



PARKS CANADA AGENCY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2007–2009

*Towards a Culture
of Conservation*



Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada

Serving Canadians

THE
PARKS CANADA
CHARTER

OUR MANDATE

On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations.

OUR ROLE

We are guardians of the national parks, the national historic sites and the national marine conservation areas of Canada.

We are guides to visitors from around the world, opening doors to places of discovery and learning, reflection and recreation.

We are partners, building on the rich traditions of our Aboriginal people, the strength of our diverse cultures and our commitments to the international community.

We are storytellers, recounting the history of our land and our people — the stories of Canada.

OUR COMMITMENTS

To protect, as a first priority, the natural and cultural heritage of our special places and ensure that they remain healthy and whole.

To present the beauty and significance of our natural world and to chronicle the human determination and ingenuity which have shaped our nation.

To celebrate the legacy of visionary Canadians whose passion and knowledge have inspired the character and values of our country.

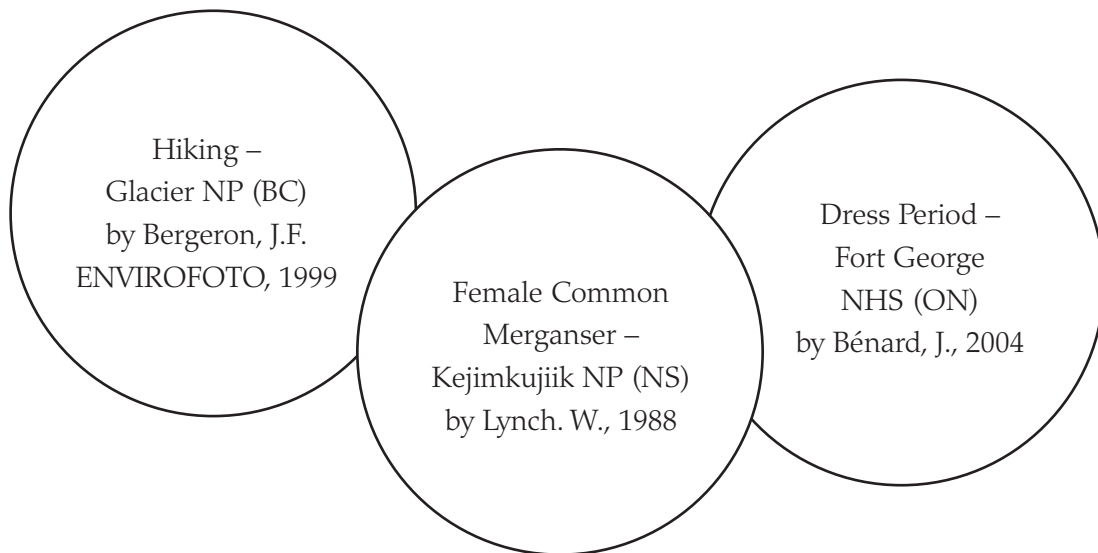
To serve Canadians, working together to achieve excellence guided by values of competence, respect and fairness.

2002

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Bottom Landscape

Snowy Mountain, Mount Revelstoke National Park of Canada (Parks Canada)

Lake and mountains (Parks Canada)

Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site of Canada (Parks Canada)

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site of Canada (Parks Canada)

Château Frontenac National Historic Site of Canada (P. St.-Jacques, 1994)

Fall foliage (Parks Canada, Michael Wood, 1997)

Waves (Parks Canada, André Cornellier, 1991)

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A message from the Minister of the Environment

As Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency, I am pleased to present Parks Canada's *Sustainable Development Strategy*. Parks Canada is the steward of some of our most enduring and cherished national treasures: our national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas. These outstanding riches are at the very heart of Canada's identity—they represent the very best of our natural environment and cultural vitality.

As its first priority, Parks Canada is committed to protecting the cultural and natural heritage of our special places, and to ensuring that they remain healthy and whole. This is what sustainable development is all about. Through sustainable development, we can meet the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their

own needs. The Agency is also committed to providing relevant learning opportunities and offering memorable visitor experiences.

Parks Canada uses science and traditional knowledge to ensure that the significant cultural and natural features of our national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas are preserved for current and future generations of Canadians to experience and enjoy. The Agency is greening its own operations and its visitor facilities, to minimize or eliminate any potential negative impacts they might have. It is helping to educate Canadians about sustainable development. It is working together with partners, stakeholders, governments, corporations and Canadians, to conserve and sustain our natural and cultural legacies for the future.

