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Honourable Ric McIver  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
Government of Alberta

April 28, 2024

Dear Minister McIver,

Our organizations are writing today to enquire about the future of the Edmonton National Urban Park initiative now that Bill 204, the MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT (NATIONAL URBAN PARKS) AMENDMENT ACT, 2023 has been passed in the Alberta Legislature.

Over the past four years our organizations have been instrumental in developing interest and involvement from local municipalities, Parks Canada, and other partners around the concept of a National Urban Park focused on the North Saskatchewan River Valley in the greater Edmonton region. Over this period our volunteer members have contributed hundreds of hours of their time towards a vision for greater conservation of Edmonton's most valuable natural asset.

During debate on Bill 204 on April 15<sup>th</sup>, the bill sponsor, MLA Lundy, said: ***“The intent of this bill is to ensure that the provincial government has a role in any proposed development of a national urban park in any Alberta municipality.”***

Additionally, section 70.1(3) of the newly amended Municipal Government Act reads as follows:

**(3) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may prescribe the conditions under which a council may negotiate a proposed national urban park plan.**

With this in mind, and with respect for the countless volunteer hours that Albertans have contributed to the National Urban Park process to date, can you please inform us of the following:

1. Will the Provincial Government be collaborating with the City of Edmonton to provide conditions under which the City can proceed with negotiations with the Provincial Government, Parks Canada, and other regional partners on a proposed National Urban Park?
2. In fairness to the many volunteers, partners, and government staff who have worked on this project over the past four years, can you provide a timeline for when these conditions will be provided?



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3. Although having previously chosen not to participate as a partner at the National Urban Park Partners Table, but instead having chosen to attend the meetings as an “interested observer”, will the Government of Alberta now commit to working as a Partner, with the City of Edmonton, the Confederacy of First Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta, and others, during the next phase of planning for a potential National Urban Park?

We believe a National Urban Park provides an excellent opportunity for local communities, Indigenous Peoples, Parks Canada, and the Provincial Government, to work together to further protect and enhance opportunities to appreciate the treasure of the North Saskatchewan River Valley in the greater Edmonton Region. We also believe this can and should be accomplished with Albertans remaining responsible for ownership and management of a future National Urban Park.

We appreciate the efforts by the City of Edmonton and Parks Canada to engage citizens and look forward to future opportunities to provide a voice for our Capital region parks.

Sincerely,

***Linda Duncan***

North Saskatchewan River Valley Conservation Society

***Steve Donelon***

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Northern Alberta Chapter

***Kristine Kowalchuk***

Edmonton River Valley Conservation Coalition

CC. Amarjeet Sohi – Mayor of Edmonton

Danielle Smith – Premier of Alberta

Todd Loewen - Minister of Forestry and Parks

Erika Taves – Parks Canada Agency