

To The Honourable Steven Guilbeault

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault  
Minister of Canadian Heritage  
200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard  
Gatineau, QC J8X 4C6

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

As the organization representing a growing coalition of stakeholders in the Clear Lake area, Fairness for Clear Lake writes today with a sincere desire to restore dialogue and trust between Parks Canada and our community.

Over the past several years, individual groups within Clear Lake have attempted to engage with Parks Canada on key issues affecting Riding Mountain National Park. These attempts were rooted in a shared commitment to environmental protection and community wellbeing. Despite those efforts, we have found ourselves increasingly excluded from decisions that have far-reaching impacts on the people and businesses that call this region home.

The reversal of the one boat, one lake policy on May 16, 2025, caught our community off guard. Residents and operators had made preparations based on prior guidance from Parks Canada. The absence of consultation in making this change has had real consequences—not only economically, but almost importantly in terms of trust and public confidence in the agency's leadership.

We fully support action to protect Clear Lake from aquatic invasive species. But we believe the long-term effectiveness of any strategy relies on collaborative planning. The one boat, one lake model—when implemented consistently and transparently—offers both ecological safeguards and a sustainable path for tourism and recreation.

With no meaningful avenue for consultation, and after exhausting other options, our coalition has filed an application for judicial review of the May 16 decision. This was not taken lightly, but we believe it is necessary to bring transparency and accountability to the process.

We remain hopeful that with your leadership, a new model of engagement can be developed—one that values community voices and reinforces Parks Canada's role as a national symbol of environmental stewardship and public trust.

Sincerely,  
Fairness for Clear Lake