

While I apologize that I am unable to attend in-person, I would like to commend you for organizing this important discussion about the future of Clear Lake.

All of you have a vested interest in the well-being and prosperity of this community.

One would then assume that, if any policy changes are going to be made, you would be consulted, and your concerns be properly addressed.

That is not an outlandish idea. It's called common sense.

Since the sudden reversal of the "one boat, one lake" policy, I've received emails and calls from my constituents, all of whom have been appalled by how Parks Canada made this decision.

They feel blindsided. And rightfully so. Locals, businesses, and visitors alike planned under this assumption, only to have those at Parks Canada suddenly change their mind without due explanation.

You have written emails, letters, and op-eds requesting transparency, but to no avail. I have forwarded concerns to the Minister, but my experience has been the same. And when your local MP, Dan Mazier, repeatedly wrote requesting a public meeting, he was told it would not go ahead.

Your tax dollars fund Parks Canada and the upkeep of Riding Mountain National Park.

Let me be clear: Politicians and public servants work for you, not the other way around. You deserve nothing less than accountability from them.

I understand there is a petition circulating tonight, which I would encourage you all to sign. This will allow us, as your elected representatives, to amplify calls for change at the national level.

And as a final note, please know that my door is open. You are always welcome to get in touch as we chart a path forward for Clear Lake.

In your service,

Branden Leslie, MP
Portage-Lisgar