress wild fires.

Q6. The volunteer fire department in Willowbrook will be forced to shut down and the federal government will provide any firefighting.

A6. The community of Willowbrook would not be within the national park reserve boundary, and as such the local fire departments will continue to maintain their existing responsibilities. At the same time, Parks Canada has many years of experience in fire management in a wide variety of landscapes, and a national park reserve in the South Okanagan would bring with it Parks Canada's extensive planning and management experience to help manage and reduce the risk of wildfire both in the proposed park and through working with adjacent landowners. Joint planning, public education, active management and training sessions provide an opportunity to both prevent as well as respond to wildfire incidents.

Q7. Without the volunteer fire department, home insurance premiums will triple.

A7. The local fire department will not be affected so home insurance premiums should not be affected.

Q8. This proposal is aimed at giving land to local First Nations. That's why it's a national park RESERVE and not a national park.

A8. The term reserve is being used to recognize that there are unresolved claims of aboriginal rights in the area. In addition, within a national park reserve, Indigenous Peoples can continue to participate in traditional land uses and spiritual activities, and may be involved in cooperative management with Parks Canada.

Q9. People won't be able to transport firearms through the national park.

A9. The law governing transportation of firearms is a federal law that applies in all of the provinces and territories in Canada. That law is the *Storage, Display, Transportation and Handling of Firearms by Individuals Regulations*. The enabling Act for those Regulations is the *Firearms Act*. The law and act apply inside national parks.

If you are carrying a firearm through a national park to another destination it must be unloaded and securely encased as per current federal law.

-30-

DANIELLE BELL

Public Affairs Officer, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

Direct Line: 250-387-9630 | **Media Line:** 250-953-3834

From: [Bell, Danielle L GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Standen, Jim ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Murai, Launa Y ENV:EX](#); [Baric, Keith J ENV:EX](#); [Morrison, Ken ENV:EX](#)
Subject: For your Review Please - SOK QA
Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 4:26:46 PM
Attachments: [QA_SouthOkanagan_Oct18.docx](#)

Hi Jim,

Please find attached a South Okanagan QA for your review please.

Keith and Ken have reviewed. I'm working on SN's as well.

Thanks!

DANIELLE BELL

Public Affairs Officer, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

Direct Line: 250-387-9630 | **Media Line:** 250-953-3834

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

South Okanagan
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
October 2017

1. What is the Province announcing about lands in the South Okanagan?

- The federal and provincial governments, alongside the Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band and Lower Similkameen Indian Band of the Okanagan Nation are working together to develop a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan.
- Parks Canada, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the three member bands of the Okanagan Nation are resuming discussions to establish a national park reserve under federal jurisdiction in the region.

2. Why is a South Okanagan National Park Reserve being established?

- A national park reserve is proposed to be established because the South Okanagan region embodies significant ecological, geographic, cultural and recreational values, as well as a wide range of species at risk along with tourism opportunities.

3. In the past, the Province has repeatedly said it does not support a national park reserve – why is this option being pursued now? What about critics?

- We know the South Okanagan is a unique place that many British Columbians want to see protected as a national park reserve.
- As a new government, we are responding to the wishes of British Columbians who have overwhelmingly expressed their desire to have a new national park reserve, one that incorporates a larger land area.
- We recognize that there are some people who have concerns regarding the impact a national park reserve could have on activities such as motorized access, hunting and ranching, and the Province looks forward to working with Parks Canada and the Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band and Lower Similkameen Indian Band of the Okanagan Nation to find solutions to these issues.

4. Why is it called a national park reserve and not a national park?

- A national park reserve is an area managed as a national park but where lands are subject to a claim in respect to Aboriginal rights, accepted for negotiation by the Government of Canada. Therefore, the use of the term 'reserve' is used to protect lands and waters without prejudice to unresolved Aboriginal land claims.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

5. Has the Province engaged with Parks Canada on establishing a national park reserve already?

- Yes, discussions between the Province, Parks Canada and the respective bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance to establish a national park reserve in the region, under federal jurisdiction, are resuming.
- Planning discussions through this joint partnership will commence immediately.

6. Will a national park reserve allow recreational uses to continue, including hunting and fishing?

- The opportunities for continued recreational uses such as hunting will be a key element of discussions between the Province, Canada and the member bands of the Okanagan Nation.

