

Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons, Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

April 6, 2021

Re: Significant Heritage Issues - Rideau Canal World Heritage Site

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

I am writing to you concerning significant issues regarding Parks Canada's cultural heritage and environmental management of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Parks Canada is not following its legislated mandate on the Rideau Canal under the Parks Canada Agency Act and it is not following the requirements of the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO guidelines for the management of a World Heritage Site. Your office is apparently not providing any oversight of Parks Canada, certainly not in terms of Parks Canada actually following its own legislation and specific Ministerial directives.

I have enclosed a letter written to Prime Minister Trudeau, a letter to UNESCO and my submission to Parks Canada regarding their draft management plan of the Rideau Canal. You will, at some point, be expected to sign off on a new management plan for the Rideau Canal and table that plan in Parliament. The current "management plan" format and content, will, as I noted to Mr. Trudeau, be a national and international embarrassment. Your office needs to provide some serious oversight of how Parks Canada is "managing" one of Canada's most significant cultural heritage sites. The fact that Parks Canada has been misleading UNESCO with regard to the management plan and its heritage management of the Rideau Canal is also an item of serious concern. In addition, Parks Canada's direct statement during management plan "consultations" that they are not responsible for the ecological integrity of the Rideau Canal, a large federally owned waterway consisting of lakes and rivers, with ecosystems now under threat, is extremely troubling in this era of climate change.

I trust that your office will read my submission to Parks Canada and take this issue seriously.

Yours truly,

Ken W. Watson

rideauken@gmail.com

- Enc. (3)
- Letter to Dr. Mechtild Rössler, Director World Heritage Centre
 - Letter to Rt. Hon. Justine Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
 - Submission to Parks Canada Regarding the Rideau Canal Draft Management Plan by Ken W. Watson, March 31, 2021, including (Appendix B), Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada and UNESCO World Heritage Site (including Merrickville Blockhouse National Historic Site of Canada) Draft Management Plan, Parks Canada Agency, February 2020.