

June 23, 2020

**Hon. John Horgan**  
Premier of British Columbia  
Box 9041, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9E1

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

Dear Premier Horgan and Minister Heyman,

The Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce is writing you about a tremendous opportunity that exists not only for the North Okanagan, but for the entire province.

Specifically, we request that your government acquire the 234-acre Chelsea Estate at 9747 Cameron Road in Vernon, and that the property be included within the adjacent Ellison Provincial Park.

With tourism an increasingly important anchor to the economy, preserving sandy beaches along Okanagan Lake is critical to draw visitors to the Okanagan and, as the population of the Okanagan grows, there is demand from local residents to access the lakeshore.

Significant investments have already been made to mountain biking and hiking trails in Ellison Provincial Park as well as Predator Ridge Resort. The acquisition of the Chelsea Estate property would elevate Vernon's reputation as a premier adventure destination by providing the ability to further expand the trail network.

In terms of the environment, public park status would ensure the protection of vast stands of ponderosa pines and grasslands, as well as significant shoreline critical to the survival of aquatic species such as kokanee salmon. The property's location along Okanagan Lake has also been part of the Syilx people for generations.

We should point out that a petition campaign calls for the Chelsea Estate property to become a public asset and members of City of Vernon council have unanimously endorsed an expansion of Ellison Provincial Park.

We are abundantly aware that there is a significant cost to acquiring land and then developing it into provincial park, but we ask, ‘What is the price if we do nothing, if we let this opportunity slip away?’ Just as the creation of Fintry and Kekuli Bay Provincial Parks in the last 30 years have contributed to the Okanagan’s economy and lifestyle, we believe strongly that the addition of the Chelsea Estate to Ellison Provincial Park will provide a legacy for future generations.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Krystin Kempton, President  
Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce

CC: 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