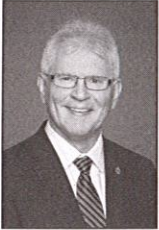




HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA



## Wayne Stetski

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August 30, 2017

The Honourable Catherine McKenna  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard  
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3

Dear Minister McKenna,

I learned with shock and dismay that Parks Canada is considering a sell off of \$8.3 billion worth of its assets. This information was garnered via a notice that was posted on "Buyandsell.gc.ca".

I write to you today on behalf of the NDP and Canadians across the country, to demand that you immediately halt any measures that would facilitate such a massive divestiture.

Weeks after the official events of Canada's 150th have concluded, to which our National Parks were made important sites of celebration, it is frankly shocking that the Liberal government is now considering selling off half of all Park infrastructure.

As you know, these assets represent critical infrastructure such as roads and bridges that provide Canadians with the fundamental ability to access various parts of our National Parks.

This news will come as a surprise to Canadians, many of whom are still enjoying this year's free admission to National Parks in honour of Canada's 150th. This plan has never been discussed openly and nowhere in your party's campaign platform is there any mention of a partial or full divestment or privatization of Parks Canada's assets.

The sections in your mandate letter pertaining to our National Parks focuses on protecting the natural wealth of our Parks system and on increasing usage for Canadians of all backgrounds, with special focus on young Canadians and new Canadians.

When your government has been so willing to conduct consultations on a wide variety of topics, why have there been no public discussions or consultations on this troubling proposal?

It's concerning that Parks Canada would reach out to private industry with a call for proposals on a divestment plan before any consultations with Canadians has occurred. On this, your priorities are completely out of order.

Any move to sell off Parks Canada assets cannot even be considered prior to hearing from Parks community stakeholders, environmentalists, local First Nations and of course, Canadians who use and love our National Parks.

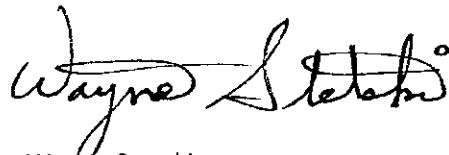
Instead of keeping your promise to preserve and protect our National Parks and instead of listening to those familiar with our National Parks calling for better upkeep of park infrastructure, your government is taking Parks Canada down a road which is both reckless and irresponsible.

The Liberal government should abandon this short-sighted plan that will rob future generations of the critical infrastructure that gives Canadians access to our beautiful National Parks.

This plan is even more concerning given the way the government has pursued the creation of an Infrastructure Bank that will seek privatization of new national infrastructure projects. Canadians understand and support the idea that if something produces enough public benefit than it's worth investment and upkeep.

Canadians also understand that breaking off and selling part of that investment will only result in less access and more costs. Such a move runs directly counter to values your government claims to hold in relation to our National Parks.

I respectfully await your reply,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wayne Stetski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wayne" and last name "Stetski" clearly legible.

Wayne Stetski  
MP  
Kootenay-Columbia  
NDP Critic for National Parks