7. What geographic area would a national park reserve include?

- The lands to be included in a new national park reserve will be determined during the national park establishment agreement phase.
- Previous proposals identified approximately 28,000 hectares in the region (which included lands that are privately held- consideration of private lands will only be under a willing seller-willing buyer scenario)

8. Why is this South Okanagan area so significant?

- The South Okanagan region embodies significant ecological, geographic, cultural and recreational values, as well as a wide range of tourism opportunities.
- The Okanagan is one of the most ecologically-diverse regions of Canada, and protecting this area would support recovery of more than 60 federally-listed species at risk.

9. What species of wildlife and vegetation would this proposed national park reserve protect, and what species at risk are currently present?

- There are more than 60 federally-listed species at risk found in this area.
- The area contains 16% of B.C.'s red-listed species (any species or ecosystem that is at risk of being lost) and 22% of B.C.'s blue-listed species (any species or ecosystem that is of special concern).
- This includes wildlife and fauna such as: Bighorn sheep, Mountain Goat, Cougar, Black Bear, whereas smaller fauna include Western Rattlesnake, Spadefoot, and Tiger Salamander. With respect to endangered flora, the area contains several red-listed plants (such as the Lyall's Mariposa Lily, Grand Coulee Owl Clover,

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Spaldings Milk Vetch) and ecological communities (such as the Vasey's big sagebrush and big sage/bluebunch wheatgrass-balsamroot plant communities).

- Six vertebrate species that once lived in the South Okanagan - the Pigmy Short-horned Lizard, White-tailed Jackrabbit, Burrowing Owl, Northern Leopard Frog, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and Sage Grouse - have disappeared from the region - largely due to habitat loss, development and persecution. A national park reserve would likely reduce further species and habitat loss.
-

10. What is being done to further protect species at risk in this region?

- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has committed to developing endangered species legislation to better protect British Columbia's species at risk.
- We will work with the federal government, South Okanagan communities and local First Nations to create a plan to protect the large number of endangered species in that area.

11. Who will be consulted about the establishment of a national park reserve?

- The Province will work with Parks Canada, First Nations, and stakeholders to establish a national park reserve.
- Planning is underway with the federal government and three Okanagan Nation communities (Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band and Osoyoos Indian Band) in a government-to-government process.
- Renewed discussions will be initiated with key stakeholder groups such as ranchers and the tourism industry.

12. What is the benefit to B.C. for a national park reserve rather than a provincial park?

- A national park reserve would be managed by Parks Canada.
- The necessary funding would be provided by the federal government to develop, operate and maintain the park.
- A larger area of protection (as national park reserve) enhances wildlife connectivity and survivorship for a range of species.

13. How much will this national park reserve cost B.C. taxpayers?

- Costs to the Province will be limited to the staffing and support costs associated with planning for new national park reserve.

14. There are some privately-owned lands within the proposed national park reserve. How are they affected?

- Private lands will only be considered for future park designations under a willing seller – willing buyer basis; no lands would be expropriated.
- Component areas referenced in the proposal also include large private conservation lands, which are owned and maintained by non-governmental

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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- Government will work with these organizations to seek complementary land management goals with respect to those areas.

15. When is the last time a national park reserve like this was created in British Columbia? How many federal parks will now be in B.C.?

- Canada and British Columbia negotiated a federal-provincial park agreement in 2001 to establish the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.
- The establishment of the proposed South Okanagan National Park Reserve would signify the 21st location of a federal park, national historic site or marine protected area in B.C. (including seven other national parks or national park reserves).

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Media Event Plan

Event Title: B.C. declares its support for a South Okanagan National Park Reserve

Date: Week of September 4 th , 2017 TBD Time: TBD	Media Market: Provincewide
Location: Osoyoos, B.C. TBD	English Media Spokesperson: Environment & Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman
	Multicultural Media Spokesperson: Environment & Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman
Author: Danielle Bell	Communications Director Signoff: _____
Version #: 1	Date: August 21, 2017

THE EVENT

PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- Proactive event led by Environment & Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman to announce the Province's support for a South Okanagan National Park Reserve.
- Federal Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna will also provide remarks in support of the announcement, which will lead to the establishment of a new national park reserve under federal jurisdiction.
- Osoyoos Indian Band Chief Clarence Louie will also provide remarks in support of the announcement.

