

Gov't Reply.



Reference: 90841

DEC 29 2006

Les Carter, Director
Friends of the Rossland Range
PO Box 701
Rossland BC, V0G 1Y0

Dear Mr. Carter:

Thank you for your letter dated November 29, 2006 addressed to the Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment, regarding the proposed fixed-roof accommodation development opportunity at Nancy Greene Provincial Park. Your letter has been forwarded to me to respond on behalf of the Minister.

Further to government's recently approved Fixed-Roof Accommodation Policy, the Ministry of Environment issued requests for proposals to assess interest in providing new overnight accommodations in ten provincial parks. The proposal call for Nancy Greene Park closed on November 27, 2006 with no proposals received.

This policy is aimed at increasing the range and diversity of visitors to our parks; enabling a greater variety of opportunities for healthy, nature-based recreation; ensuring ecologically-sensitive operations that support park values; and provide a clear, open and fair process for evaluating new or expanded visitor accommodation services in parks. Full details of our policy are available online at www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/fixed_roof/index.html.

British Columbia now has more than 600 parks, covering an area bigger than Switzerland, Belgium and The Netherlands - combined. Ministry staff completed a project to identify a small number of these parks that may be suitable for some form of fixed-roof accommodation. Nancy Greene Park was chosen because of its popularity as an overnight stop for tourists as well as day-use opportunities for local residents. It is a perfect place to enjoy fishing, picnicking, walking, swimming and boating in the summer and Nordic skiing in the winter. A modest type of roofed accommodation facility is considered to compliment these activities and provide accommodation options to our park visitors.

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Ministry of Environment

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