

Ministre de l'Environnement et  
du Changement climatique



Minister of Environment  
and Climate Change

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

**AUG 29 2019**

His Worship Mike Hurley  
Mayor of the City of Burnaby  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby BC V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor Hurley:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 25, 2019, regarding the city council's support for the proposed national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen region of British Columbia and for enclosing a report by the City of Burnaby's Environment and Social Planning Committee.

On July 2, 2019, the governments of Canada and British Columbia and the syilx/Okanagan Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formally work toward establishing a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. The MOU confirms the working boundary for the proposed national park reserve. Additional information and a copy of the MOU are available at <https://letstalksouthokanagansimilkameen.ca/Okanagan>.

The next step in the process will be negotiating a formal national park reserve establishment agreement that will define the terms and conditions for the establishment, development, management and operation of a national park reserve. The establishment of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Similkameen represents a valuable opportunity to advance reconciliation and for nation-to-nation engagement with the syilx/Okanagan Nation. It also provides an opportunity to protect one of Canada's iconic natural and cultural landscapes and share this unique and inspiring place with Canadians and visitors from around the world.

For any additional information on this matter, please contact Parks Canada's Director of Protected Area Establishment, Kevin McNamee, at [kevin.mcnamee@canada.ca](mailto:kevin.mcnamee@canada.ca).

I appreciate your commitment to this important conservation initiative.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, M.P.

Referred to:

Environment and Social Planning  
Committee (2019.10.10)

Copied to:

City Manager, Dir. Corporate Services,  
Dir. Engineering, Dir. Parks, Rec. and  
Cultural Services