EVENT

- Minister Heyman and Minister McKenna will provide remarks regarding plans for a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan.
- There will be a photo-opportunity for media, as well as a QA session so media can ask more specific questions around what led to this decision, and next steps moving forward, etc.
- Desired News Headline: B.C. declares its support for a South Okanagan National Park Reserve

WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- GCPE ENV + Events
- Danielle Bell, 250 387 9630

BACKGROUND NOTES

- In October 2003, Canada and B.C. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to study the feasibility of establishing three new federal protected areas in B.C. including the potential national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen.
- The feasibility study began in 2004 and included two rounds of broad public consultations in 2004 and 2006, community forums in 2007 and extensive consultations with affected stakeholders. A socio-economic impact assessment was completed in 2008.
- In 2010, senior officials representing B.C. and Canada agreed that the feasibility study, with the exception of First Nations consultation, was substantially complete, and that the proposed National Park Reserve in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen was feasible. However, in January 2011, Cabinet directed that the Province would not proceed with establishment of the national park reserve at this time.

- In December 2012, through capacity funding provided by Parks Canada, the Okanagan Nation released Building a Syilx Vision for Protection: Assessing Feasibility of a Syilx/Parks Canada Protected Area:
 - The report cited several key recommendations, one of which was an action for the Province to re-engage in future discussions of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan.
- In August 2015, following a series of meetings with local stakeholders and member bands of the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Ministry of Environment released an Intentions Paper identifying a proposed land protection framework for the South Okanagan for public consultation. The Intentions Paper proposed two concept areas as potential national park reserve sites, and one area as a potential provincial conservancy.
- The public comment period on the Intentions Paper ended on October 31, 2015 and a consultation summary was released in May 2016. Ministry staff reviewed over 3,400 responses to the Intentions Paper.
- On January 27, 2017, the Province issued a news release indicating that it was moving forward on discussions to implement the three concept areas identified in the Intentions Paper, and would continue to work closely with three Okanagan Nation communities (Osoyoos Indian Band, Lower Similkameen Indian Band and the Penticton Indian Band) and seek to re-engage with the Federal Government.

VENUE DESCRIPTION

Suggested Potential Locations:

Option 1 - Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, Osoyoos 1000 Rancher Creek Road

- An interpretive centre owned and operated by the Osoyoos Indian Band, the property features theatres, indoor and outdoor galleries and walking trails.
- A podium could be set up inside or outdoors, depending on weather. Mount Kobau provides a backdrop.

Option 1 - British Columbia Visitor Centre, Osoyoos 9912 Highway 3

- At the junction of Hwy 3 and Hwy 97, the centre provides visitors a wide range of travel services, including transportation and community information in the region and beyond.
- A podium could be set up inside or outside, depending on weather.

EVENT PARTICIPANTS (SPEAKERS)

- Minister George Heyman – speaker
- Minister Catherine McKenna – speaker
- Okanagan Nation representative (possibly Osoyoos Indian Band Chief Clarence Louie) – speaker and/or emcee

KEY VALIDATORS & STAKEHOLDERS

- First Nations
- Parks Canada
- Tourism agencies
- Recreation organizations
- Environmental non-governmental organizations such as CPAWS and the South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network

TARGET AUDIENCE

- British Columbians

- The public
- Media

Draft Program

9:30	5 mins	Emcee welcomes media and guests, and introduces the first speaker.
9:35	5 min	Speaker 1: Minister Heyman gives remarks
9:40	5 min	Speaker 2: Minister McKenna gives remarks
9:55	5 min	Speaker 3: FN representative gives remarks
10:05	5 min	Media Photo-Op/Q&A

VISUAL MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)

- Photo of Environment & Climate Change Strategy Minister George Heyman with federal Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna and OIB Chief Clarence Louie at interpretive centre, with Mount Kobau in the background.

Digital (social media) opportunities

- The NR and event pictures will be shared online and via government social channels, including Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE

- As a new government, we are responding to the wishes of British Columbians, who have overwhelmingly expressed their desire to have a new national park reserve, and one that incorporates a larger land area.
- Businesses, tourism agencies and other stakeholders all recognize the importance of establishing a national park reserve in the South Okanagan.
- The South Okanagan is home to significant geographic and cultural values, as well as many recreation and tourism opportunities, and we will ensure these are protected in our work to establish a national park reserve.