Above all, the principles of sustainable development will help the Parks Canada Agency fulfill its role as the guardian of these exceptional heritage areas. As a leader in sustainable development, Canada is committed to continuing its work to minimize its impact on the environment. Parks Canada's

Sustainable Development Strategy provides a roadmap of how the Agency is systematically integrating the principles of sustainable development into its policies, programs, legislation and operations for the benefit of all Canadians of today and tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several large, fluid, overlapping loops and strokes, characteristic of a cursive or semi-cursive style.

Rona Ambrose
Minister of the Environment

Background and Context

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Sustainable development is a way of thinking and acting, a way of ensuring that social, economic, and environmental considerations are integrated into our decisions and our actions. Sustainable development is about ensuring that the choices we make as citizens, consumers, producers, and investors are compatible with an excellent quality of life for all Canadians and the global community, now and in the future. Canada has many strengths – vigorous democratic institutions, educated citizens, extensive natural resources, innovative businesses and vibrant communities. We have an opportunity and a responsibility to use our strengths in securing healthy natural and planned environments, a dynamic and just society, and a thriving economy.

For many communities across Canada – rural, remote and urban alike – sustainable development is recognized as integral to maintaining their way of life. Leading municipalities are incorporating sustainable land-use planning, clean-air initiatives, and energy –efficiency commitments in their day-to-day operations. Likewise, forward-looking Canadian companies are proving that sustainable business is good business – in terms of profitability, accountability to stakeholders, exposure to new markets and long-term economic health. Innovation and investment guided by sustainable development principles is improving the efficiency and competitiveness of Canadian industries in today’s global marketplace.

Our international credibility as a leader in sustainable development is a credit to all Canadians, and demands that we continue to work hard to minimize our impact on the environment, and to address pressing global issues, such as health, poverty, air and water quality.

Government of Canada Context

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that Canadians continue to prosper in a free, equitable, and healthy society. To guide this commitment and communicate some of the ways in which the Government fulfills it, sustainable development strategies are submitted to Parliament every three years by federal departments and agencies.

The Parks Canada sustainable development strategy (SDS) outlines how the Agency will systematically integrate the principles of sustainable development into its policies, programs, legislation and operations.

Through these strategies, the Parks Canada Agency is accountable to Canadians for its decisions and actions.

“With respect to (its) Parks, it is essential that each country keep part of its natural heritage untouched, as a record for the future, a baseline to measure change, so people can see the splendor of their past, before the land was degraded. If we destroy the parks, they’re gone forever.” – George Schaller, Biologist

Parks Canada Context

Canada’s national historic sites and canals, national parks and national marine conservation areas belong to all Canadians. They are powerful symbols of our identity, and represent the vitality of our culture and the wonders of our natural environment. They are there for present and future generations of Canadians to experience, appreciate and understand.

“Parks nourish the human spirit, help sustain the planet and reflect the ideals of the societies that protect them. Landscape and memory combine to tell us that certain places are special, sanctified by their extraordinary natural merits and by social consensus. We call these places parks and we take them for granted.” – Chris Johns, Editor, National Geographic magazine

The Parks Canada Agency protects and preserves special heritage places and by providing meaningful visitor and educational experiences to its millions of visitors, encourages Canadians to adopt a culture of conservation. Parks Canada is in the business of sustainable development.

The Parks Canada Agency

Parks Canada's official mandate states that:

On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure the ecological and commemorative integrity of these places for present and future generations.

Parks Canada's mandate aligns well with the goals of sustainable development. The business of Parks Canada is the protection and presentation of significant examples of Canada's history and culture and representative examples of Canada's ecosystems and biodiversity.

The Agency mandate defines and is identical to its strategic outcome; that is, the desired end product of all its activities. Parks Canada's strategic outcome includes two important subsets of sustainable economy policy, Agency activities contribute to the attainment of *sustainable economic growth* and *a clean and healthy environment*.

The Agency is dedicated to three overarching commitments: to protect, to present and to celebrate those treasures that are entrusted to its stewardship. These commitments are

integral to the meaning of sustainable development – you cannot sustain without protection, you cannot sustain without presentation and you cannot sustain without celebration.

