



Ken Watson

[rideauken@gmail.com](mailto:rideauken@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Watson,

Thank you for your email of October 26, 2018 reiterating your concerns regarding the presentation and commemorative integrity of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site. We appreciate your work and efforts to share information with the public about this important place, through your website and paddling guide. I apologize for the delay in my response.

The Report on the Minister's Round Table (MRT) on Parks Canada notes a reimagining of the role that Parks Canada places can play in the future. One of these priorities for Parks Canada's role is, as you note, "an emphasis on commemorative integrity at national historic sites, together with the need to dedicate additional resources to education and interpretive programs". Parks Canada is entrusted with delivering on the Report and fulfilling the direction of the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. While some of the recommendations can be undertaken immediately within current resources and activities, others will require longer term planning and approval of funding. Please rest assured that Parks Canada will examine ways in which additional resources can be obtained for education and interpretive programs that align with current practices and which support commemorative integrity.

As communicated in the letter to you from Jewel Cunningham in August of this year, Parks Canada has obtained additional funding and resources and is making unprecedented investments in the conservation of its built heritage assets including cultural resources. The current period of investment in the Rideau Canal's infrastructure is fundamental to the preservation and protection of the cultural resources that are critical to the Rideau Canal's commemorative integrity. At the Rideau Canal, this level of investment and conservation has never been seen since its construction era. In addition to protecting cultural resources, this work ensures the continued operation of the Rideau Canal and supports the ability to interpret its engineering works for future generations.

Parks Canada retains heritage professionals with expertise in cultural landscapes, heritage interpretation, historical research, curatorial services, collections, and more, within its national staff complement. These positions are dedicated to the national historic sites, such as the Rideau Canal, for the purposes of providing guidance and supporting content development for programs and places. In addition, Parks Canada has access to heritage professionals external to Parks Canada with strong knowledge of the Rideau Canal.

While I cannot discuss human resources matters, it is our position that Parks Canada has maintained stable senior management responsible for and knowledgeable of the Rideau Canal, and will continue to do so.

With regard to your other points, these have been shared with the Ontario Waterways Field Unit, as our officials there work toward public and stakeholder engagement on the draft Rideau Canal Management Plan. As noted by Jewel Cunningham, Field Unit

Superintendent of the Ontario Waterways, in her June and August 2018 letters to you, the management plan is currently being drafted based on stakeholder input from 2017 and additional input will be sought in the near future.

I thank you for your continued communication with Parks Canada and for your feedback on our actions as they pertain to the management and interpretation of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site. Your dedication to the Rideau Canal National Historic Site is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela L. Veinotte". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Pamela L. Veinotte

Executive Director, Ontario and Waterways