

MAR 06 2018

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Letter of Agreement

Between: Parks Canada Agency – Riding Mountain National Park, hereafter referred to as Parks Canada,

- and -

Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation
hereafter referred to as First Nation,

**Respecting Anishinabe Open Door Program,
Park entry permits to Riding Mountain National Park**

Introduction:

The mandate of Parks Canada is to protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage; and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.

Parks Canada and the First Nations of Canada share a common interest in protecting the natural and cultural resources of Canada's national parks.

Parks Canada is engaged in a process of renewal and reconciliation in its relationships with the First Nation.

Parks Canada is engaged in a process of inviting and welcoming Indigenous peoples to Parks Canada places to which they feel a connection or a desire to reconnect without undue requirements for purchasing passes, permits or identification.

Riding Mountain National Park is a part of the traditional territory of the First Nation.

Members of the First Nation are interested in accessing their traditional territory in Riding Mountain National Park.

The Parties Agree as follows:

Parks Canada agrees to supply Anishinabe Open Door Permits for entry to Riding Mountain National Park, at no cost, to ensure access for duly registered members of the First Nation.

The First Nation agrees to implement an application and control process for ensuring that only duly registered members of the First Nation are eligible to receive benefits of the park entry permit and provide copies of the authorized application to Parks Canada.

Both parties agree that an application and authorization form will be developed and will meet the approval of both parties prior to use.

The Anishinabe Open Door permits will be valid from the date of signature of this LETTER OF AGREEMENT (LOA) to March 31, 2019.

General:

This LOA may be terminated by either party upon receipt of a written request notifying the other party of their intent to terminate.

An annual meeting may be convened by signatories to this LOA, or their representatives, to review and revise, as required, this Agreement.

This LOA may be amended from time to time by a written amendment signed by both the First Nation and Parks Canada.

This LOA is without prejudice to respective legal positions and is not meant to define, create, recognize, deny or amend any rights or obligations of either party, including aboriginal title, land use or treaty rights.

This LOA is without prejudice to respective legal position and is not meant to defined, create, recognize, deny, or amend any rights or obligations of either party, including Aboriginal title or treaty rights.


This LOA will not be construed as a treaty or land claim agreement within the meaning of Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* as amended.

Signatories:


Signed this 7th day of March, 2018,

Representing the Parks Canada
Agency- Riding Mountain National
Park

Representing Sandy Bay
Ojibway First Nation



Paul Tarleton
Acting Field Unit Superintendent



Lance Roulette
Chief

ANISHINABE OPEN DOOR PROGRAM: RIDING MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Version: February 2018

Riding Mountain National Park is within Treaty 2 territory. Parks Canada maintains relationships with First Nations from Treaty 2, 4, and 1 who are in close proximity to Riding Mountain National Park. We mention this to recognize their roles and contributions to the Park, the Province and Canada.

Cooperation between the Coalition of First Nations with Interest in Riding Mountain National Park (Coalition) and the Parks Canada at the Riding Mountain Forum (RMF) helped establish agreements to facilitate access to Riding Mountain National Park (RMNP).

The Coalition includes: Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, Ebb & Flow First Nation, Rolling River First Nation, Waywayseecappo First Nation, Tootinaowaziibeeng Treaty Reserve, Gambler First Nation and Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation

It is recognized that this effort is important to help healing the broken connections caused by past actions. The Anishinabe Open Door Program facilitates reconnecting local communities to the lands and waters in Riding Mountain National Park in an effort to rebuild strong and trusting relationships with Anishinabe of the region.



"We dance where our heart beats" was inspired by Chief Lance Roulette, Translated by Lillian Clearsky, and showcases Fancy Dancer Eric Mentuck.

The Anishinabe Open Door Program is enabled by:

- Several provisions of the *Parks Canada Agency Act* and the *Canada National Parks Act*.
- *Parks Canada User Fees and Revenue Management Policy* (2006);
- Goals and objectives of the *Senior Officials Forum (1998)* and *Riding Mountain Forums (2006)*.
- Specific, formal letter of agreements and/or Memoranda of Understanding with each of the participating communities.