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



Osoyoos Indian Band



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
[release number]
[Date]

Parks Canada
Ministry of Environment and Climate
Change Strategy
Okanagan Nation Alliance

Working together for a South Okanagan national park reserve

OSOYOOS, BRITISH COLUMBIA – With rolling hills and sweeping valleys, the South Okanagan offers a stunning landscape ranging from near-desert to rich forests of ponderosa pine and Douglas fir that support an incredible range of rare animals and plants. The South Okanagan is one of Canada's most unique habitats and has sustained Syilx/Okanagan communities for thousands of years.

Today, the Governments of Canada and British Columbia, alongside the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation, announced a renewed relationship to explore developing a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan. The Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Catherine McKenna, B.C. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, George Heyman, and Chief Clarence Louie, representing the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation, made the announcement at the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre in Osoyoos.

Parks Canada, British Columbia's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation are resuming discussions to protect lands as a national park reserve in the South Okanagan. Planning discussions through this joint partnership will commence immediately.

"A new national park reserve in the South Okanagan would protect one of Canada's iconic natural and cultural landscapes and provide opportunities to share this inspiring place with Canadians and visitors from around the world," said Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, Catherine McKenna. "By renewing our commitment to work together, we can conserve this incredible landscape for future generations and, in so doing, also honour and recognize the important role of Indigenous People of the region and their traditional use of these lands."

As climate change continues, it is important to take protective measures to safeguard the significant and diverse regions of our country, such as the B.C. interior. The South Okanagan region represents an area of significant ecological, geographic, and cultural importance and offers a wide range of recreation and tourism opportunities. The Okanagan is one of the most ecologically-diverse regions of Canada, and protecting this area would support recovery of over 60 federally listed species-at-risk.

"We know the South Okanagan is a unique place that many British Columbians want to see protected as a national park reserve. We will work hard to make this happen, to preserve and

protect the biodiversity of this special region, and for the positive contributions a national park reserve will make to the **local economies,**” said Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, George Heyman.

The establishment of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan represents a valuable opportunity to advance reconciliation and for nation-to-nation engagement with the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation leading to a new partnership model for management of the proposed national park reserve. These discussions will also take into consideration the continuation of ranching and recreational activities in the region.

[QUOTE FROM OIB CHIEF LOUIE]

The Government of Canada is committed to expanding its network of protected areas and protecting Canada’s biodiversity by conserving at least 17 per cent of our country’s land and freshwater by 2020 in collaboration with the provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other key partners.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has also committed to developing endangered species legislation to better protect British Columbia’s species-at-risk.

- 30 -

Media Contact:

Media Relations
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
250-953-3834

Media Relations
Parks Canada Agency
855-862-1812
pc.media@pc.gc.ca

Questions and Answers

Proposed National Park Reserve in South Okanagan

Key Messages

- Canada's network of protected areas play an important role in helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change by protecting and restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems and contributing to the recovery of species at risk.
- The Governments of Canada and British Columbia, and representatives of the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation, are pleased to announce a renewed relationship to explore developing a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen.
- A new national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen would protect one of Canada's iconic natural and cultural landscapes and share this inspiring landscape with Canadians and visitors from around the world. A national park reserve in South Okanagan - Similkameen would represent one of these most southern and endangered natural regions of the national park system.
- Today's announcement represents a critical step in delivering on the Government of Canada's commitment to expanding our system of protected areas and protecting Canada's biodiversity.
- Canada has committed to conserve at least 17 per cent of our country's land and freshwater by 2020 in collaboration with the provinces and territories, Indigenous Peoples, and other key partners.
- Parks Canada is committed to working together collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples to establish and manage national heritage places. We recognize that the natural and cultural values of these places have sustained Indigenous Peoples for thousands of years.

Qs and As

Q. What is today's announcement?

- A. Today, the governments of Canada and British Columbia, and representatives of the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation, are pleased to announce a renewed relationship to explore developing a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen.

