Minister of the Environment Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

AUG 2 1 2012

Dr. Laurie E. Adkin
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
and Environmental Studies Programme
University of Alberta
ladkin@ualberta.ca

Dear Dr. Adkin and Co-signatories:

Thank you for your email message of July 5, 2012, concerning several important issues. I would like to take this opportunity to address those which fall under my purview.

Regarding funding for the Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL), this facility at Eureka, Nunavut, is owned by Environment Canada and has enabled a wide range of collaborative atmospheric and climate science studies. An informal consortium of university researchers known as the Canadian Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Change (CANDAC) has been the principal user of the PEARL facility since 2004. Unfortunately, CANDAC's application for funding to the Networks of Centres of Excellence program under Canada's three research granting councils was not successful. Therefore, CANDAC will be unable to conduct research at the PEARL facility until new funding is found.

I would like to assure you that Environment Canada continues to monitor ozone and weather at a nearby facility in Eureka.

The Government of Canada recognizes the important role of university atmospheric research in the Arctic. In Budget 2011, our government directed new funding for climate change and atmospheric research to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to support proposals from Canadian academic researchers. These funds will support a limited number of large-scale research projects that are a high priority for the Canadian academic research community and federal government departments, and address major challenges in three theme areas. Those areas consist of earth system processes and their representation in models, earth system prediction through improved forecasting methodologies, and understanding

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recent changes in the Arctic and other Canadian cold region environments. All applicants were asked to meet the initial NSERC deadline of May 17, 2012, for letters of intent. The applicants whose letters are successful will be asked to submit final proposals by early November 2012.

I acknowledge the excellent research that has been conducted at the Experimental Lakes Area and the unique opportunity that the facility presented for researchers. Environment Canada is proud of its contribution made through Experimental Lakes Area works.

The termination of the operations at the Experimental Lakes Area is part of the Government of Canada's effort to eliminate the deficit and contribute to current and future prosperity. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has reviewed operations and will be implementing measures to modernize government and refocus the cost of operations and program delivery.

I am advised that Fisheries and Oceans Canada believes universities and non-governmental research facilities are better suited to conduct the type of research that has been done at the Experimental Lakes Area, and strongly favours transferring operations to an organization that is better positioned to do studies based on fundamental ecosystem manipulation.

I understand that in the coming weeks and months, Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be holding discussions with the Province of Ontario and other interested parties about transferring operations of the facility.

With respect to changes to Parks Canada's workforce, the steps we are taking will better enable Parks Canada to focus on its core mandate to protect and present Canada's treasured protected places, both now, and in the future. Furthermore, these steps will help ensure a much more efficient, and sustainable, Parks Canada Agency, with reduced costs to taxpayers.

Parks Canada will continue to focus on its priorities—acting as the steward and guide to Canada's national natural and cultural treasures and providing an opportunity for Canadians to connect to these places.

A Parks Canada team of professionals, including both underwater and terrestrial archaeologists, historians, and collections and conservation specialists, remain in place to ensure the Agency will continue to preserve, present and effectively manage its historic and archaeological objects and deliver on its core mandate to protect and present Canada's treasured heritage places. Rest assured that

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Parks Canada will accomplish this by streamlining its organizational structure and prioritizing activities based on its core mandate and sound, nationally and internationally accepted cultural resource management principles.

Parks Canada's national collection of archaeological and historic objects remains accessible to Canadians, institutions and researchers. The Agency is a leading heritage organization and will continue to seek partnerships nationally and internationally to protect and present the country's treasured places.

Parks Canada will continue to tell the stories that are important to our national identity, manage species at risk, provide meaningful experiences that promote understanding and appreciation of Canada, and support communities through tourism, as it has done for the last 100 years.

I appreciate your bringing your views to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Keith Ashfield, P.C., M.P.