

Fairness for Clear Lake

February 5, 2026

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin
Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada, K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Dabrusin,

As volunteers for Fairness for Clear Lake (FFCL), we are writing on behalf of fellow community members, local organizations and business operators who care deeply about the future of Clear Lake in Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP). We are requesting to meet with you and your team to discuss how our community is committed to building a long-term collaborative relationship with RMNP, Parks Canada, and First Nations communities. We are also committed to finding a viable, balanced path forward to a One Boat One Lake policy on Clear Lake.

Since his appointment last year, RMNP Superintendent Tom Sheldon has supported collaborative, constructive dialogues and demonstrated a willingness to engage openly and meaningfully with stakeholders. These productive conversations have set a new tone and laid the groundwork for a path forward. We want to continue to support this new direction and work together to avoid pushing our community back into conflict.

We believe the conditions are right for RMNP to make a science-based, defensible decision on watercraft management and to advance a One Boat One Lake solution that works for everyone. FFCL understands that compromise and targeted restrictions may be part of that solution. We look forward to participating in an open dialogue as the details of a watercraft management plan are designed.

While distinct from the issue of watercraft management, FFCL also supports the idea of a forward-looking and collaborative agreement on environmental co-stewardship of Clear Lake between Parks Canada and Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation (KOFN). An agreement that emphasizes mutual respect, mutual benefit, shared responsibility, and long-term protection of Clear Lake can support reconciliation and provide clarity and stability, without reopening old wounds or creating new ones.

We are increasingly concerned about the long-term risk of entrenchment. Prolonged uncertainty and continued exclusion of watercraft risks deepening division, hardening positions, and undoing

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the relationship-building progress from the past year. We believe an important question now is: what are the long-term social, economic, and reconciliation benefits of maintaining a status quo that keeps the community divided? From our perspective, continued delay carries real risks for trust, collaboration, and the shared stewardship model that Parks Canada is working to build.

We encourage you and Parks Canada to begin formal work on a co-stewardship framework with KOFN and to support a balanced One Boat One Lake solution that stakeholders across the spectrum can support. A timely, science-based, and defensible decision on watercraft would help prevent renewed conflict and support the collaborative future that all parties have been working toward.

We look forward to a continued partnership and open dialogue with your team, Parks Canada, and local RMNP leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Boquist', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Trevor Boquist
Fairness for Clear Lake

CC:

Hon. Wab Kinew, Premier of Manitoba

Hon. Glen Simard, Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations

Hon. Jamie Moses, Minister of Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation