



Parks
Canada
President &
Chief Executive Officer

Parcs
Canada
Président et
directeur général



JAN - 6 2020

Mr. Ken W. Watson

Dear Mr. Watson:

Thank you for your letter of September 24, 2019, regarding the commemorative integrity and management of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site and Historic Waterway. I appreciate your views and your passion for this important part of Parks Canada's system of protected places.

With regard to the management team for the Rideau Canal and Waterway, I can assure you that the organizational changes made in 2012 retained considerable management capacity and operational knowledge on the Rideau Canal, particularly at Smiths Falls. The integration of the Ontario Waterways not only achieved efficiencies in operations, it strengthened management of both the Rideau and Trent-Severn waterways by improving the sharing of knowledge and capacity across business units. 

Public engagement is, indeed, crucial to maintain the commemorative integrity of the Rideau Canal and Waterway, and to fulfill Parks Canada's broader mandate. Community engagement and educational activities are delivered throughout the operating season at multiple locations along the Rideau, and the Smiths Falls Visitor Centre continues to be a popular public venue for engagement and education. Rideau National Historic Site's team members also uses digital and social media to reach an even broader audience with information and knowledge of the waterway, including important boater information. Moreover, Parks Canada works closely with a number of community and private sector partners along the Rideau to deliver a wide variety of experiences to visitors and promote the invaluable heritage of the waterway. 

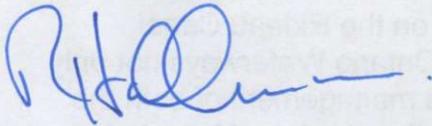
Parks Canada is committed to protecting and preserving our country's cultural heritage. Since 2014, the Agency has been delivering a significant asset restoration program across all its national parks, national historic sites and marine conservation areas. For the Rideau Canal and Waterway, this program has contributed to improving the condition of many cultural resources, including lock masonry, canal walls, swing bridges and visitor facilities. All restoration work is preceded by careful environmental assessments and cultural resource reviews. We are confident that this restoration program will help Canadians and visitors from around the world to enjoy the Rideau Canal and Waterway for generations to come. 

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All possible efforts are being made to renew the historic site's management plan by December 2020. Previous engagement of stakeholders, like yourself, has helped to shape a draft management plan that will be released for public consultation in the next few months. I encourage you to continue to participate in the management plan consultation and engagement process. 

Thank you again for sharing your perspectives on the Rideau Canal and Historic Waterway. 

Sincerely,



Ron Hallman
President &
Chief Executive Officer