



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



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The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of the Environment
433-C, Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

June 4, 2018

Dear Minister McKenna,

I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to reject any proposal to hold Olympic events at Lake Louise in Banff National Park as part of Calgary's bid for the 2026 Winter Games.

The Calgary Olympic Bid Committee has repeatedly suggested that some ski events could be hosted at the Lake Louise Ski Resort, which would require significant development of what is currently a protected area already under significant pressure. As you know, environmental groups including CPAWS are actively campaigning against this idea – and see it as setting a dangerous precedent, potentially opening the door for future development in our national parks.

In your recent response to the 2017 Roundtable on Parks, you stated your unequivocal commitment that the maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity will be the first priority when considering all aspects of the management of national parks. You further stated that maintaining and restoring ecological integrity necessarily requires limits on development in national parks.

All past proposals to host Olympic ski events at Lake Louise have been defeated by significant opposition from Canadians across the country – the same opposition we are hearing from Canadians now. Your government's silence thus far on the question of allowing Olympic events at Lake Louise has been deeply disappointing.

I want to state clearly that I support Calgary in its bid for the 2026 Winter Games. Calgary has proven itself in the past to be a wonderful Olympic host city, and I have no doubt it could do so again. However, this achievement must not come at the cost of the ecological integrity of Banff National Park.

Furthermore, the Olympic bid process is a long, complex and expensive undertaking. I believe it is unfair to the Bid Committee to waste their time and resources by not providing the necessary clarity on the question of whether or not events will be allowed at Lake Louise. Other suitable

venues for the ski events have been proposed and should be the focus of the Bid Committee's work.

Banff National Park is one of our country's most cherished natural places. I strongly urge you to demonstrate your commitment to the prioritization of ecological integrity by unequivocally rejecting the proposal for Olympic events to be held at Lake Louise. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Wayne Stetski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small circle at the end of the last name.

Wayne Stetski
Member of Parliament, Kootenay-Columbia
NDP Critic for National Parks

Cc : The Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Sport