

September 8th, 2010

Parks Canada Agency
25-7-N Eddy Street
Gatineau, Quebec
Canada
K1A 0M5

Attention: Mr. Alan Latourelle, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Mr. Latourelle:

Re: National Parks of Canada Cottage Regulations – Prince Albert National Park

The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association Inc. (the “WSRA”) represents cottage and cabin owners in the townsite of Waskesiu, Prince Albert National Park (“PANP”).

We are writing to advise you that, at the request of our membership, the WSRA constituted a working group earlier this summer to carefully review, and suggest changes and improvements to, the regulations regarding cottages in Waskesiu. We were happy to hear that Parks Canada Agency (PCA) has, as we understand it, initiated a review of those regulations as well.

Although challenges have existed for some time, it has become increasingly apparent in recent years that these regulations, as they apply to cottages in PANP, are poorly drafted, contain confusing language and, in some cases, can lead to contradictory or illogical conclusions. As a result, we believe that this creates a situation that is unfair to the employees of Parks Canada Agency (who are asked to administer, interpret and enforce the Regulations) and that is also unfair, confusing and often very costly to cottage owners attempting to understand and plan their construction or renovation projects.

In turn, the problems created by the lack of clarity in the cottage regulations tend to undermine public perception regarding the competence and credibility of Parks Canada Agency in our community and, based on feedback from the WSRA membership, causes unnecessary friction between PCA officials and the seasonal residents of Waskesiu.

THE WASKESIU SEASONAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.

As such, this will confirm that the WSRA strongly supports PCA in your decision to review the cottage regulations. Our community is seeking regulations which provide clarity and which, as a result, will simplify the cottage renovation and construction process for our members and for your staff. As you undertake your review, we would also urge PCA to recognize that each Park townsite has its own unique geography, history, and circumstances - and therefore the regulations should be drafted to take unique situations into account.

We look forward to working with Parks Canada Agency to improve the cottage regulations which define one of the fundamental relationships between PCA and seasonal residents of PANP. In particular, we would ask that both the WSRA and the Waskesiu Community Council be involved and represented in this process at the earliest stage possible – and not at the end of the process when (at times) consultation is called for but in reality input is often too late to really provide value, result in meaningful changes, or improve understanding.

In closing, the WSRA sees this as a terrific opportunity for PCA to build trust and credibility, assist its own employees in fulfilling a difficult role, and to put in place a framework based on community buy-in (which, in turn, will lead to a high degree of self-enforcement).

We will be forwarding proposals to amend the cottage regulations in the not too distant future and would appreciate it if you would keep us up to date as material is produced on this subject or, better yet, advise us how we can become involved in the process – in a meaningful way - during its early stages to help ensure success for everyone involved.

Sincerely,

John Stevenson
President
The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association Inc.

cc: Alan Fehr, Superintendent, PANP