



ALBERTA  
ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

*Office of the Minister  
Government House Leader  
MLA, Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre*

August 26, 2020

Peter Crowe-Swords, Director  
Calgary River Users' Alliance  
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Dear Peter Crowe-Swords:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Calgary River Users' Alliance (CRUA) regarding Harvie Passage road access and the attached access review, "Harvie Passage Roadway Access Needs A Resolution." I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information.

The Government of Alberta and the City of Calgary are proud of the Harvie Passage and the benefits it provides to Albertans and special user groups. Through a disposition agreement with Environment and Parks, the City of Calgary manages planning future amenities, improvements and potential changes to access and parking. All facility management decisions follow the City of Calgary's standard processes and must consider broad impacts to all users (including the public), prioritize public safety and protect natural areas (including Pearce Estate Park).

Both Environment and Parks, and the City of Calgary chair the Harvie Passage Joint Management Working Group. The department provides management planning input through the working group. Input from river user groups is brought into the decision-making process through their appointed representatives on the working group. The last meeting was held in Calgary on December 9, 2019, and included discussion of amenities, parking and access to Harvie Passage.

The City of Calgary has their River Access Strategy that encompasses Harvie Passage as part of the entire Bow River reach. This strategy provides boat launch locations upstream of the Harvie Passage that are safe and can accommodate vehicle and boat trailer traffic. The construction access road the CRUA requests access to (through Peace Estate Park) was only intended for construction, and the City of Calgary uses it for emergency response access to the Bow River. The road is not intended for public use because vehicle traffic is unauthorized in the Pearce Estate Park natural area, which includes sensitive wetlands and bird habitat.

Vehicle traffic at this location also poses a significant safety concern because of the heavy public pedestrian traffic on the Bow River pathway system and Harvie Passage shoreline areas. Harvie Passage is an open public facility that attracts many families with small children. Public safety is our highest concern, and this is an ongoing challenge given the passage's large number of visitors.

Accessibility for all Albertans is a key priority for the facility. We also want to ensure all groups have an equal opportunity to safely enjoy and provide input in the evolving vision of Harvie Passage's future development. The City of Calgary and the Harvie Passage Joint Management Group will continue to evaluate the facility and engage with stakeholders to identify opportunities for improvement. I invite the CRUA to continue providing input through its representative on the working group to ensure the facility is safe and accessible for all Albertans.

For more information, please contact Clayton Weiss, Bow Operations and Infrastructure Manager, in our Calgary office, at 403-297-5907, or at [clayton.weiss@gov.ab.ca](mailto:clayton.weiss@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you again for your letter and the access review. Environment and Parks will continue to lead the working group to advocate for the outcome of balanced opportunities for all users, to ensure safety and to protect the area's natural landscapes for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Jason Nixon  
Minister

cc: Clayton Weiss  
Environment and Parks