



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Park Act

Order of the Executive Director

TO: Public Notice

DATE: April 8, 2020

WHEREAS:

- A. This order applies to all Crown land established or continued as a park, conservancy, recreation area, or ecological reserve under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act* or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*.
- B. This order is made in the public interest in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purposes of the protection of human health and safety.
- C. This order is in regard to all public access, facilities or uses that exist in any of the lands mentioned in Section A above, and include but are not limited to: campgrounds, day-use areas, trails, playgrounds, shelters, visitor centers, cabins, chalets, lodges, resort areas, group campsites, and all other facilities or lands owned or operated by or on behalf of BC Parks.
- D. This order is subject to amendment, revocation or repeal as necessary to respond to changing circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.
- E. The protection of park visitor health, the health of all BC Parks staff, Park Operators, contractors and permittees is the primary consideration in the making of this order.

F. Section 17 of the *Park Act* states:

A director or any park officer acting on the director's behalf may do one or more of the following:

- (c) order any person in any park, conservancy or recreation area to cease or refrain from an action, an omission or conduct that the director or park officer, in his or her discretion, considers dangerous to life or property or detrimental to the public interest;

ACCORDINGLY, the Executive Director orders:

1. All Provincial Parks, Conservancies, Recreation Areas and Ecological Reserves established or continued under the *Park Act*, the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*, or protected areas established under provisions of the *Environment and Land Use Act*, are hereby closed to all uses by the public.
2. Any facility, event, or activity involving the participation of the public, which was previously allowed or authorized under the authority of a Park Officer, or a Park Use Permit are ordered to cease and are closed for the duration of this order.
3. Access to any park, associated with any authorized or permitted operations, that do not involve the participation of the public and are for the purpose(s) of the preservation and maintenance of the park; access to or maintenance of private or park facilities; requires a written exemption to this order issued by the Regional Director responsible for the Park.
4. Continued access and use of areas described in Section A (page 1) to accommodate Indigenous people's social, ceremonial, and cultural activities in provincial parks and protected areas must align with current health directives for public health and safety.
5. This order comes into effect at 08:00 hrs (PST) on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 and remains in effect until repealed by further order.

6. If this order is not carried out or is only partially or imperfectly carried out, I may direct any person to carry out or complete the order, and the expense to the government of carrying out or completing the carrying out of the order will be a debt owing to the government by Individual at the suit of the government in any court of competent jurisdiction

Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 8th day of April, 2020.



Bob Austad

Executive Director, Regional Operations Branch

BC Parks and Conservation Officer Service Division

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.