

To Superintendent Leanne Cooper

Leanne Cooper
Field Unit Superintendent, RMNP
135 Wasagaming Drive
Riding Mountain National Park
Manitoba R0J 1N0

Dear Superintendent Cooper,

As representatives of Fairness for Clear Lake, we are writing on behalf of a broad coalition of community members, business operators, and long-time stakeholders who care deeply about the health and future of Riding Mountain National Park. Over the past several years, individuals and groups within our community have made countless efforts to build a productive and respectful relationship with your office and the RMNP field unit team.

Despite our best efforts, we have reached a point where we feel we have no choice but to organize more formally and collectively in order to be heard. This step is not a rejection of collaboration—it is a renewed call for it.

Many in our community were taken by surprise by the sudden policy reversal on May 16, 2025, regarding the one boat, one lake initiative. After preparing for the summer season based on earlier communications from Parks Canada, the decision to prohibit motorized watercraft left residents, visitors, and businesses scrambling to adjust. More importantly, it left many feeling excluded from a process that should be transparent and inclusive. Trust and reverence for Parks Canada is broken as a result.

We believe the long-term success of any policy depends on genuine consultation with local stakeholders. This is why we have advocated for a consistent and science-based one boat, one lake policy—one that balances ecological responsibility with the social and economic wellbeing of our community.

After many months of outreach efforts that have not resulted in meaningful dialogue, our coalition has taken the difficult but necessary step of filing an application for judicial review of the May 16 decision. This legal action is not our preferred approach—it is a measure of last resort, taken to ensure our concerns are heard and the consultation process is respected.

We remain committed to working with your office to rebuild trust and establish a new path forward—one grounded in open communication, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to protecting this extraordinary place for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Fairness for Clear Lake