The Parks Canada Agency delivers its mandate through a program activity architecture (PAA) composed of six main program activities. The PAA is the structure used by the Agency to present its Corporate Plan and report to Parliament and to Canadians.

The core programs of the Agency are outlined in the first four program activities: Establish Heritage Places, Conserve Heritage Resources, Promote Public Appreciation and Understanding, and Enhance Visitor Experience.

Establish Heritage Places

The establishment of heritage places covers systems planning; negotiating with stakeholders for inclusion in the national systems; obtaining ministerial approvals and

establishing national historic sites, national parks, national marine conservation areas and other heritage places.

Conserve Heritage Resources

Activities to conserve heritage resources include the maintenance and improvement of commemorative integrity at national historic sites managed or influenced by Parks Canada; the protection and management of cultural resources which are under the administration

of Parks Canada, but not associated with national historic sites; the maintenance or improvement of ecological integrity in national parks and the protection and conservation of national marine conservation areas in a sustainable manner.

Promote Public Appreciation and Understanding

Promotion of public appreciation and understanding involves programs and activities that are aimed at reaching Canadians in the communities where they live, work and learn,

and inviting them to become more involved in the protection and the discovery of the nation's cultural and natural heritage.

Enhance Visitor Experience

Opportunities for enhanced visitor experiences are provided by Parks Canada and its partners by setting the stage for visitors to enjoy meaningful, high-quality experiences through the provision of information, infrastructure and facilities; and through programs, services and personnel that respond to visitor needs and expectations.

These core programs are linked by many interconnected priorities and expected results, constitute the platform on which Parks Canada defines its contribution to federal sustainable development goals. Additional detail about the core programs of the Agency is contained in the Agency Corporate Plan (see: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/bib-lib/docs2e.asp>)

Scan of Issues

Parks Canada faces numerous, but not impossible challenges in achieving its planned results, and thereby contributing to overall federal sustainable development goals.

1. Parks Canada cannot act unilaterally to establish heritage places.
2. Native biodiversity and habitat are under considerable stress and have suffered progressive loss.
3. In the past 30 years, Canada has lost more than 20 % of its pre-1920 heritage buildings to demolition.
4. The Agency must build strong and trusting relationships with Aboriginal communities
5. The Agency must connect with, engage and respond to the needs and interests of young people, as well as urban dwellers and new immigrants.
6. The Agency must understand the changing leisure patterns of Canadians and visitors from abroad, and provide meaningful visitor experiences in innovative and interactive ways.
7. The Agency must maintain and restore ecological and commemorative integrity while offering meaningful visitor experiences, education programs and activities that cultivate understanding.

Changing Circumstances

Although there are many circumstances that can affect the sustainable development strategy, four in particular have a major impact

on the Agency sustainable development strategies and action plans:

I. Government Investment Via Budget 2005 in Asset Recapitalization, Ecological Integrity, and the Historic Places Initiative

Asset Recapitalization

Budget Plan 2005 provided \$209 million over five years to address the shortfalls chronicled in the Agency's Long Term Capital Plan. Parks Canada has a unique opportunity to demonstrate environmental leadership as it recapitalizes existing visitor experience assets and infrastructure. Recently approved Parks Canada capital investment principles direct that investments should reduce any existing negative environmental impacts, while continuing to ensure that facilities respond to visitor needs and, wherever possible, reduce the existing visitor impact "footprint". These same principles state that capital investments should exhibit cultural and environmental leadership; follow green design, contracting, procurement and operating principles; and use

sustainable and environmentally sound energy sources within appropriate and affordable standards.

Ecological Integrity

With the funding announced in Budget Plan 2005 of \$60 million over five years, Parks Canada will accelerate its actions over the next four years to improve the ecological integrity of Canada's 42 existing national parks, by implementing its Action Plan and by responding to the 2005 Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development. Playing a leadership role in ecosystem management and encouraging Canadians to become stewards on matters of ecological integrity and cultural resources management are key themes for the Agency.

Historic Places Initiative

Budget 2005 funding will also enable Parks Canada to sustain its collaboration with provinces and territories through the Historic Places Initiative. There is still an untapped opportunity to develop tools and programs to protect the historic fabric and built heritage of small and large communities across Canada.

