



Environment, Climate and Parks

Manitoba Parks

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April 20, 2022

Doug Collicutt

dcoll@mymts.net

Dear Doug Collicutt:

Thank you for your email dated February 28, 2022, to the former Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development, Ralph Eichler, regarding mineral exploration and extraction in provincial parks. Your email was forwarded to Honourable Jeff Wharton, Minister of Environment, Climate and Parks for response. As the Director of Manitoba Parks, I have been asked to respond on their behalf.

Resource use in provincial parks has evolved over the years. Mining activity in Manitoba parks pre-dates the establishment of the first provincial parks and in some cases parks were established where mineral extraction was already occurring and well established. Early provincial parks were established as multi-use areas where resource extraction was permitted. Both Nopiming and the Whiteshell, for example, have a long history of mineral exploration and extraction dating back to the 1950's.

The Manitoba Provincial Parks Act and associated regulations, such as the Park Activities Regulation, strictly regulate what is and is not permitted within Manitoba's provincial parks. Please be assured that where mineral exploration and development is permitted it is undertaken in a manner that acknowledges and does not impact other park purposes or users. Also, mineral exploration permits are reviewed by department staff for potential impacts to local wildlife populations. Areas of concern are mitigated through amendments to planned exploration activities and are subject to inspections by department staff, while any violations are addressed by Conservation Officers.

Our provincial parks are special places that play an important role in the protection of natural lands and the quality of life of all Manitobans. They are all managed in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable development so that representative examples of diverse natural and cultural heritage are conserved and appropriate economic activities are provided. The Parks Branch strives to keep them beautiful today and into the future. We thank you for your continued interest in Manitoba's provincial parks and for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Sincerely,

Rob Nedotiafko
Director

c. Honourable Jeff Wharton
Honourable Derek Johnson