



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-02590**

BY: **MR. EGLINSKI (YELLOWHEAD)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE MCKENNA**

Response by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

National parks

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada would like to thank the petitioners for the submission of this petition.

The eligible residency requirements were introduced into the *National Parks of Canada Lease and Licence of Occupation Regulations* in 1981 and were subsequently amended in 1988, 1991 and 2002. The requirements apply in four communities within national parks: the Town of Banff, the Municipality of Jasper, and the communities of Lake Louise and Field.

The eligible residency requirements were introduced to prioritize the limited available housing for those who have a 'need to reside' within the park communities. For example those who work or own a business within the park, spouses, common law partners and dependants of eligible residents, students enrolled in educational institutions within the park, and retirees that were eligible residents for five years prior to retiring.

The requirements were also designed to offset pressures for increased development on national park lands. The boundaries of the Municipality of Jasper are fixed by legislation to maintain the existing footprint. The size of the municipality is limited to 2.44 square kilometres, and currently supports a population of 4590. The eligible residency requirements maintain population density within the fixed footprint.

Canada's national parks and protected areas belong to all Canadians. Parks Canada manages and protects one of the finest and most extensive systems of protected natural and cultural heritage areas in the world. In very limited areas, controlled development is permitted according to strict guidelines, including the eligible residency requirements, in order to protect park lands while supporting recreational and visitor services.

Should the Government of Canada update its policy on eligible residency or review the National Parks of Canada Lease and Licence of Occupation Regulations, it will be done in consultation with stakeholders.