



August 2nd, 2018

Dear Mr. Watson,

I have received your letter of June 26, 2018 regarding your concerns over commemorative integrity at the Rideau Canal and the response you received from Parks Canada. I am sorry to hear you did not get the information nor the response that you were looking for.

I wish to assure you that, Parks Canada is committed to ensuring the commemorative integrity of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site as a fundamental part of our mandate. This commitment presides even while the Parks Canada team are pursuing initiatives that support the canal's future sustainability, repair and restore significant heritage structures and enhance visitor experience for users of the canal.

The last formal assessment of the commemorative integrity of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site was in 2015. At that time, the Rideau Canal was assessed as having a rating of 7 out of 10 ('minor impairment'), with an overall fair rating for the condition of the cultural resources. Parks Canada acknowledges that are areas for improvement, specifically in the realm of public education, as you mention in your letter.

At the present time, the repair and rehabilitation of the infrastructure of the Rideau Canal is a major focus for Parks Canada. The current period of investment into the Rideau Canal's infrastructure is fundamental for the preservation and protection of the cultural resources that make up the Rideau Canal's engineering works. Parks Canada is immersed in an investment and capital works program that the Rideau Canal has never seen since its construction era. And, in addition to protecting cultural resources, this work ensures the continued operation of the Rideau Canal for future generations.

Parks Canada supports the *Ministers Round Table* and the direction of the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. Parks Canada is preparing plans to implement the commitments made in the Minister's response. While some of the recommendations can be undertaken immediately within current local activities; others will require longer term planning and approval of funding.

Finally, as you know, the Rideau Canal has undertaken the management planning process to update the Management Plan. The draft management plan will be available for public input in late summer 2018, and I look forward to receiving your input.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Rideau Canal.

Sincerely,

Jewel Cunningham
Director, Ontario Waterways Field Unit
Parks Canada Agency