

**From:** s.22

**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Joffre Lakes Park closure

**Sent:** 08/26/2023 03:37:47

**Message Body:**

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

To: George Heyman, BC Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Re: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/british-columbia/article-first-nations-shutting-down-bcs-joffre-lakes-park-for-more-than-a/#comments>

I was alarmed to read an article in the Globe & Mail online news, August 25, 2023, with the heading "First Nations 'shutting down' B.C.'s Joffre Lakes Park for more than a month."

The province is making a very grave error in allowing this closure to occur. It sounds as if the BC government is allowing native bands to dictate what will and will not occur in BC parks. You are setting a dangerous precedent. Will every BC park now be in peril of being shut down by natives for "cultural activities"?

Incidents such as this are discriminatory – not to mention antagonistic – against anyone who is non-native, and who has a right to the full use of a BC park that is funded by taxpayers' money.

What will be blockaded and shut down next for natives to "take time to harvest and gather resources"?

Yours truly,

s.22

**From:** s.22

**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Joffre Park

**Sent:** 08/26/2023 01:37:50

**Message Body:**

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

The 2 First Nations bands have No authority to close the park to the public. On the news it says your ministry is in talks with them. This is illegal and I suggest you mobilize the RCMP immediately and have the blockade removed. The whole province is watching and waiting for you to take action. What if another group wants to shut down Stanley Park? Time is of the essence. I saw the park rangers saying only First Nations were allowed into the park. Are you in favor of discrimination? Because that's what this is. Public parks are for the public. All the public.

s.22

Port Coquitlam

From my I Pad

**From:** s.22

**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca); OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX (Premier@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Closure of Joffrey Lakes public park

**Sent:** 08/25/2023 23:58:39

**Message Body:**

**[EXTERNAL]** This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Honourable George Heyman,  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Honourable David Eby,  
Premier of British Columbia

Dear Minister Heyman and Premier Eby,

The articles below have left me shaking my head.

Our public parks being closed to us by indigenous communities is very disturbing and needs to be addressed immediately.

You know, as does everyone who follows native issues in the media, that this is a precedent-setting move by First Nations. If these two bands are allowed to close a public park just for their own use and enjoyment, then there will be many such closures by many like-minded native groups.

Please make 'reconciliation' mean more than giving up public lands that we've used and enjoyed with freedom in the past.

Yours truly,

s.22

Vancouver Island

<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/bc-first-nations-shutting-down-access-joffre-lake-park-harvest-celebration>

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/first-nations-shutting-down-access-to-popular-b-c-park-until-sept-30-1.6534009>

**From:** s.22

**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Joffre lakes closure

**Sent:** 08/25/2023 23:34:29

**Message Body:**

Good afternoon Minister Heyman,

As the minister responsible for parks, I am hoping that you have the park closure of Joffre Lakes Park on your radar. Your government has closed the park with zero notice, with no reason (they say unanticipated circumstances?). BC Parks are for all residents of the province, I think it is ridiculous that the First Nations can shut down access to the park and keep out people from recreating when there is no solid reason to do so. The only reason given is for the harvest, but no justification as to why that can't occur in tandem with recreational use.

Why is access to our parks being taken away from us?

Regards,

s.22



**From:** s.22

**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Joffre Lakes

**Sent:** 08/25/2023 20:21:51

**Message Body:**

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hello George ,

Enough with the FN ruling our province, this closure is TOTAL BS!

The FN get so many hand outs, it will never be enough. Government treats FN's with so much bias , We must ALL be treated as equals, anything different creates division, This must end before something explodes!

The Joffre Lakes are a provincial park which should be accessible to ALL British Columbians.

You are the Minister... DO SOMETHING!!!

s.22

Port Coquitlam

**From:** s.22

**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Joffre Lakes

**Sent:** 08/25/2023 18:43:08

**Message Body:**

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

What is going on? How is a publicly funded park (on a number of levels, including SAR, Police, Park Maintenance, Roads/Highways leading to/from, etc.) being held hostage for a month so a small minority of people can hunt or gather medicinal herbs (I have heard varying things).