Q. Why is this a significant announcement?

- A. Today's announcement represents a critical step in delivering on the Government of Canada's commitment to expanding our network of protected areas and protecting Canada's biodiversity.

This represents a valuable opportunity to move forward together on the journey of reconciliation and for nation-to-nation engagement with the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation.

After many years, we are pleased to be working in a tripartite partnership with the Province of BC and representatives of the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation to advance this important proposal.

Q. What will the boundaries be? Will the former BC government's proposal that was developed through consultation be adopted?

- A. No boundaries or park concepts have been considered at this time. Parks Canada was not involved in the development of the previous B.C. government's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review.

As we restart discussions, our area of interest will primarily focus on the areas that were the subject of previous consideration. We look forward to working together with the Province of B.C. and the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation to consider a national park reserve proposal in the South Okanagan region.

Q: Is a new feasibility assessment needed, or will the governments approve the previous version?

- A: The Canada-B.C. Steering Committee completed a feasibility assessment report, but it has not been approved by either government.

In addition, the Syilx/Okanagan Nation also completed a Syilx vision for a protected area and associated recommendations in 2012, but dialogue on this has not begun.

Q. What are the next steps?

- A. Following completion of the feasibility assessments, the next steps include determination by each party as to whether they find the final proposal feasible, and under what terms and conditions. Once there is agreement, the next step would be the negotiation of the required agreement or agreements.

Q. How long will this take?

- A. The creation of a new national park is a complex process and the governments of Canada and British Columbia, along with our Indigenous partners, will take the necessary time to ensure that all parties are engaged and that the appropriate consideration and time is given at each stage.

Q. Will local communities be involved in the next steps?

- A. Public consultations, particularly with local Indigenous communities, will play a key role in concluding the feasibility assessment. These discussions will also take into consideration the continuation of ranching and recreational activities in the region.

Q. Why is it important to protect the South Okanagan as a national park reserve?

- A. The Okanagan is one of the most ecologically-diverse regions of Canada, and protecting this area would support recovery of over 60 federally listed species at risk.

In addition, Canada's network of protected areas play an important role in helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change by protecting and restoring healthy, resilient ecosystems and contributing to the recovery of species at risk. As climate change continues, it is important to take protective measures to safeguard this significant and diverse region in B.C. interior as a national park reserve.

Q. Would a national park reserve in the South Okanagan make any significant contribution to the Government of Canada's conservation targets of 17 per cent?

A. While the area protected by a new national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen may seem small on a national scale, even small areas can contribute as part of a larger network of protected and conserved areas. In addition, the South Okanagan - Similkameen is an excellent representation of many qualities of these targets, including protecting representative natural areas and habitat for species at risk, and managing these areas in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.

Q. Is there funding to establish this new national park reserve?

A. The Government of Canada is committed to expanding our system of protected areas and protecting Canada's biodiversity. Canada is committed to conserve at least 17 per cent of our country's land and freshwater and 10 per cent of coastal and marine waters through a network of parks, protected and conserved areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2020.

Previous federal budgets have provided funding for Parks Canada to continue its work to expand our system of national parks and reserves.

Q. Why did Parks Canada walk away from this process more than five years ago?

A. In 2011, the Government of British Columbia indicated that it was not prepared to continue pursuing a national park reserve in the South Okanagan region at that time. Given that it was not possible to move forward without the Province's support, Parks Canada paused work on the proposal.

We are grateful to the various Indigenous organizations and communities, conservation groups, private businesses, and many other tourism and municipal organizations that continue to advocate for a national park reserve in the South Okanagan - Similkameen.

Q. Will a national park reserve allow access for continued helicopter use and training?

A. During previous discussions on a national park reserve proposal in the South Okanagan - Similkameen, Parks Canada committed to respecting provincial permits for helicopter access and training within the proposed park. We stand by that commitment.

Q. What about the proposed conservancy?

A. Parks Canada was not involved in the development of the previous B.C. government's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review. While Parks Canada's preference is to focus on a national park reserve to provide for a more consistent land management regime, the designation of some areas as conservancy lands under BC legislation could be raised in the renewed discussions between all three parties.

Q. What about the community of Willowbrook that was included in previous concept areas for a national park reserve?

A. Parks Canada was not involved in the development of the previous B.C. government's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review. Parks Canada does not include communities within new national park reserves.

