



Calgary River Users' Alliance

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Honorable Jason Nixon, Minister,
Alberta Environment & Parks
Edmonton, Alberta

Reference: Calgary's Harvie Passage – Roadway Access Needs a Resolution

Dear Minister Nixon:

The **Calgary Rivers Users' Alliance (CRUA)** was formed in 2016 to improve recreational access to Calgary's Bow and Elbow Rivers. CRUA represents the interests of all boaters using the rivers of Calgary, including both anglers and paddlers. We have worked successfully with the City of Calgary to develop the **Calgary River Access Strategy** to add new river access boat ramps across the city. We have also consulted with your department to develop the **Bow River Access Plan** to do the same improvements downstream of Calgary on what is recognized as a world-renowned trout fishery.

Our member organizations have also been a part of the extensive consultation process to develop the **Harvie Passage Whitewater Park** and safe passage through the Western Irrigation District Weir in the heart of Calgary. Harvie Passage was first proposed by the local canoeing and kayaking community as a solution to the dangers to traverse the Western Irrigation Weir in 2001 and was completed in 2018. In total, the Provincial government generously funded the Harvie Passage by about \$25 million.

Throughout the consultation process dating back to 2005, access to and parking at Harvie Passage has been a primary concern of stakeholders but has never been resolved. The attached document **"Harvie Passage Roadway Access Needs A Resolution"** describes the roadway access and parking needs to optimize Harvie Passage use while preserving the integrity of the adjacent Pearce Estate Park and Bow Habitat Station that also contains the Livingstone Fish Hatchery. Over the past four years, CRUA has attempted to negotiate a resolution to the

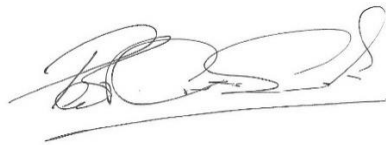
dilemma at Harvie Passage. The stumbling block would appear to be an entrenched position by Bow Habitat Station management staff that no roadway access is acceptable even though our proposals will take the pressure off existing parking at Bow Habitat Station.

Despite The City of Calgary being charged with the maintenance of provincial property adjacent to Harvie Passage as well as owning Pearce Estate Park, it has been unwilling or unable to resolve the road access objections of your staff at Bow Habitat Station.

In an age of partnerships and stewardship agreements that have been proposed by Alberta Environment & Parks for the operation of recreational land use, Harvie Passage offers a unique opportunity to fulfill this commitment in the heart of the City of Calgary.

As we have stated in the closing remarks in the attached document, ***“Calgary River Users’ Alliance is committed to finding a resolution to the access and parking challenge, and we are inviting all government agencies to commit to do the same.”*** We are respectfully requesting your intervention in this matter; specifically, in giving direction to Bow Habitat Station staff to enable a suitable access road to be built along the southern edge of Pearce Estate Park.

Yours sincerely



Peter Crowe-Swords

Director, Calgary River Users’ Alliance