



Tony Baldinelli, MP
Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake

House of Commons
Chambre Des Commons
Canada

July 28, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am contributing this letter in my capacity as the federal Conservative Shadow Minister for Tourism.

First, I wish to write that I am in full support of the public letter written by my parliamentary colleague, Dan Mazier, addressed to the Parks Canada Riding Mountain Field Unit Superintendent and dated May 22, 2025.

Mr. Mazier is the Member of Parliament for Riding Mountain, which represents the local communities and area impacted by the Parks Canada sudden and unexplained decision to ban motorized watercraft access on Clear Lake.

In addition to sharing my support for MP Mazier's letter, I also wish to share my own views of this issue as someone who has an extensive background in tourism.

Canada is a country of immense beauty, and much of this beauty is captured in our national parks, which are managed by the Parks Canada Agency.

Our national parks and Parks Canada assets should be destinations that we can highlight in our tourism marketing efforts to attract visitors from across Canada and around the world. They should be drivers of travel and tourism, and through economic spin-off benefits, they should help sustain the local communities and tourism jobs, livelihoods, and activities around them.

Unfortunately, surprising decisions like this one, made in this manner, cast the appearance that Parks Canada is shifting its mandate away from embracing, facilitating, and supporting tourism at our national parks in favour of a preservationist approach that severely reduces or entirely restricts human activities in these areas.

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This blindsides communities, travellers, and tourism workers who traditionally depend on these activities for their jobs, businesses, recreation, or vacations.

This approach by Parks Canada to suddenly ban motorized watercraft access on Clear Lake creates real economic impacts and hardship at a highly sensitive time for our country's economy, when Canada cannot afford stagnation or zero growth any longer.

As unemployment increases and investment flees for lesser taxed jurisdictions, the Government of Canada has a responsibility to ensure every community can reach its full potential without its interference. The Parks Canada decision like this ban directly interferes with these local communities' ability to make the most of their summer tourism season, and consequently, is having a detrimental effect on these communities at perhaps the most important time of year for tourism.

In conclusion, I join my colleague Mr. Mazier in his requests of Parks Canada to: reverse its decision and reinstate the previously announced 'one boat, one lake' policy; and Mr. Mazier's call to assign new local leadership to the Parks Canada Riding Mountain Field Unit as a result of the trust in the office being severely damaged and a change being needed to restore that confidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tony Baldinelli', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tony Baldinelli, M.P.
Niagara Falls—Niagara-on-the-Lake
Shadow Minister for Tourism