

THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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GREFFIER DE L'ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE

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May 18, 2017

Mr. David Coon, MLA
Leader of the Third Party
3rd Floor, Departmental Building
Legislative Assembly Complex
96 St. John Street
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Dear Mr. Coon:

Enclosed is a copy of the response to your Petition 38 which was tabled in the Legislature on May 4, 2017.

Sincerely,

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M' or 'JMF'.

Donald J. Forestell
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

DJF/dma

Enclosure

c. Léopold Mallet
Amy Whittaker
Shannon Carmont ✓

May 15, 2017

Mr. Donald J. Forestell
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick
PO Box 6000, 706 Queen Street
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

**FILED /
DÉPOSÉ**
MAY 18 2017

**CLERK'S OFFICE /
BUREAU DU GREFFIER**

Subject: Petition Number 38

Dear Mr. Forestell:

This is in response to Petition No. 38 tabled in the Legislature on Thursday, May 4, 2017 by Mr. Coon. This petition is in regards to the proposed Grooming Hub project in and around Mt Carleton Provincial Park.

As you may be aware, our Department has made significant effort to keep our stakeholders engaged and informed on development around the Grooming Hub proposal including discussions with First Nations, the Friends of Mount Carleton and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), amongst others.

As a result of the feedback I have received, my staff has been working with stakeholders to address environmental and archaeological concerns. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been triggered per Regulation 87-83 of the *Clean Environment Act* to ensure that any potential environmental impacts are appropriately mitigated. The EIA will address aspects of First Nations concerns and involve public consultations.

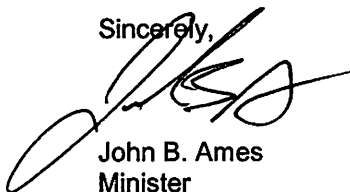
Additionally, this department has officially registered a First Nations consultation and accommodation process with the New Brunswick Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat. This process is on-going and involves detailed dialogue with both the Maliseet and Mi'kmaq Nations on cultural, spiritual and indigenous rights issues.

You should also be aware the department has engaged the services of an independent environmental consultant to evaluate the potential impacts of increased snowmobile activity within the park. In addition, archaeological surveys in the areas of the proposed work have been completed to identify any culturally significant First Nations sites.

Finally, it is important to note, that efforts are being made to ensure that future use of the park is consistent with the principles and objectives of a wilderness park.

Thank you for submitting this petition and advocating for our provincial parks. I am confident that as our Department continues to work together with First Nations and interested stakeholders we will advance solutions that are in the best interest of all parties.

Sincerely,


John B. Ames
Minister