The Permit:

- May be obtained at your local Band Administration.
- Provides access to the same park services and facilities that a park permit offers;
- Is non-transferable to other persons or groups of persons other than to whom the permit was issued
- Does not authorize activities such as harvesting of flora or fauna (i.e. hunting, logging, or fishing, etc.)
- Children up to 17 years of age are fee exempt. Permits will be provided to those who are 18 year of age and older.
- Is valid until March 31st, 2019

Information about the Anishinabe Open Door Program will be available through Parks Canada and through the recommendations of participating First Nations

Spokesperson(s):

Les Campbell
Indigenous Affairs Program Manager
Riding Mountain Field Unit
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Paul Tarleton
Acting Field Unit Superintendent
Riding Mountain Field Unit
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Anishinabe Open Door Program: FAQ's

What is the Anishinabe Open Door Program?

The Open Door Program provides national guidelines to increase consistent, coherence and predictability to provide Indigenous people's access to National Parks, Historic Sites and Marine Conservation Areas. The Anishinabe Open Door Program is a tool to invite and welcome Indigenous groups to places they have a connection or desire to reconnect without undue and inflexible requirements for purchasing passes or permit.

How does my community participate?

There have been some variation to the program over the past few years. After the interest has been expressed, the parties will agree upon a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Letter of Agreement (LOA). The Agreements between the First Nation and Parks Canada sets up the parameters to participate in the program and share information about the number of permits administered and opportunity for Anishinabe to access the park. This number has increase from 300 to close to 1000 over the past few years.

What fees are exempt under this program?

The Open Door Program provides fee exemption for entry into Riding Mountain National Park for those who are 18 year of age and up. In 2018, all children and youth under the age of 17, are fee exempt.

If it's free entry, why do I need a permit?

All visitors to National Parks must have obtained a valid permit. Parks Canada has agreements with First Nations who wish to participate in the Open Door Program to provide permits for entry into Riding Mountain National Park, at no cost. A permit is a record of authorization for a specific activity with all of the privileges associated with it. For example, obtaining a class 5 driver's license grants all the rights and privileges to own, operate a motor vehicle in a safe manner. In a National Park, Camping permits provide visitors with certainty, a campsite, a fire pit and access to campground facilities for the length of their stay. The visitors are also provided with information that will help them participate in the activity being mindful of wildlife, other visitors and safety.

How do I find more information?

Parks Canada works with the Coalition of First Nations with Interest in Riding Mountain National Park. You can find information through your local Band Administration offices or you can contact Parks Canada at 204-848- PARK or email info@rmnp.pc.gc.ca to obtain more information.



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



Les Campbell
Riding Mountain Field Unit
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Chief Lance Roulette
Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation
P.O. Box 109
Marius MB
R0J 0T0

March 6, 2018

Dear Chief Roulette,

Re: Letter of Intent to continue the Anishinabe Open Door Program

Please accept this letter of intent to continue to provide free access into Riding Mountain National Park. You will find attached the *Anishinabe Open Door Program* Fact Sheet for your review and a Letter of Agreement for your approval to continue the program.

The Anishinabe Open Door Program is helping to strengthen Anishinabe connections to the lands and waters in Riding Mountain National Park through our shared interests and efforts. All youth and children up to the age of 17 are fee exempt and the park entry permit is available to anyone who turns 18 and older. The Letter of Agreement (LOA) and park entry permit will be valid until December 31st, 2018.

It is important that the program continues to meet our shared interests and become more efficient. We hope to establish a longer term, 5 year agreement by January 1, 2019.

If the LOA is satisfactory, please forward a scanned copy to Parks Canada by March 15th, 2018 by email at les.campbell@pc.gc.ca or fax at 204-848-2596. If you have any questions, please contact me, Les Campbell, at 204-848-7110.

I look forward to seeing this initiative continue.

Sincerely yours,

Les Campbell
Indigenous Affairs Manager
Riding Mountain Field Unit

Attachments (2); Letter of Agreement (LOA); Anishinabe Open Door Program fact sheet.

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