You need to get into this and stop this sort of thing from happening. It \*isn't\* good for reconciliation, and will simply stoke anger and resentment more. It's a dangerous precedent. I am visiting a BC Park with my family this weekend, and have booked hundreds of dollars worth of accommodations (near Pacific Rim National Park)...could the same thing happen there?

Where does this end?

Figure it out, or you will lose my vote and everyone who puts the vague and poorly described needs of a few above the needs of taxpayers who fund our wonderful parks.

s.22

**From:** s.22

**To:** ParkInfo ENV:EX (parkinfo@gov.bc.ca); Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Re: Joffre Park 'closure'

**Sent:** 08/25/2023 18:40:39

**Message Body:**

Dear BC Parks and Minister Heyman,

I am writing today to voice my disgust and displeasure at native groups unilaterally closing a PUBLIC BC Park and your Ministry seemingly allowing it.

This is a ridiculous situation and just because the Ministry has entered into park co-management agreements with the native groups does not give them the power to try and enact this type of closure.

The native groups DONT have any court sanctioned Right or Title...they do not have a successful land claim case....this is Crown land not native land.

It is time for your Ministry to inform the natives involved that this type of attempt at control over the land wont be sanctioned or allowed.

It is indeed ironic that the natives unilaterally decided this without any input or fore knowledge by government or the park users...something that natives complained about for decades: no consultation.

Not only is this a bad decision but it is also a really bad precedent and one can only imagine what new restrictions native groups will be thinking of implementing next if this is allowed.

To repeat: stand up for the BC public, park users, and rule of law by stopping this ridiculous unilateral announcement.

s.22

s.22

**From:** s.22

**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX (Premier@gov.bc.ca); contact@bcndp.ca

**Cc:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca); Karn, David GCPE:EX (David.Karn@gov.bc.ca);  
Borghese, Matthew GCPE:EX (Matthew.Borghese@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Joffre lakes Closure

**Sent:** 08/25/2023 17:55:47

**Message Body:**

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I find it completely unacceptable that the First nations arbitrarily closed down Joffre Lakes Park to Tax Paying residents of BC.

This is unacceptable, and creating a divide in our society that is the last things we need.

This action by First nations directly punishes Canadians which had no part in the colonization or hardships caused during the early development of our country.

I implore the BC government to take action against this unlawful closure. The first nations are now testing the resolve of citizens and government to see where they will "close" the next park or "lands" for their next "stand" against those that did nothing against them!

This is going to escalate VERY quickly as we approach hunting season.

If this is not resolved, I could see this could become a much larger issue than a park closure!

s.22

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**From:** s.22

**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Joffe Lakes Park Closure

**Sent:** 08/25/2023 17:55:11

**Attachments:** August-23rd-2023-Letter-Harvest-Celebration-for-Pipi7iyekw.pdf

**Message Body:**

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

s.22

Dear Minister,

I have read that Joffe Lakes Park is closed, or going to be closed:

"The Lilwat Nation and N'Quatqua First Nation are jointly shutting down the public access to Pipi7iyekw - Joffe Lakes Park until National Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30th, 2023." (See attachemnent)

The letter quotes part of the Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia, 2014 SCC 44 case, but fails to take proper notice of this holding:

"[71] What remains, then, of the Crown's radical or underlying title to lands held under Aboriginal title? The authorities suggest two related elements — a fiduciary duty owed by the Crown to Aboriginal people when dealing with Aboriginal lands, and the right to encroach on Aboriginal title if the government can justify this in the broader public interest under s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Court in Delgamuukw referred to this as a process of reconciling Aboriginal interests with the broader public interests under s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982."

