

To : All Parks Canada Employees

From : Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada

Since becoming CEO of the Parks Canada Agency in August 2002, my main priority has been to bring our financial house in order so that the women and men of the Parks Canada team can continue to protect and present our national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas to the level of excellence that Canadians have come to expect of us. We have a financial strategy which is progressing and has seen success, for example with the approval of a majority of sustainable business plans and funding for new park establishment which was received in the 2003 Budget.

In support of these initiatives, senior managers of the Agency including members of the Executive Board, Field Units Superintendents and Directors developed and implemented an aggressive stakeholder engagement strategy over the past 24 months, seizing all opportunities to achieve our objectives.

I am pleased to report that following the tabling of the Federal Budget yesterday; we have substantially met the vast majority of our financial objectives. Yesterday's budget included an overall increase to Parks Canada's Budget of \$315M over 5 years and a permanent increase thereafter to our annual budget of \$98M broken down as follows:

1. \$209M over 5 years and \$75M per year thereafter to protect our National Historic Sites and rehabilitate our visitor facilities and interpretive assets in National Parks and NMCAs. Existing budget was \$40M annually. Therefore the long term annual permanent funding will reach \$115M.
2. Additional increase of \$60M over 5 years and \$15M per year thereafter to implement the Parks Canada Action Plan in response to the Ecological Integrity Panel Report. This is in addition to the \$75M over 5 years and \$25M per year thereafter that we had secured in the 2003 budget. Therefore, the long-term annual permanent funding increase will reach \$40M in 2007/2008.
3. \$46M over 5 years and \$8M per year thereafter to complete and maintain the Canadian Register of Historic Places, support the certification process and continue agreements with provinces and territories for the Historic Places Initiative.

Since the initial financial strategy was developed in 2002, Parks Canada will now have secured a grand total increase of more than half a billion dollars over 5 years to its budget and an annual permanent increase of \$155M or 42% of our 2002/2003 budget.

I am also pleased to report that the Federal Budget also announced the results of the Expenditure Review Exercise and that Parks Canada is one of the very few organizations that have been exempted from any further reductions. You may recall that through this review, the Federal Government asked all Departments and Agencies to submit proposals for reallocation amounting to 5% of their annual budget. In the case of Parks Canada, this represented a potential annual reduction of \$14.7M per year.

The remaining immediate challenge is to develop initiatives with you to address issues raised through the Employee Survey. Over the upcoming months, I am seeking your involvement in working with me in finding the solutions that will continue to build up the

Parks Canada team and assure that our successes do not stop, but rather continue to build on the results of yesterday's and previous successes.

In closing, the results of yesterday's positive Budget results are due in most part to three key elements:

1. The strong commitment to National Historic Sites, National Parks and NMCAs demonstrated by Minister Stéphane Dion and Parliamentary Secretary Bryon Wilfert.
2. The stakeholder engagement strategy implemented across the country.
3. Parks Canada's reputation of excellence in protecting and presenting the nation's National Historic Sites, National Parks and National Marine Conservation areas. This has been achieved by you, the men and women that make up this great organization.

Today is my proudest day as the CEO of Parks Canada and as a Public Servant because, after more than a decade of challenges and budget reductions, the Parks Canada Agency is entering a new era of optimism, based on a solid financial basis that will allow us to provide memorable experiences to future visitors while protecting these national treasures.

Alan Latourelle

Reminder to Managers: In keeping with Parks Canada's Employee Communications Policy, managers are responsible for ensuring all employees under their responsibility receive the information intended for them.

For employees without access to e-mail or the Intranet, it is important that you find a means to transmit this message, e.g. by posting or circulating a paper copy.