Q. What about private lands? Will Parks Canada expropriate?

A. Parks Canada would not expropriate lands for a national parks reserve. Any private lands would be acquired on a willing seller – willing buyer basis.

Q. What about the results from the provincial consultations on their protected areas framework?

A. Parks Canada was not involved in the development of the previous B.C. government's protected areas plan for the South Okanagan, nor involved in its public review.

As we restart discussions, our area of interest will primarily focus on the areas that were the subject of previous consideration. We look forward to working together with the Province of B.C. and the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation to consider a national park reserve proposal in the South Okanagan region.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS
ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISCUSSIONS FOR A PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK
RESERVE IN THE SOUTH OKANAGAN AREA
OSOYOOS, BRITISH COLUMBIA
OCTOBER 27, 2017

VENUE: Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, 1000 Rancher Creek Road (2 km east of Osoyoos), British Columbia



DRESS: casual

OFFICIAL PARTY:

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada

The Honourable George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, British Columbia

Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band and Master of Ceremony (MC)

OFFICIAL PARTY NON-SPEAKING ROLE:

Chief Keith Crow, Lower Similkameen Indian Band

Chief Chad Eneas, Penticton Indian Band

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Okanagan Nation Alliance (TBC)

Osoyoos Indian Band (Elder), Dignitary

PRE-EVENT

8:40 a.m. Minister McKenna, the Honourable George Heyman and the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation (the Lower Similkameen, Osoyoos and Penticton Indian Bands) meet in the lobby of the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre (NDCC).

8:45 a.m. Trilateral meeting with **Minister McKenna**, the **Honourable George Heyman** and **the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation** (meeting room TBD).

Pre-event briefing with **Official Party**

9:45 a.m. End of Trilateral meeting

9:45 a.m. Preparation time for all parties prior to the media event

9:55 a.m. Official party walks outside to the stage under the tent

FORMAL EVENT BEGINS

10:00 a.m. Welcoming remarks by **MC** and invites OIB Elder for opening blessings

10:02 a.m. Opening blessings

10:10 a.m. **MC** thanks the OIB Elder for the blessings and invites **the Honourable Catherine McKenna**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada, and invites her to provide remarks

10:11 a.m. Remarks by the **Honourable Catherine McKenna**

10:16 a.m. **MC** thanks **Minister McKenna** and invites **the Honourable George Heyman**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, British Columbia to provide remarks.

10:17 a.m. Remarks by the **Honourable George Heyman**

10:22 a.m. **MC** thanks **Honourable George Heyman** and invites the three Southern Communities of the Syilx/Okanagan Nation to provide remarks

10:23 a.m. Remarks by **XXXX**

10:28 a.m. **MC** thanks **XXX** and invites the **Official party** to the official hand shake.

10:30 a.m. **MC** makes closing remarks and advises media that the official party is available for a question period off stage.

MC informs media that a media opportunity will follow.

10:31 a.m. Media opportunity moderated by **Jason Bouzanis**, National Communications Director, Parks Canada.

10:45 a.m. Media opportunity ends

END OF FORMAL EVENT

10:45 a.m. Beginning of short walk through NDCC trails and photo opportunity with media (all guests present to the event invited on the walk)

11: 30 a.m. **Minister McKenna's** departure for Kelowna to catch flight to Victoria

Expected attendance: 100

CONTACTS

PARKS CANADA

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THE THREE SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES OF THE SYILX/OKANAGAN NATION