If they rely on Tsilhqot'in, then no declaration of aboriginal title has been made out to this park, which was the point to the case. While the landscape has certainly evolved since that case, and there is certainly a duty upon the Crown to resolve land claims, there is no unilateral right of First Nations to blockade roads or other public rights of way, such as roads and those rights of way in provincial parks. It is also clear that this decision does not grant unilateral sovereignty to indigenous peoples.

Also, to illustrate the complexity of the issue, I quote my Nation's position delivered to the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Committee of the House of Commons of Canada:

"We are a sovereign indigenous nation. In our cosmology we live in the light. We are governed by our ancient oral law which is our sovereign and our inheritance. We are a nomadic people so we have a relationship to time and to space that is different than many peoples. When your study talks about restitution of lands what we think you really mean is restitution of some sort of interest in lands. In your law, for example, you say fee simple which means lawful inheritance. An estate is a time in the land and a fee simple is time in the land without end. In your law the crown grants fee simple estates and enforces them in its courts. We might say that part of Canada's business is granting fee simple estates and enforcing them. These crown estates have destroyed our ability to live according to our ancient oral law. Consider the Nisga'a final agreement. It says that fee simple is the highest estate known in law but it also defines law to exclude Nisga'a Ayuuk or Nisga'a traditional law.



...

As a sovereign nation we have the right to self-government. Many nations, including the French, British, and the United States of America, have drawn lines all over the maps of our traditional territory which includes, without limitation, the continent of North America and its adjacent waters. The nation's view is that we have the right to self-government within the light.

Traditional territories may overlap and this doesn't pose a problem. Here, for international relations purposes, we have used the term, traditional territory, but in our cosmology we say we live in the light and we flow through it. By traditional territory we don't mean an exclusive dominion. We say 'without limitation' because our ancient oral law has always guided us as we have moved from place to place.

Our ancient oral law has never confined us."

(<https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ourcommons.ca%2FContent%2FCommittee%2F441%2FINAN%2FBrief%2FBRI2564005%2Fbr-external%2Fs.22e.pdf&data=05%7C01%7CENV.Minister%40gov.bc.ca%7C691d1b16ae184714fdf108dba5946f2a%7C6fdb52003d0d4a8ab036d3685e359adc%7C0%7C0%7C638285829314479856%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5ks3X%2BIOO21WB24ortgX5cgtCz6chi1mdtP OPfbsyew%3D&reserved=0>)

The asserted power to close a large area, such as a Park, unilaterally, conflicts with my Nation's position---in real political terms, these conflicts will be adjudicated by the Crown, on the United Nations principle of territorial integrity and political unity, which, I note, UNDRIP confirms:

"Article 46

1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States" (Article 46 section 1)

This is not to say that sovereignty of indigenous peoples and nations is never an issue: but it does mean that, in real political terms, that sovereignty is under limitation by the (perhaps de facto) sovereignty, of the Crown.

I am not writing on behalf of the Nation, but my understanding of our position, which is a matter of public record, is that these matters are far more complex than the assertion that the Supreme Court of Canada has granted certain First Nations "sovereignty" or the right to unilaterally obstruct public rights of way.

My suggestion is that this sort of unilateral blockade is not in the spirit of reconciliation, which involves give and take on both sides---it is not a return to some imagined status quo prior to Crown sovereignty. One should point out that prior to Crown sovereignty, if one indigenous peoples obstructed another, there were no territorial courts to prevent the use of war to settle the matter. My people are pacific, we did not do that if we could avoid it, but the issue is far more complex than a return to some imagined pre-Crown legal order that will be enforced, practically speaking by the Crown and its Courts.

The work involves meaningful, multilateral work from all peoples concerned. The Crown has a duty to protect the rights of all indigenous peoples, and this includes protection of, for example s.22 ancient oral law from derogation by other indigenous peoples.

Kind Regards,



This message is intended for addressed recipients only. If you have received it in error, please delete it and notify me.



