



Shane Simpson MLA
Vancouver Hastings
Critic for Environment
Legislative Buildings
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

August 3, 2006

Honorable Barry Penner
Minister for Environment
Parliament Buildings rm 112
Victoria BC V8V 1X4

Honorable Barry Penner,

I am writing to call on you to immediately halt the request for proposals for private lodges and resorts in BC's provincial parks.

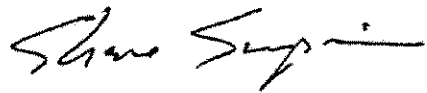
This policy constitutes the introduction of a radical commercialization of one of British Columbia's most important public jewels, our provincial park system. It is concerning not only for the 12 parks that will be immediately impacted by your decision but also the hundreds of parks that could be potentially affected should your decision proceed in future years.

The Official Opposition is opposed to this misguided policy. We do not support the further commercialization of our provincial parks through the establishment of major resorts within their boundaries. More importantly, the majority of the public in BC is also adamantly opposed to this decision by your government. I am calling on you to rethink this decision and withdraw the resorts and lodges policy today.

While the responsible decision would be for you to step back from this policy I am not confident you will make that prudent choice. At a minimum I believe you are obliged to discuss this decision with the people of British Columbia before proceeding.

Therefore, I am calling on you to introduce a substantive, meaningful and transparent consultation with all British Columbians on the future of our provincial parks before allowing this process to go any further. And, most importantly, I am challenging you, the Premier and your government to adhere to what you hear from the people of British Columbia on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.