

Dear Mr. Boyd:

Thank you for your email of May 20, 2014, regarding the proposed establishment of backcountry cabins between Jackson and Kinnaird Lakes in Lakeland Provincial Park. I appreciate the opportunity to respond

I recognize that you and your organization feel that Parks Division has not provided adequate consultation. You will be pleased to know that my department initiated a 60-day public comment period on May 8, 2014, on the proposal to build five backcountry cabins within Lakeland Provincial Park. Albertans are being invited to share their comments, suggestions and concerns regarding this proposal, online at www.albertaparks.ca/consult, by email, or through regular mail. ParkNews subscribers (1,234 members of the public/organizations) and several key stakeholders were notified of the opportunity to provide input on this proposal via email, a direct phone call and/or a letter. When surveyed, Albertans indicated a preference for email and web-based consultation on issues related to Alberta's parks. In response, we focus our public consultations online. Feedback on the proposal will be collected until July 7, 2014.

In addition, my ministry recognizes the potential importance of this proposal to local communities. Therefore, Parks Division is enhancing public awareness by placing ads in the *Lac La Biche Post*, *Bonnyville Nouvelle*, *St. Paul Journal*, and *Cold Lake Sun* newspapers. The ads will start running early June and run for two weeks.

Regarding your concerns that a trapper's cabin was removed, when Lakeland Provincial Park was established in 1992, it was decided that all existing traplines within the newly established provincial park would be honoured. At that time, the current trapper who owned the cabin located between Jackson and Kinnaird Lakes approached my staff to see if Parks Division was willing to purchase his trapping license and trapline improvements, as he was no longer interested in trapping on his line. Parks Division decided it was in the best interest of the Province to purchase the improvements and manage the registered fur management area internally, since the cabin's location was of prime importance to all users of the park. The cabin and outbuildings were then removed as they were not needed for recreation or management requirements within the provincial park.

I encourage you to provide feedback through the online consultation process. Public input will be fully considered before a decision on this proposal is made. If you require any additional information on this proposal, please contact Ms. Kelly Kennedy, Community Relations Planner, at 780-623-5477 or by email at Kelly.L.Kennedy@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you once again for your sharing your views.

Best regards,

Dr. Richard Starke

Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation

AFGA encourages everyone to provide their feedback to Tourism, Parks and Recreation.