August 23, 2023

**RE: Pipi7iyekw - Joffre Lakes Park – Harvest Celebration for Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua First Nation**

In this time of reconciliation, Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua First Nation are asserting our Title and Rights to our shared unceded territory to take this time to harvest and gather our resources within our territories. Our goal is to ensure our well-being for our future. We are asking you to help in honoring us by providing us with sufficient time and space that we require to conduct our N'takmen within our lands.

With the development of the Visitor Use Management Strategy (2021), in support of Visitor Use Management Action Plan (2019), jointly undertaken by Lil'wat Nation, N'Quatqua First Nation, BC Parks; with the support of Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development, and the Ministry of Transportation; listed under the goals and objectives of this document it states the following goals.

**Goal one: Recognition of First Nations Territories & Increased Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua First Nation Stewardship**

Support Lil'wat and N'Quatqua traditional use activities

1.3.3 – Support community access for berry picking, food sustenance, and other traditional use activities.

1.3.4 – Encourage Lil'wat and N'Quatqua Nations to utilize park spaces and identify and explore ways to address potential barriers to access.

**Goal two: Celebrate First Nations Culture throughout the Park.**

Support Lil'wat and N'Quatqua Nation's spiritual and ceremonial activities

2.2.1 – Ensure opportunities for Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua First Nation ceremonial activities to take place within the park.

2.2.2 – Educate park users on respectful behavior when ceremonies are occurring.

Furthermore, Article 18 in the *United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples* (2007), it states, Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures. The UN Declaration responds to the urgent necessity of respecting the right of Indigenous peoples, as peoples and nations, to make our own decisions about our lives and our futures, through our governments and representative institutions.



Pipi7iyekw - Joffre Lakes Park is located within the shared, overlapping unceded traditional territory of the Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua First Nation. These lands have been used and occupied by the Lil'wat and N'Quatqua since time immemorial.

The Lil'wat Nation asserts unextinguished title to its traditional territory, sovereignty over its traditional territory, and a right to self-determination. The Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua First Nation's aboriginal rights, including title, are protected under s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed in the Tsilhqot'in decision that aboriginal title is real and meaningful, territorial in nature, and that First Nation consent is required for the use of its aboriginal title lands and resources. The decision also specifically states that aboriginal title confers:

... the right to decide how the land will be used; the right of the enjoyment and occupancy of the land; the right to possess the land; the right to economic benefits of the land; and the right to pro-actively use and manage the land. (at para. 73).

In keeping with the above stated, Lil'wat Nation and N'Quatqua First Nation are jointly shutting down the public access to Pipi7iyekw - Joffre Lakes Park until National Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Kukwstumúhklap, (*Thank you*)

**Kukwpi Skalulmecw, Dean Nelson**

**Kukwpi, Micah Thevarge**

**From:** s.22

**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Joffre Lakes

**Sent:** 08/25/2023 16:42:46

**Message Body:**

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Dear Minister,

I recently read an article about Joffre Lakes being shut down by indigenous groups until September 30th. As a resident of BC and tax paying citizen, this makes me angry. How is it that this group is able to dictate access to a park that belongs to the public. I urge the NDP to reopen the park for all to enjoy immediately. I'm an NDP supporter but I think this is an issue that's too important to overlook. It sets a terrible precedent. You must reopen the park.

Thank you,

s.22



**From:** s.22

**To:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX (ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

**Subject:** Joffre park

**Sent:** 08/25/2023 06:51:53

**Message Body:**

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear Sir,

I am shocked to hear that two native bands closed down a BC park and intend to do so until end of September on the federal workers day off.

So when do these people have the right to close BC parks and why do you agree that the park is not accessible to the public?

I am a BC citizen and tax payer. That gives me the right to access any park I want to at any time and any where. Why are you cowering to a group that decides they are asserting title and rights to their territory for their harvest. Harvest what? When did they get territorial rights over a provincial park?

If these people think they have a claim they can fight it out in court.

This has gone too far and as minister I demand that you support my right to access this park.

