



**COMMERCIAL OPERATOR - WASKESIU TOWNSITE – INFORMATION
UPDATED MAY 11, 2020**

The health and safety of Canadians, visitors and Parks Canada team members is of the utmost importance to the Agency. We are following the advice of public health experts and taking steps to support Canada's efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce risks to Canadians, visitors, employees, residents and other users of Parks Canada spaces.

Parks Canada is asking Canadians to support the national effort to limit the spread of COVID-19 by staying home. Anyone considering a visit to Prince Albert National Park should cancel their plans.

Parks Canada has suspended camping, group activities and events at all national parks, national historic sites, and national marine conservation areas across the country until at least May 31, 2020. Visitor services and vehicle access by visitors are suspended, and facilities remain closed until further notice.

Parks Canada is working diligently to plan for resuming visitation at some locations. Visitor access and services will align with the recommendations of public health authorities; will be designed to promote the health and safety of visitors, employees, and Canadians; and will also include measures to manage garbage collection, washroom facilities and mitigate any negative impact on natural and cultural resources as well as built assets.

These plans are well advanced; however any resumption of operations and services will take time and may be incremental in nature.

Please follow Parks Canada's social media channels and visit our [website](#) for information and updates on the status of all Parks Canada places.

Following is some information specific to the Commercial Operators in the Waskesiu Townsite.

With the province of Saskatchewan starting to resume services, when will Prince Albert National Park start to open up to visitors?

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Will there be any abatements for commercial land rent due to the impact on commercial operations caused by COVID-19?

The Government of Canada has announced significant investments to help Canadian businesses weather the economic impact of this pandemic. Additional details on Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan can be found on the Government of Canada website at www.canada.ca.

The Government of Canada, in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, continues to explore options that will help mitigate the impacts of this pandemic on Canadians businesses.

Furthermore, Parks Canada recognizes that many businesses are facing significant financial and operational challenges due to the impacts that this pandemic has had on travel and Parks Canada operations. To help businesses,, Parks Canada has announced it will defer payments on commercial leases and licences of occupation until September1, 2020 without any interest or administrative charges. Rest assured that we will provide further updates on possible future measures taken by Parks Canada or the Government of Canada, when necessary and as information becomes available.

Are businesses in national park townsites in national parks allowed to be open?

Parks Canada recommends that businesses operating within Prince Albert National Park follow the guidance and direction provided by the Province of Saskatchewan's public health authorities ([Government of Saskatchewan COVID-19 Information for Businesses and Workers](#)) as well as the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#). Commercial businesses operating in townsites have the right to access their leased or licensed premises.



If a business does open, they are required to take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as directed by public health authorities in their jurisdiction as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Parks Canada strongly encourages Canadians to stay home to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and not visit national parks at this time.

Will Parks Canada enforce provincial rules on closures for non-essential businesses?

Parks Canada is asking Canadians to support the national effort to limit the spread of COVID-19 by staying home. Anyone considering a visit to a Parks Canada location should cancel their plans. Parks Canada is monitoring visitation given the temporary suspension of visitor services, the temporary closure of visitor facilities, and the suspension of visitor vehicle access. However, access to essential businesses in national park townsites is permissible.

The Agency is communicating these measures through the media, over social media, on the Agency's website and mobile app, and at locations across the country.

All visitor services and visitor motor vehicle access for the purposes of recreational use (including parking lots, day use facilities and washrooms) in national parks is currently suspended. However, access to commercial businesses within in the Waskesiu townsite is permissible.

Parks Canada recommends that businesses operating within Prince Albert National Park follow the guidance and direction provided by the Province of Saskatchewan's public health authorities ([Government of Saskatchewan COVID-19 Information for Businesses and Workers](#)) as well as the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#). Parks Canada supports provincial direction and encourages non-essential businesses to remain closed,, but we are not actively enforcing closures at this time.

Parks Canada Wardens will continue to patrol Parks Canada places and, where required, will remind visitors to respect provincial measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

If customers come to Waskesiu to visit businesses, where can they park if parking lots are closed?

Local services are limited. Parks Canada is asking Canadians to stay home.

Parks Canada operated public parking lots remain closed; however, customers and residents of townsites will still be permitted vehicular access and customers of essential businesses can park in designated parking stalls for those businesses (within their leasehold space) or in street parking stalls.



Do businesses need to renew their business licences if they are closed?

Business licences are required for a business to operate as a valid business in the townsite. Any business that plans to open (including restaurants that may offer take out or delivery services) must renew its business licence prior to opening. If a business is closed, it is not necessary to renew the business licence as long as the business remains closed.

What considerations are being made to water/sewer/garbage/capital recovery invoices?

Parks Canada continues to evaluate actions to support residents and commercial businesses within townsites. No decision has been made with regards to townsite services, including capital improvement projects, at this time. More information will be shared if it becomes available

Can commercial operators and staff have access to businesses and seasonal staff accommodation this spring?

Commercial operators and their staff can access their leasehold or licensed premises, including staff accommodation, as well as accommodation that has been allocated by Parks Canada.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Spruce Ridge Trailer Park washroom is unavailable at this time. Potable water is available at a tap outside of the Spruce Ridge Trailer Park washroom.

Commercial operators should limit their staffing to employees who are critical to their operations.

How do I make a payment for Parks Canada invoices?

Payment can be made:

Via credit card at (306) 663-4522; Monday to Friday - 8 am to 4 pm

By mail: Prince Albert National Park, Box 100, Waskesiu Lake, SK S0J 2Y0.

Do I or my staff need to self-isolate at our staff accommodation in Waskesiu if coming from out of province?

It is recommended that Canadians follow [Health Canada's recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.](#)

Please self-isolate at home if returning from international travel or if symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing) exist.

There are currently no requirements in Saskatchewan for people travelling from other provinces to self isolate upon arrival.