

Kim, Sabrina

From: Kim, Sabrina
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Theis, Rick; Caron, Zoe; Goodman, Sarah; Deagle, Jordan; Trogen, Emily; MacKendrick, Andrew
Cc: Khalil, Samantha
Subject: Info on Parks Canada re-opening

Hello!

I spoke with Marlo, Jamie and Jordan on the limited re-opening of Parks Canada places that appears to be tracking for June 1st. This is my understanding of what the proposed plan is, based off those convos. Let me know if you have any Qs and/or need anything:

- Parks Canada places are closed to the public until June 1st
- COVID committee is in favour of re-opening certain national parks on June 1st in a limited fashion
 - "Certain" = only the parks in P/Ts who have opened their own provincial parks already;
 - "Limited" = only public bathrooms, trails for day use & parking lots
- **This does not include camping, visitor service centres, activities etc.; they will remain closed**
- I understand this does not have to go to full cabinet
- Since many P/T parks are already beginning to re-open & since this may cause some confusion about whether or not our national parks are open for the long weekend (ppl don't rly understand the difference) - I understand the DPM suggested the PM may want to "announce" that national parks will continue to be closed until June 1st but that certain national parks will be re-opened in a limited fashion thereafter
- As such, ECCC comms is starting to create some products that would support such an "announcement" which they will share w DPMO & PMO comms once complete (probably a suggested text for the PM's remarks, as well as an NR & Backgrounder for the public)
- I understand the tentative plan is to "announce" this info this week
- **The objective is to avoid chaos in our national parks in advance of the long weekend while also being transparent with the public** (including with the small towns that may be impacted by this decision) about what Parks is getting ready to do
- The other option is to stay silent on the June 1st partial re-opening (which could create a confusion among employees who are going to start preparing soon & leak) and only have the PM say "Parks are closed this long weekend, stay home"

Some other, less urgent thoughts for your consideration:

- Although fees remain in place, in some locations where protection is not yet installed, fees will not be collected in person
 - We will not be publicizing this to avoid a perception of parks being free (which runs a risk of too many people going to the parks)
- Parks has enough PPE already on hand for the initial opening, and is working with PSPC to ensure they secure some more for later
 - I understand some of the expired masks in the NESS and other supplies that were donated but didn't meet standards could go towards that
- I am told there will be signage encouraging ppl to physically distance in our national parks & that Parks rangers will also ensure that visitors are physically distancing
- I understand Minister Joly wanted to be engaged at some level given the potential implications for the tourism file

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