NameS

Title

Phone #

email

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Name

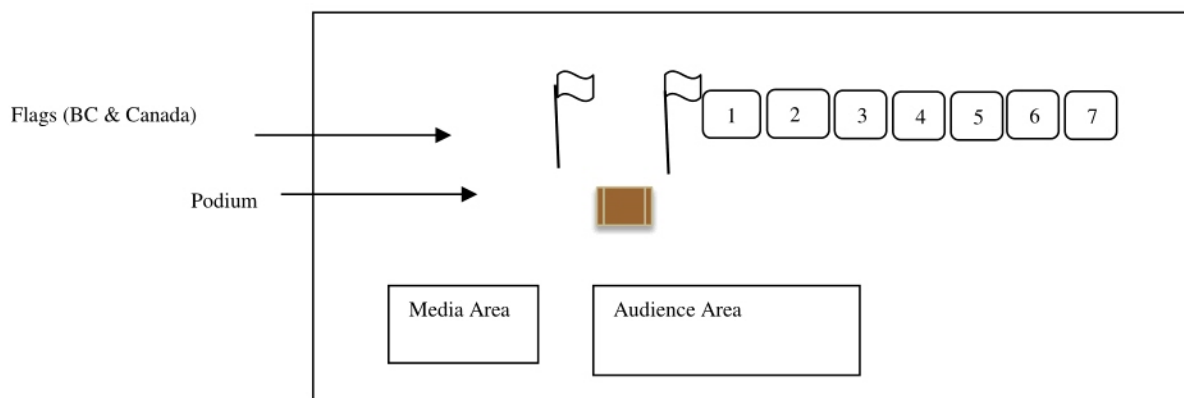
Title

Phone #

email

SEATING PLAN

Podium sign:



Official Party

1. **The Honourable Catherine McKenna**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada
2. **The Honourable George Heyman**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, British Columbia
3. **Chief Clarence Louie**, Osoyoos Indian Band and Master of Ceremony (MC)
4. **Chief Keith Crow**, Lower Similkameen Indian Band
5. **Chief Chad Eneas**, Penticton Indian Band
6. **Grand Chief Stewart Phillip**, Grand Chief, Okanagan Nation Alliance
7. **Osoyoos Indian Band (Elder)**, Dignitary

Speaking Notes

for

Hon. George Heyman
Minister of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
and MLA for Vancouver –Fairview

Protecting Lands in the South Okanagan

Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre
1000 Rancher Creek Road
Osoyoos, B.C.

Friday, October 27, 2017
Time: 10 a.m.

- Thank you, Minister McKenna.
- And thank you all again for being here today, on the beautiful lands of the Osoyoos Indian Band
- I'm pleased to be here with my federal colleague, and the Okanagan Nation communities, as we announce the first steps towards establishing a national park reserve.
- The South Okanagan is a very special place and many British Columbians want to see this unique region protected.
- As a new government, we are listening to the wishes of British Columbians, who have overwhelmingly expressed their desire to have a new national park reserve –and one that incorporates a larger land area.

- We know people are passionate about preserving and protecting these biodiverse lands for future generations.
- This is why we immediately went to work resuming discussions with Parks Canada and the Okanagan Nation communities.
- We recognize there are a diverse range of interests in this area, including hunting, ranching, tourism as well as recreational and cultural aspects.
- And we will be renewing discussions with key stakeholders as we work towards establishing a national park reserve that will contribute positively to local economies.
- We will ensure all of these interests are taken into consideration as we work towards protecting these lands for everyone to admire and enjoy.
- This partnership also represents a valuable opportunity to move forward on reconciliation, and to strengthen nation-to-nation engagement with the Okanagan Nation communities.

- Our government has made reconciliation a priority.
- We have recognized the need to change how government works with Indigenous people.
- That is why we are committed to adopting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which has been adopted by 148 nations, including the federal government.
- The new partnership model we are developing as we jointly work towards establishing a national park reserve highlights our commitment.
- The South Okanagan region is one of the most ecologically-diverse regions in the country – home to more than 60 species at risk.
- To help better protect British Columbia's species at risk, I'm pleased to tell you the Province has committed to developing endangered species legislation.

- This legislation would help protect threatened species which call the South Okanagan home, such as: Swainson's Hawk, the American Badger, or the Blotched Tiger Salamander.
- I look forward to our collective work as we move towards preserving this magnificent landscape for future generations.
- Thank you.

South Okanagan - Speaking Notes

- The South Okanagan is a special place; many British Columbians want to see it protected as a national park reserve.
- As a new government, we immediately went to work resuming discussions with federal government, Okanagan Nation.
- We know there are a range of interests in the area – hunting, fishing, tourism, etc.
- This partnership also represents an opportunity to move forward on reconciliation, UNDRIP.
- The South Okanagan is one of the most ecologically-diverse in the country – home to more than 60 species at risk.
- We are also committed to developing endangered species legislation.
- Future discussions with partners.