In addition, in her 2003 report, *Protection of Cultural Heritage in the Federal Government*, the Auditor General identified the need for a legislative framework to improve overall federal stewardship of historic properties; work is also needed to put the federal house in order.

II. The Evolving Nature of Aboriginal Relations

The creation and management of many national historic sites, most of the emerging national marine conservation areas and the majority of national parks have depended, and will always depend, on the extraordinary sense of sharing, the pragmatic wisdom and the deeply cooperative spirit of Aboriginal peoples. In return, far more must be done to meet the aspirations of aboriginal peoples for tourism benefits, opportunities for youth, and the protection and presentation of Aboriginal heritage.

Equally important is the requirement to respect existing Aboriginal and treaty rights, obligations under land claim settlements, and also to show consideration for the timelines and decision-making processes of Aboriginal groups.

III. The Creation of the External Relations and Visitor Experience Directorate

The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, together with the participants at the Minister's Round Table held in 2005, called for Parks Canada to invest in public education and the enhancement of visitor experiences as a means of creating a broader culture of conservation. The Agency responded organizationally by creating a new directorate of External relations and Visitor Experience. Activities carried out by the new

Directorate will help Parks Canada better understand and serve the interests of Canadians, offer opportunities for them to enjoy relevant and educational experiences, coordinate outreach efforts more effectively and foster personal relationships between Canadians and their heritage places. However, full implementation of such activities across the Agency will take some time to accomplish.

IV. Establishment Investment for New National Parks and National Marine Conservation Areas

The Government provided \$144 million for the establishment of new national parks and national marine conservation areas. This will enable the Parks Canada Agency to move forward toward the completion of the systems of national parks and national marine conservation areas.

Accountability and Performance Measurement

Management has established systems and practices designed to provide reasonable assurance of the fairness and reliability of the Agency's performance information including that associated with its sustainable

development strategies. Parks Canada is continually improving its financial and performance information through the introduction of new tools that will provide better measures of performance and by constantly striving to hone and enhance its collection of data.

The Agency's senior management oversees preparation of the SDS and approves the final product.

Communicating and Reporting on Progress to our Stakeholders

Minister's Round Table on Parks Canada

The *Parks Canada Agency Act* requires that the Minister overseeing Parks Canada convene, at least every two years, a round table of persons interested in matters for which the Agency is responsible, and which will advise the Minister on the performance of the Agency.

The Minister's Round Table on Parks Canada brings together a wide range of people who are passionate about Canada's national heritage places. The last Minister's Round Table took place in February 2005, and another will be scheduled in 2007. For more information please visit: http://www.pc.gc.ca/agen/trm-mrt/2005/index_e.asp.

In 2005, the insights and deliberations on the subjects of visitor experience and the building of a culture of conservation in Canada led to 15 thoughtful recommendations that will help guide the Agency's future actions.

The Agency produces, immediately prior to the Minister's Round Table, a State of the Protected Areas Report (SOPHA). The SOPHA is the primary document used by the Agency to report to its immediate stakeholders. The SOPHA is also tabled in Parliament, as required by the *Parks Canada Agency Act*.

Management Planning

The *Parks Canada Agency Act* requires that current management plans be in place for each national historic site, national park and national marine conservation area, outlining how goals will be achieved. Public consultation is an essential element of the creation and implementation of these plans.

Management plans must be reviewed on a five-year cycle.

Each protected heritage area produces a State of the Park Report to stakeholders that informs the management planning process.

Departmental Performance Report

The Agency reports to Parliament and to Canadians via its Departmental Performance Report (DPR), which provides a yearly overview of the Agency's accomplishments. The fairness and reliability of the reporting data and information in the DPR are assessed

annually by the Auditor General, although it is not the role of the Auditor General of Canada to assess or comment on the Agency's actual performance.

Performance Measurement

The Parks Canada Strategic Planning Framework presents, amongst other things, the Agency's planned results and performance expectations. The performance expectations have been developed in cooperation with the Auditor General of Canada and the Results

Based Management Division of the Treasury Board Secretariat. The DPR is the vehicle for reporting on accomplishments of the Agency to Parliament and Canadians.

Parks Canada Agency 2007-2009 Sustainable Development Strategy

There are six long-term federal sustainable development goals. Although Parks Canada certainly contributes to the federal government's overall performance vis-à-vis environmental quality and sustainable development, it is often difficult to make a direct one-to-one link between a Parks Canada strategy or action and a government long-term

goal. In other cases, a strategy or action may contribute to more than one of the six long-term goals. The 2007-2009 SDS is presented in a "best-fit" manner, which outlines where the strategy or action is most appropriately listed.