To offer refunds to people with day passes is unacceptable.

If you allow these native bands to close down provincial parks now, what's next?

This is utter bullshit and you should step up like a man and confront these bands and protect BC citizens rights not bend over.

You came from a Union background and I was there when you were at the mics at the BC Fed and CLC conventions loudly and firmly standing up for your members rights.

Now is the time to do it again.

They want reconciliation? Well this is not the way to do it.

Asserting rights in closing off access to provincial parks is illegal in my opinion and the police should be called in to arrest anybody that stops the public from entering the parks now or any other time.

By telling the public that the park is not accessible is not true. I'm sure there will be people there to access the park regardless and I don't think they will be or should be arrested especially if you do nothing to the people who think they have a right to stop the access.

Let's see what you're going to do.

Bend over to the two native bands that are puffing their chests and threatening to close access to provincial lands or the citizens of this province who pay the taxes that run and maintain these parks.

It's my culture too to have access to my provincially owned lands and parks.

It's time to put on your big panties George.

I will watch the news again to see what your next step is.

s.22

BC citizen and tax payer

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Rhodes, Angie ENV:EX (Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX (Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca)  
**Cc:** Meadows, Jennifer L ENV:EX (Jennifer.Meadows@gov.bc.ca); Lo, Reamick ENV:EX (Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca); Dunlop, Elyssa ENV:EX (Elyssa.Dunlop@gov.bc.ca); Claire, Shahbaz ENV:EX (Shahbaz.Claire@gov.bc.ca); Bragg, Nicolas ENV:EX (Nicolas.Bragg@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** Materials: MGH IN | Lil'Wat & N'Quatqua Nations closure request  
**Sent:** 08/24/2023 15:41:04  
**Attachments:** Information Bullets -s.13; s.16  
**Message Body:**

Hello,

Please find attached, materials for Minister's information.

**Topic:** Lil'Wat & N'Quatqua Nations closure request

**Materials:** CARD

Thank you,

Angie Rhodes

Issues and Administrative Coordinator

Deputy Minister Office of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

[Angie.rhodes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Angie.rhodes@gov.bc.ca) 778-698-8523



Page 02 of 21 to/à Page 03 of 21

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

**From:** Standen, Jim ENV:EX (Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Salter, Shannon PREM:EX (Shannon.Salter@gov.bc.ca)  
**Cc:** Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX (Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca); McCarthy, Tom IRR:EX (Tom.McCarthy@gov.bc.ca); Prince, Jessica PREM:EX (Jessica.Prince@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** FW: Response re: Pipi7iyekw Harvest Celebration  
**Sent:** 08/25/2023 06:14:28  
**Attachments:** August 23rd 2023-Letter- Harvest Celebration for Pipi7iyekw.pdf, image001.png, Response re Pipi7iyekw Harvest Celebration.pdf  
**Message Body:**

FYI.

**From:** Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 11:12 PM  
**To:** s.16  
**Cc:** McCarthy, Tom IRR:EX <Tom.McCarthy@gov.bc.ca>; Standen, Jim ENV:EX <Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca>; Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>; Kamper, Carolyn IRR:EX <Carolyn.Kamper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Response re: Pipi7iyekw Harvest Celebration

s.13; s.16

Regards

**Jim Standen** (he/him)  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Conservation and Recreation Division | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
250-387-1288 | Jim.Standen@gov.bc.ca  
I feel fortunate to live and work on the traditional territory of the Secwepemc peoples.

Page 05 of 21 to/à Page 16 of 21

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

#### Day Use Pass Holders

Good evening BC Parks visitor,

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are having to cancel all Day Use Passes for Joffre Lakes Parks for Friday August 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>. As you currently hold passes for one of these two days, we are writing to inform you of the necessary cancellation of your passes. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and hope that you will look to visit Joffre Lakes Park in the future.

