**Office of the Minister**
**Environment**
**PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6**

November 6, 2026

The Honorable Julie Dabrusin
Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 via email: ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca

Dr. Brendan Hanley
Member of Parliament for Yukon
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6 via email: brendan.hanley@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Dabrusin and Dr. Brendan Hanley:

**Re: Parks Canada Workforce Adjustments and Northern Presence**

I am writing to express my concern regarding the workforce adjustments currently underway within Parks Canada and the potential impacts on the Yukon.

Reports indicate that 58 employees, representing 42 per cent of Parks Canada's Yukon-based positions, have been identified as affected through the current adjustment process. While details remain limited, the potential impact of these workforce reductions raises concerns about future stewardship, enforcement and operational capacity within Yukon parks and historic sites.

As the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Kluane, I know for certain that Parks Canada employees in the Yukon do far more than administer parks. They contribute to ecological monitoring, scientific research, visitor services and heritage protection. In communities such as Haines Junction, located near Kluane National Park, they are neighbours, volunteers and valued contributors to local life. Their knowledge, experience and understanding of the land cannot easily be replaced.

Significant reductions to this workforce could have implications for operational capacity, stewardship activities and the long-term preservation of scientific and cultural knowledge.

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These functions are fundamental to the effective management of Canada's national parks and historic sites.

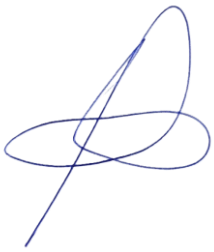
The Government of Canada has repeatedly emphasized the importance of Arctic sovereignty, northern security and maintaining a meaningful presence in the North. Achieving these objectives requires experienced personnel living and working in northern communities. At a time when Canada is placing greater emphasis on these priorities, it is difficult to reconcile them with significant reductions to the federal workforce in northern regions. Given the longstanding relationships between Parks Canada and Yukon First Nations, including Kluane First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, it is imperative that affected First Nations and the Government of Yukon have meaningful opportunities to provide input before any final decisions are implemented.

These concerns are reflected in the position of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, which on November 4, 2026, unanimously supported a motion urging the Government of Canada to maintain Parks Canada staffing levels in the Yukon. This support underscores the importance Yukoners place on maintaining a strong Parks Canada presence in northern communities and protecting the operational capacity of our national parks and historic sites.

I respectfully request clarification regarding how Parks Canada intends to maintain its operational, stewardship and enforcement responsibilities in Yukon should these workforce reductions proceed, and how these decisions align with the federal government's stated northern and Arctic objectives.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Wade Istchenko
Hon. Minister of Environment

CC: Hon. David J. McGuinty, Minister of National Defence