

September 8, 2010

Parks Canada Agency
Prince Albert National Park
P.O.B. 100
Waskesiu Lake, Saskatchewan
Canada
S0J 2Y0

Attention: Mr. Alan Fehr, Superintendent

Dear Mr. Fehr;

Re: Save Our Spruce (SOS)

At the 2010 Annual meeting of The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association Inc. a resolution concerning spraying to combat the spruce budworm was unanimously approved by all in attendance. This resolution read as follows, "That The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association Inc. expressly request the Waskesiu Community Council/ Parks Canada implement a program to control spruce budworm infestation in the Waskesiu town site including spraying BTK if necessary". As a result, at the August meeting of the Board of The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association (WSRA) the Board unanimously agreed to request the expeditious attention to the growing spruce budworm damage.

Beginning in 2003 a three year spraying program was conducted to reduce the number of budworm in the Waskesiu town site. The goal was not to eradicate the budworm but rather to reduce populations of budworm to improve the health of the white spruce (thereby giving them a fighting chance to survive and thus maintain the character of the town site as required by the Community Plan).

As a result of this three year spraying campaign with Foray 48B (active ingredient *Bacillus Thuringiensis Kukstaki*, BTK) the defoliation in the town site was reduced from over 60 per cent to 5 to 10 percent. Since that time annual reviews have been conducted by Parks Canada to determine the ongoing health of the white spruce. In 2007, 3 of the 16 plots being monitored had a defoliation level over 40 per cent. In 2008, 5 of the plots showed over 40 per cent, and in 2009, 6 of the plots were over 40 per cent. In 2009, Parks Canada reported that the white

THE WASKESIU SEASONAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

spruce in the town site had significant defoliation and were declining in health although overall their health was rated as fair to good.

In 2010, it is clear that while there are areas within the town site that are currently withstanding the infestation satisfactorily, it is equally true that there are many parts of the town site which are under severe stress and which are unfortunately, often in high profile/traffic locations. This includes the downtown itself, along the Lake, and between and among cabins and cottages.

Several years ago the policy of protecting the spruce trees in the town site was established to maintain its character as per the Community Plan. As a result of the declining situation and the fact that 6 to 7 years of budworm attack kill the white spruce we ask that Parks Canada seriously consider spraying the town site in 2011, six years since the last spraying occurred. The WSRA respectfully requests that this be affirmed by Parks Canada and that it expeditiously plan next spring's implementation of same. Should you feel that a meeting is required to clarify our concerns we would be happy to meet with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

John Stevenson
President
The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association Inc.

Cc. Waskesiu Community Council: Attention Chairperson