



BC Parks

January 25, 2016

File: 98000-90/Strathcona
99200-40/Heathens

REGISTERED MAIL

Chris Barner
Heathens Mountaineering Club
125A Taylor Way
Campbell River BC V9W 3A7

Dear Chris Barner:

This letter is written in follow up to my August 4, 2015 letter regarding the need for Heathens Mountaineering Club members to sign volunteer agreements in order to perform volunteer work in Strathcona Provincial Park. To date, I have not received a response to this letter.

I believe that an adequate amount of time has passed for members of the Heathens Mountaineering Club, either collectively, or as individuals, to respond to my letter and to sign volunteer agreements. In the absence of a response, I conclude that at this time there is no interest on the part of the Heathens Mountaineering Club, or members, to sign volunteer agreements.

As you are aware, it is not BC Parks' desire to put obstacles in the way of volunteers, particularly a group of volunteers who have been active in a park for so long and have contributed so significantly to the park visitor experience. However, ultimately all activities that occur in parks must comply with the *Park Act*.

In this case, I believe that BC Parks has done their best to provide options to the Heathens Mountaineering Club that would allow the group to continue to volunteer in the park.

Based on this, I am advising you that if the Heathens Mountaineering Club, or members, conduct activities in Strathcona Provincial Park, including trail construction/maintenance, hosting/occupying free camps and storing equipment in the Park for which a signed volunteer agreement is required, these activities are not authorized and are subject to remedies under the *Park Act*, which could include eviction from the park, the issuance of tickets and/or court action.

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As always, BC Parks is willing to work with volunteers who agree to work under the conditions of the volunteer program. Should any members of the Heathens Mountaineering Club wish to sign a volunteer agreement under the context outlined in my August 4, 2015 letter, I am more than willing to have my staff work to make this happen prior to any activities resuming.

Yours truly,



Don Cadden
Regional Director

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