



Mr. John Stevenson
President
The Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association Inc.
P.O. Box 254
Waskesiu Lake SK S0J 2Y0

OCT 01 2010

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Thank you for your letters of September 8 outlining the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association's concerns regarding leasing of Crown lands for private residential use, and the National Parks of Canada Cottages Regulations.

Parks Canada follows the National Parks of Canada Lease and Licence of Occupation Regulations, which are made by Order in Council and approved by the Governor General of Canada. In addition, the Agency must adhere to the Treasury Board Policy on Management of Real Property, which indicates that, when transacting in real property, government departments must respect the market value principle. The land rent collected by Parks Canada for residential properties is intended to reflect a fair return to the Crown for the private use of public lands, and is based on the appraised land value of the leasehold property.

However, the Agency recognizes that leaseholders have concerns with the current leasing and licencing methodology. During the next two years, Parks Canada is planning a comprehensive review of the Lease and Licence of Occupation Regulations. Stakeholder groups such as the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association will be consulted during the review and suggestions and feedback taken into consideration.

With regard to the Cottages Regulations, Parks Canada is initiating a number of regulatory updates, including to the Regulations, as they were drafted many years ago, prior to the *Canada National Parks Act*. Its regulatory authorities, and the limits to development authorities, have evolved significantly from the former Act. This creates a number of legal issues that are sufficiently complex to require considerable study by Justice Canada. In addition, the National Parks Building Regulations are being reviewed, and these efforts must be carefully co-ordinated to ensure the resulting regulations are properly aligned.

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Work has just begun on the revised Cottage Regulations. They must apply to all national park cottage subdivisions. I appreciate this analysis by the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association, and encourage your group to participate when full national consultation is solicited.

Should you require additional information about the process for land lease rents or the Regulations, I invite you to contact Mr. Crawford Kilpatrick, Chief, Realty Services, by e-mail at crawford.kilpatrick@pc.gc.ca, or by telephone at 819- 994-5794.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Latourelle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Alan Latourelle
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada