

“Albertans will always have access to crown land”

 JASON NIXON · WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 · 2 MINUTES

It's sad, but not surprising, to see left-leaning organizations like the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), Leadnow and Y2Y continue their practice of making things up and parroting NDP talking points. The Alberta Government is not selling crown land as part of the parks restructuring. That is a false statement. These organizations worked tirelessly with the NDP to try and use parks as a tool to shut Albertans out of their backyard and to prevent them from accessing crown land for recreation.

Yes the Alberta Government is working on partnerships with organizations, including municipalities, First Nations, and non profit organizations, as well as contractors to partner to run underutilized infrastructure in our system in more productive and taxpayer-friendly ways.

Let me reiterate: Albertans will always have access to crown land, regardless of which partnerships are sought or how a location is designated. We reject the idea that it is only government that is able to provide quality services at parks day use and camping areas. This is the primary difference between us and the NDP.

We know we don't have to designate an area a park in order to ensure good stewardship.

Unlike the NDP, we trust that most Albertans are responsible and have a deep love for our wild places.

We are looking at these changes because we want our parks system to work for the largest number of Albertans possible, but we are also responsible to Alberta taxpayers. Practises like flying in firewood to the backcountry by helicopter and having parks staff drive long distances to change trash cans at locations that saw 22 users last year are simply not sustainable. Albertans are doing more with less – we need to follow their lead.

I hope this has helped clear up some of the misinformation around this important issue.

I want to make it crystal clear: access for Albertans and good stewardship will always be hallmarks of our government, even through tough economic times.

We will work diligently to ensure that current and future generations always have access to the incredible landscapes right in their backyards.

If you have any additional concerns, please reach out to me at aep.minister@gov.ab.ca.

Sincerely,

Jason Nixon,

Minister of Environment & Parks

*This photo, courtesy of the Friends of the Eastern Slopes Association, depicts the Ya Ha Tinda Ranch, an area that plays host to the Bighorn campground run by the Association.