Best,

BC Parks Information Team

#### Reservations

Good evening BC Parks visitor,

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are having to cancel all Backcountry camping reservations for Joffre Lakes Parks for Friday August 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>. As you currently hold passes for one of these two days, we are writing to inform you of the necessary cancellation of your reservation. You will of course be fully refunded all of your camping and reservation fees.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and hope that you will look to visit Joffre Lakes Park in the future.

Best,

BC Parks Information Team

Page 18 of 21 to/à Page 20 of 21

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

**From:** Meadows, Jennifer L ENV:EX (Jennifer.Meadows@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Jardine, Kevin ENV:EX (Kevin.Jardine@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** FYI: Materials: MGH IN | Lil'Wat & N'Quatqua Nations closure request  
**Sent:** 08/24/2023 15:50:19  
**Attachments:** Information Bullets : s.13; s.16  
**Message Body:**

Kevin, just sharing for you as this issue has also been flagged for Shannon.

**From:** Rhodes, Angie ENV:EX <Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 8:41 AM  
**To:** Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Meadows, Jennifer L ENV:EX <Jennifer.Meadows@gov.bc.ca>; Lo, Reamick ENV:EX <Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca>; Dunlop, Elyssa ENV:EX <Elyssa.Dunlop@gov.bc.ca>; Claire, Shahbaz ENV:EX <Shahbaz.Claire@gov.bc.ca>; Bragg, Nicolas ENV:EX <Nicolas.Bragg@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Materials: MGH IN | Lil'Wat & N'Quatqua Nations closure request  
**Importance:** High

Hello,

Please find attached, materials for Minister's information.

**Topic:** Lil'Wat & N'Quatqua Nations closure request  
**Materials:** CARD

Thank you,

Angie Rhodes  
Issues and Administrative Coordinator  
Deputy Minister Office of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Angie.rhodes@gov.bc.ca 778-698-8523



**From:** Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX (Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Bragg, Nicolas ENV:EX (Nicolas.Bragg@gov.bc.ca); Lo, Reamick ENV:EX (Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Prep for 9 am call with s.16  
**Sent:** 08/25/2023 04:00:14  
**Attachments:** s.13; s.16  
**Message Body:**

FYI on where we are at.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 8:25:42 PM  
**To:** Heyman, George ENV:EX <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Prep for 9 am call with s.16

Minister,

We were not able to secure a room in the convention centre I'm afraid. Reamick is securing you a private room at VCO for the conversation. A quick phone conversation prior to the call tomorrow may be helpful to fill out approach further. Alternatively, I can send some further text updates in the AM.

s.13; s.16

For your background:

Sharing media response on the Joffre Lakes closure. The story on CTV has yet to be updated to include it:  
<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/first-nations-shutting-down-access-to-popular-b-c-park-until-sept-30-1.6534009>

### Media Response

BC Parks was recently made aware of unanticipated circumstances at Joffre Lake Park. As a result, the park is currently not accessible to the public.

People with Day Passes will not be able to access the Park on Friday August 25 and Saturday August 26 at this time. Everyone who had a Day Pass for those days has been contacted directly to advise them that the park is not accessible on those days. We also will not be opening bookings for Day Passes for Sunday August 27th at this time.

We are also having to cancel all Backcountry camping reservations for Friday August 25th, Saturday August 26th and Sunday August 27th. People will be fully refunded automatically. If people's trip extends beyond these three days, please call the call centre for assistance in modifying your reservation: 1-800-689-9025. We are currently in the process of contacting everyone who had camping reservations on those dates.

If the situation changes and access to the Park re-opens, we will contact people who had Day Passes and Backcountry passes directly.

We recognize the impact that this has on people's plans on short-notice. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate people's understanding.

