



George Green
Vice-President, Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage
Parks Canada Agency
30 Victoria Street
Gatineau, QC J8X 0B3

February 2, 2017

Ken W. Watson
91 Walnut Point Road
Elgin, ON K0G 1E0

Dear Mr. Watson,

Thank you for your letter of October 31st; your knowledge of the subject and passion for the heritage of the Canal comes through in your letter. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that Parks Canada takes its responsibilities seriously as a steward of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As you note in your letter, the Rideau Canal has undergone many structural and staff changes in recent years, including the joining with the Trent Severn Waterway to form the Ontario Waterways. These structural changes have supported a higher profile for the Rideau Canal and its needs within Parks Canada. Specifically, it has facilitated a significant investment in maintaining the Rideau Canal's heritage structures.

Within the next few years, Parks Canada will have invested one hundred million dollars in repairing and enhancing the locks, dams, bridges and landscapes we cherish. The magnitude of this investment requires us to manage projects with fiscal prudence while adhering to sound cultural resource management practices. Parks Canada has dedicated cultural resource management professionals who provide full-time support and advice related to heritage protection as directed through the Parks Canada Culture Resource Management Policy.

I understand from speaking to Jewel Cunningham, Director of Ontario Waterways, that we have already taken some immediate steps to improve the interpretation of our natural and cultural resources. Her team has been working hard behind the scenes to update information and exhibits at the Visitor Centre in Smiths Falls. This is in addition to a partnership with the Bytown Museum for the delivery of heritage interpretation to visitors at Ottawa Locks through guided tours.

I invite you to continue to submit your feedback directly to Jewel and her team. It is my understanding that John Festarini, Associate Director, Ontario Waterways, is leading the



review and update of the Management Plan and will be holding public information and focus group sessions to solicit input on the strategic direction of the Canal. This outreach will include an opportunity to comment sustainability and the impacts and challenges to heritage protection and presentation.

Your example of the Jones Falls lock station is a relevant one at this time. Jones Falls will receive significant infrastructure dollars in the next three years. Concurrently, with the repairs to our built assets, we will be considering a renewed focus on targeted heritage presentation opportunities at that location.

I understand that you will be meeting with Mr. Festarini and staff from both the Ontario Waterways and members of my Cultural Resources Management unit on February 15, 2017. I trust this meeting will continue to advance important discussions related to the commemorative integrity of the Rideau Canal in addition to providing you with information on Parks Canada's work assessing and protecting commemorative integrity.

I want to thank you again for your interest and passion for the Rideau Canal.

Sincerely,

George Green
Vice-President, Indigenous Affairs and Cultural Heritage
Parks Canada Agency

C.c.: Darlene Upton, Executive Director, Ontario and Waterways, Parks Canada Agency