

Sept. 3, 2020

**Hon. George Heyman**  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Box 9047, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Heyman,

In follow-up to our correspondence of July 9, 2020, the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce respectively inquiries as to the status of potentially purchasing Chelsea Estate adjacent to Ellison Provincial Park in Vernon.

As previously mentioned, we understand limited budgets and competing priorities within the government and B.C. Parks. However, we want to reiterate that an expansion of Ellison Provincial Park would bolster tourism particularly as the sector has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is also a tremendous opportunity to protect ecological and recreational values for future generations.

Our Chamber stands ready to work with B.C. Parks and your ministry to identify potential public and private donors that can assist with this initiative. And while acquisition of the entire 234-acre Chelsea Estate is ideal to maximize the long-term benefits for the North Okanagan and Province, we would ask that your government consider working with us to purchase at least a portion of the site immediately next to Ellison Provincial Park.

Given that the property is on the open market, time is of the essence and we are excited to partner with you to ensure this vision becomes reality. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Krystin Kempton, President  
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

CC: John Horgan, Premier of B.C.  
Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism  
Eric Foster, Vernon-Monashee MLA

Norm Letnick, Kelowna-Lake Country MLA  
Adam Olsen, BC Green Party Interim Leader  
Byron Louis, Okanagan Indian Band Chief  
Kevin Acton, Regional District of North Okanagan Chair  
Victor Cumming, City of Vernon Mayor  
Jim Garlick, District of Coldstream Mayor  
Gail Given, Regional District of Central Okanagan Chair  
James Baker, District of Lake Country Mayor  
Brad Pelletier, Predator Ridge Golf Resort  
Hans-Peter Mayr, Sparkling Hill Resort  
North Okanagan Cycling Society  
Claus Larsen, City of Vernon Tourism Commission  
North Okanagan Naturalists Club  
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association  
Lake Country Chamber of Commerce  
Okanagan Nation Alliance  
Allan Brooks Nature Centre  
Okanagan Landing Community Association  
Mike Brown