



OCT 24 2018

Mr. Alistair MacGregor, M.P.
Cowichan–Malahat–Langford
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6



Dear Mr. MacGregor:

Thank you for your letter of July 24, 2018, also addressed to the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Veterans Affairs, regarding complimentary admission for veterans to Canada's national parks.

The Government of Canada recognizes the important contributions and sacrifices of our military personnel and their families in many ways. At Parks Canada, this includes extensive collaboration in the commemoration programs of Veterans Affairs Canada, collaborations with the Canadian Armed Forces and formal recognition of events, persons and places of national historic significance related to Canada's military history. As well, as part of commemorating the First and Second World Wars, Parks Canada has implemented the community-based "Hometown Heroes" and "Home Port Heroes" programs, which have recognized more than 130 individual heroes in all parts of Canada, and collectively, the men and women who built and sailed Canada's wartime merchant navy.

In the interest of protecting and preserving Canada's natural and cultural treasures for present and future generations and of keeping national park fees affordable for all Canadians, Parks Canada aims to set fees in a way that is fair to both taxpayers and visitors. Visitors to Parks Canada places personally benefit from the services and facilities they use when they visit these places. Revenues generated through user fees, such as admission, help to provide for the costs of those services.

Parks Canada found that visitation by families with children and youth under 17 was in decline in the last decade. Several programs were introduced to reverse this trend, including free admission for youth 17 and under. The Agency hopes that as a result, many of them will become lifelong visitors and supporters of Canada's protected national heritage places.

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