

August 21, 2012

William Ross  
President  
Canadian Archaeological Association  
canadienne d'archéologie  
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Dear Mr. Ross:

On behalf of the Prime Minister, thank you for your letter regarding Canada's national parks. We are pleased to have this opportunity to respond.

Canada's parks are a cornerstone of our Government's conservation strategy and we have greatly expanded Canada's parks and marine protection areas. We share the Canadian Archaeological Association's conviction that it is imperative to preserve and protect Canada's natural history, so that it may be enjoyed by future generations. In fact, Budget 2012 takes steps towards the creation of a national urban park in the Rouge Valley, Ontario.

With regard to your concerns about Parks Canada budget reductions, changes are being made to ensure that staff are in place when the most visitors come to our parks. When these changes are completed, Parks Canada will continue to have more staff serving visitors than when we were first elected. It is our Government's hope that more people will visit our parks to see Canada's natural beauty.

We note that you copied the Hon. Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment, on your correspondence. As this matter is under Minister Kent's jurisdiction, we would encourage you to continue your dialogue with his office.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Salpie Stepanian  
Assistant to the Prime Minister

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cc The Hon. Peter Kent, P.C., M.P., Minister of the Environment