

November 25, 2010

## **Minister to further engage Albertans and park users on proposed parks legislation**

### ***Debate on Bill 29 suspended***

*Edmonton...* The government will continue to work with Albertans on proposed legislation to guide the management of the Alberta parks system before further debate on Bill 29, the *Alberta Parks Act*.

“What I have heard throughout debate on Bill 29 is that people are passionate about parks and I respect that passion,” said Cindy Ady, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation. “We will continue our important work to ensure that parks protect our province’s unique natural heritage while also providing Albertans with access to ample outdoor recreation opportunities.”

The intent of *Bill 29* was to help to make it easier for Albertans to understand what kinds of activities are allowed in parks. Aligned with Alberta’s *Plan for Parks and Land-use Framework*, Bill 29 proposed to simplify the parks classification system into two categories, provincial parks and heritage rangelands. Subsequent zoning regulations in provincial parks would have specified how visitors use various areas of each park, whether for conservation, recreation or a combination of both.

“I believe we all want the same thing, an Alberta parks system that protects the ecological integrity of our landscapes and provides spaces for our families to enjoy the outdoors,” added Ady. “I look forward to continuing work with Albertans and respected conservation experts to achieve this, and bring back parks legislation next year.”

Bill 29 proposed to consolidate and modernize three pieces of parks legislation, the *Provincial Parks Act*, the *Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas, and Heritage Rangelands Act*, and the *Black Creek Heritage Rangeland Trails Act* into one simplified Act. Bill 29 also introduced a requirement for mandatory advance public notice of changes to provincial parks and heritage rangelands, and allowed for the creation of a Parks Advisory Council and a Parks Conservation Foundation.

More information on Alberta’s parks system is available at [www.albertaparks.ca](http://www.albertaparks.ca).

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**Editor’s Note:** Park photos and videos available at [www.tpr.alberta.ca/newsroom/multimedia.aspx](http://www.tpr.alberta.ca/newsroom/multimedia.aspx).

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