



Reference: 415951

*July 4, 2025*

Their Worship Mayor Joan Atkinson  
and Councillors  
District of Mackenzie  
Bag 340  
Mackenzie BC V0J 2C0

Sent via email: [joan@districtofmackenzie.ca](mailto:joan@districtofmackenzie.ca)

Dear Mayor Atkinson and Council:

This letter is a follow-up to your meeting with Georgia Ridell-Kowal at the 2025 North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) AGM and Convention. I would also like to thank you for your letter of June 5, 2025, addressed to the Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks, regarding the bridge replacement project at Whiskers Point Park. Minister Davidson has asked that I respond on her behalf.

We apologize for the lack of communication with the District of Mackenzie. A routine inspection of the bridges in the fall of 2024 identified deterioration and potential risk to park visitors. The engineer's report rated the bridges as not safe for use immediately after the inspection.

The replacement cost for the bridges was significantly higher than the operating budget for the region. The Ministry of Environment and Parks recognized the project as a high priority due to the financial implications to the local economy, and the replacement was placed high on the capital project list for 2025. The replacement of the bridges remains a high priority for BC Parks which has allocated funding within our current constrained budget. The initial surveys have been completed, design work is ongoing and install dates are being set. Due to the regulations of the *Wildlife Act* regarding work in and near a stream, construction schedules have been set up accordingly. Completion of the bridges is estimated to be finished before the end of September 2025.

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We appreciate that this project impacts many local residents and visitors to area. We will strive to improve communications with the District of Mackenzie in the future. Please reach out to the North Area Executive Director for BC Parks, Ed Hoffman ([Edward.hoffman@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Edward.hoffman@gov.bc.ca)) to coordinate the preferred way for BC Parks to communicate with the District of Mackenzie.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim Standen', written in a cursive style.

Jim Standen  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Conservation and Recreation Division

cc: Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks  
Edward Hoffman, Executive Director, Conservation and Recreation Division  
Georgia Riddell-Kowal, Constituency Advisor, North Coast-Haida Gwaii  
Cat Smith, Executive Assistant/Legislative Clerk, District of Mackenzie