



Fast Facts

The following fact sheet is intended to help you answer questions you may receive from visitors to Prince Albert National Park.

Research Results Indicate Local Residents would like greater role in planning and decision-making

“Learning about each other: mechanisms for collaboration in park management”

1. A multi park research study of communities titled, **“Learning about each other: Mechanisms for collaboration in Park Management”**, aimed at improving park management by increasing understanding of how local communities and Parks Canada can work better together to manage parks, was conducted.
2. **The purpose of the study was to identify the interests of rural residents in meaningful ways to collaborate with rural residents in park management planning.**
3. **Results indicate:**
 - a. While there is strong support for the protection of biodiversity and habitats in the park, there is clearly a desire by residents for the park to share planning and decision-making roles with the local people
 - b. Respondents support the protection of plants, animals and the landscape
 - c. Respondents believe there are opportunities for improved relationship building
 - d. Respondents had concerns about fees and would like to see conservation balanced with development (for Prince Albert National Park)
4. **Recommendations include:**
 - a. Parks Canada should take time to inform local residents about issues and decisions before and after formal consultation
 - b. Parks Canada should ensure staff are available to explain decisions and positions taken
 - c. Parks Canada should actively recruit volunteers to participate in general activities and in specific planning and management activities
 - d. Parks Canada should view itself as a regional stakeholder, along with other groups
 - e. Parks Canada should ensure communication is easily understandable and should use a variety of communication methods
5. **Parks Canada is taking steps to implement a number of the recommendations** including establishing stewardship initiatives (where park staff work shoulder to shoulder with stakeholders), establishing a multi-stakeholder advisory group and working with key stakeholder groups, establishing volunteer groups to assist with projects such as trail maintenance, holding community meetings to keep the public informed, researching the ways visitors use and enjoy the park so that we can align services and facilities with visitor needs. More information will be made available as initiatives unfold.

For more information about this research project or to obtain a copy of the report, contact Norman Stolle, Parks Canada, at Tel. 306 663 4532.

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