All the best,

Charlie

**Charlie Brenchley (he/him)**

Chief of Staff to the Honourable George Heyman

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Mobile: (250) 208-0542

Page 03 of 11 to/à Page 04 of 11

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16



**From:** Rhodes, Angie ENV:EX (Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca)  
**To:** Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX (Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca)  
**Cc:** Meadows, Jennifer L ENV:EX (Jennifer.Meadows@gov.bc.ca); Lo, Reamick ENV:EX (Reamick.Lo@gov.bc.ca); Dunlop, Elyssa ENV:EX (Elyssa.Dunlop@gov.bc.ca); Claire, Shibby ENV:EX (Shibby.Claire@gov.bc.ca); Bragg, Nicolas ENV:EX (Nicolas.Bragg@gov.bc.ca)  
**Subject:** Materials: MGH IN | Lil'Wat & N'Quatqua Nations closure request  
**Sent:** 08/24/2023 15:41:04  
**Attachments:** Information Bullets - [s.13](#); [s.16](#)  
**Message Body:**

Hello,

Please find attached, materials for Minister's information.

**Topic:** Lil'Wat & N'Quatqua Nations closure request

**Materials:** CARD

Thank you,

Angie Rhodes

Issues and Administrative Coordinator

Deputy Minister Office of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

[Angie.rhodes@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Angie.rhodes@gov.bc.ca) 778-698-8523

**From:** [Heyman, George ENV:EX](#)  
**To:** [Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Prep for 9 am call with **s.16**  
**Date:** August 25, 2023 6:46:10 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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If we can get Tom McCarthy on at 8:30 (8:25 even better) that would be great

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**From:** Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 11:00:24 PM  
**To:** Heyman, George ENV:EX <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Prep for 9 am call with **s.16**

Perfect. Will call you at 830 on the car phone.

C

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**From:** Heyman, George ENV:EX <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 9:14:45 PM  
**To:** Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Prep for 9 am call with **s.16**

Talk while km driving downtown? Call me at 8:30 at 694 number?

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**From:** Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX <Charlie.Brenchley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 8:25:42 PM  
**To:** Heyman, George ENV:EX <George.Heyman@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Prep for 9 am call with **s.16**

Minister,

We were not able to secure a room in the convention centre I'm afraid. Reamick is securing you a private room at VCO for the conversation. A quick phone conversation prior to the call tomorrow may be helpful to fill out approach further. Alternatively, I can send some further text updates in the AM.

**s.13; s.16**



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For your background:

Sharing media response on the Joffre Lakes closure. The story on CTV has yet to be updated to include it: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/first-nations-shutting-down-access-to-popular-b-c-park-until-sept-30-1.6534009>

## **Media Response**

BC Parks was recently made aware of unanticipated circumstances at Joffre Lake Park. As a result, the park is currently not accessible to the public.

People with Day Passes will not be able to access the Park on Friday August 25 and Saturday August 26 at this time. Everyone who had a Day Pass for those days has been contacted directly to advise them that the park is not accessible on those days. We also will not be opening bookings for Day Passes for Sunday August 27th at this time.

We are also having to cancel all Backcountry camping reservations for Friday August 25th, Saturday August 26th and Sunday August 27th. People will be fully refunded automatically. If people's trip extends beyond these three days, please call the call centre for assistance in modifying your reservation: 1-800-689-9025. We are currently in the process of contacting everyone who had camping reservations on those dates.

If the situation changes and access to the Park re-opens, we will contact people who had Day Passes and Backcountry passes directly.

We recognize the impact that this has on people's plans on short-notice. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate people's understanding.

All the best,

Charlie



**Charlie Brenchley (he/him)**

Chief of Staff to the Honourable George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Mobile: (250) 208-0542

**From:** [Brenchley, Charlie ENV:EX](#)  
**To:** [Heyman, George ENV:EX](#)  
**Subject:** Draft Statement for approval - Joffre Lakes situation  
**Date:** August 25, 2023 3:46:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi Minister,

s.13

Thank you,



**Charlie Brenchley (he/him)**

Chief of Staff to the Honourable George Heyman  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Mobile: (250) 208-0542

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2023-

32269

Canada