



APR 10 2017

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

Ms. Eleanor Fast
Executive Director
Nature Canada
efast@naturecanada.ca

Mr. Éric Hebert-Daly
National Executive Director
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
eric@cpaws.org

Dear Ms. Fast, Mr. Hebert-Daly and co-signatories:

Thank you for your letter of February 16, 2017, also addressed to the Honourable Shannon Phillips, Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks, and co-signed by a number of other environmental organizations, regarding the Pathway to Canada Target 1 initiative.

You raise several elements that will be key to achieving the ultimate goal of conserving Canada's biodiversity, which is why the Pathway initiative:

- involves Indigenous representatives, including on the National Steering Committee and the National Advisory Panel;
- states that the protection of at least 17 percent of Canada's land and freshwater areas is required;
- explicitly recognizes the importance of establishing and coordinating a network of terrestrial protected areas, Indigenous conservation areas and other effective area-based conservation measures across Canada that are effectively and equitably managed, well connected and integrated into the wider landscape, include areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services and together achieve ecological representation; and,
- articulates that the outputs and outcomes from the Pathway initiative should be designed so that they serve as natural solutions to climate change.

As you mentioned, federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for parks, protected areas and biodiversity conservation have accepted to work together to achieve Canada Target 1. I am confident this indicates a commitment to advancing existing proposals and exploring opportunities for new protected areas that could contribute to achieving the Target by 2020. In addition, jurisdictions have agreed to annual reporting on progress towards achieving the Target.

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It is well understood that solutions that will be needed for achieving Canada Target 1 will only be found through collaboration and collective action. I believe that your organizations will have a key role to play as part of that effort, and I look forward to working with you so that together we can build a natural legacy that will conserve Canada's biodiversity for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C McKenna', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Shannon Phillips, M.L.A.