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Prince Albert National Park
PO Box 100
Waskesiu Lake, SK
S0J 2Y0

John Stevenson, President
The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association
Box 254
Waskesiu Lake, SK
S0J 2Y0

February 15, 2011

Dear John:

Thank you for your February 3, 2011 letter and the accompanying 2011 spruce budworm report by BioForest Technologies. I would like to start by expressing my appreciation for the high level of interest that the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association has for the Waskesiu forest and its willingness to work towards maintaining the character and aesthetic appeal of the community.

For the sake of the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association members, I think I should describe how the Waskesiu Community Council (the Council) and Parks Canada came to the November 2010 decision to pursue Option 1 of four options. In October 2010, Parks Canada ecologist Jeff Weir presented the results of the October 2010 spruce health monitoring survey to the Council. Jeff provided four forest management options to the Council for consideration. They are as follows:

- Option 1 takes a long-term approach, focussing on planting, fencing and community involvement in planting. This is the current management option in use by the Park. For example, in September 2010, approximate 30 young spruce trees (10 to 15 feet tall) were planted throughout the core area of the town;
- Option 2 focuses on the ground application of pesticide within the core area (100 ha);
- Option 3 focuses on aerial application within the core area; and
- Option 4 would see the previously treated area (310 ha) sprayed aerially again.

We recommended Option 1 to the Council because it is a long-term approach, is the most cost effective, and takes into consideration the many other funding pressures facing the Council and Parks Canada. Infrastructure recapitalization and steadily increasing operational costs have been and will continue to be inescapable budget realities for both organizations.



Further, over the past several years, it has been observed that the majority of tree mortality has come from windfall, development on leasehold sites, and removal of hazardous trees on both leasehold sites and Park land. Many Association members will recall that a large number of the trees in the core area were planted over the past several decades. Consequently, continuing this effort is very much in the historical tradition, with good results that we can see around us in the townsite.

The Waskesiu Community Council, as the elected advisory body for Waskesiu, plays a key role in the management of the townsite, and in this role recommended to Parks Canada that we adopt Option 1 and continue with the planting and fencing program. In order to respect the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Park and Council, and also out of courtesy to the Council, we will convey your request to Council and ask if they wish to reconsider their recommendation of last fall. We will communicate your request promptly to ensure that the matter is resolved in a timely way.

Thank you again for your letter and we look forward to working with the Association on this and other matters that help us achieve our mutually held goals for Waskesiu.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Fehr".

Alan Fehr
Superintendent

Cc: Bryan Matheson, Chair, Waskesiu Community Council
Terry Schneider, Townsite Manager, Prince Albert National Park
Pat Dunn, External Relations Manager, Prince Albert National Park