

RESPONSE TO PETITION

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



PETITION NO.: 421-00485

BY: Ms. MAY (SAANICH—GULF ISLANDS)

DATE: JUNE 13, 2016

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: THE HONOURABLE CATHERINE MCKENNA

Response by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. McKenna", written over a horizontal line.

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

While the petition stresses the need for consultation and consensus with all stakeholders, including First Nations, on mapping out all remaining old growth forests in Canada, it predetermines the outcome by suggesting that the only mechanism for protection is including them in national parks administered by Parks Canada. The Government of Canada is of the view that given that most of the remaining old growth forests reside on provincial or territorial lands, it should be those governments, in consultation with stakeholders, including First Nations, that determine through their respective legislation and regulation how best to protect Canada's remaining old growth forests. Parks Canada would be willing to share its expertise gathered through the management of old growth forests in places such as Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada and Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site.

In the meantime, the Agency's current focus is on establishing a new national park reserve in the Thaidene Nene region of the East Arm of Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories as announced in Budget 2016 and concluding a feasibility study and negotiations for a national park in the Manitoba Lowlands natural region. In addition, Parks Canada continues to work on the establishment of a national marine conservation area reserve in the Southern Strait of Georgia, with funding allocated through Budget 2016.