Goal 1: Clean and secure water for people, marine and freshwater ecosystems

OBJECTIVE 1.1: PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER

Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
1.1.2 Drinking water quality and wastewater management are improved, e.g., on federal lands.	<p>Provide responsible environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, and efficient and affordable administration to the five national park townsites administered by Parks Canada.</p> <p>Encourage the communities of Banff and Jasper to develop monitoring programs and reporting protocols similar to those in Parks-administered communities.</p>	Meet targets for sewage effluent quality, water conservation, solid waste diversion, management of contaminated sites, and legislated limits to growth.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: PEOPLE USE WATER EFFICIENTLY

Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
1.2.1 Water efficiency and sustainable water use is improved	Maintain condition of waterways (canal systems) with regard to water control functions; meet water level obligations.	Develop an inventory of water control obligations, targets and protocols for measuring compliance by March 2007.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: CONSERVE AND PROTECT AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS (MARINE AND FRESHWATER) AND BIODIVERSITY

Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
1.3.1 Marine and freshwater resources are protected and continue to support ecosystems and biodiversity	<p>Through its establishment programs, Parks Canada plays a role in protecting watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.</p> <p>Parks Canada will create national parks and national marine conservation areas in unrepresented regions.</p> <p>It will complete or expand some existing parks.</p> <p>Parks Canada will develop standards and guidelines for water quality in protected heritage areas in respect of waters receiving discharges from park and adjacent facilities.</p> <p>Parks Canada will implement a framework for minimizing the environmental impacts of through highways, including the impacts to aquatic environments</p>	<p>Increase the number of represented terrestrial regions from 25 in March 2003 to 30 of 39 by March 2008 and increase the number of represented marine regions from two in March 2003 to 4 of eight by March 2008.</p> <p>Expand two national parks by March 2008 and increase the targeted land holdings in three unfinished national parks.</p> <p>Receiving water quality guidelines for protected heritage areas will be developed and approved by March 2009.</p> <p>A reduction from baseline levels of water pollution from highway runoff related to road salt use in ecologically sensitive roadside aquatic environments.</p>
1.3.2 Knowledge of water resources is increased	Parks Canada will conduct ecological monitoring and reporting on the state of aquatic ecosystems in national parks and national marine conservation areas	<p>Develop fully functioning ecological integrity monitoring and reporting systems for all national parks by March 2008</p> <p>Selected indicators and protocols for measuring ecological sustainability in national marine conservation areas to be developed by March 2009.</p> <p>Aspects of the state of ecological integrity in each of Canada's 42 national parks improved by March 2014.</p> <p>Ecological restoration guidelines developed.</p>

Goal 3: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

OBJECTIVE 3.3: MITIGATE AND REDUCE EMISSIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
3.3.1 Emissions are reduced.	<p>Introduce an Agency green building policy, further improve the energy efficiency of buildings, increase the use of renewable energy and increase employee awareness.</p> <p>The total annual Agency output levels of greenhouse gasses (GHG) will be below the 2010 target of 53.4 kilotonnes.</p> <p>Reduce by 15% from 2002/2003 levels, GHG emissions per vehicle kilometre from the departmental fleet.</p> <p>All fuel (gasoline) purchased for federal vehicles will be ethanol blended, where available.</p> <p>The Agency will direct review of procedures and application on handling, storage and disposal of PCBs and halocarbons.</p> <p>Petroleum storage tank installations will be registered and non-compliant tanks mitigated.</p>	<p>Parks Canada will report annually the percent reduction in GHG emissions across the department's building inventory.</p> <p>Annual average GHG emissions per vehicle kilometre.</p> <p>Percentage of gasoline purchased that is ethanol blended.</p> <p>The Agency will be in full compliance with federal requirements by March 31, 2007.</p> <p>Full compliance with federal requirements; management prescribed in federal registration and technical requirements.</p>

Goal 4: Sustainable communities – communities enjoy a prosperous economy, a vibrant and equitable society, and a healthy environment for current and future generations

OBJECTIVE 4.1: MAINTAIN AND FOSTER SOCIAL WELL-BEING WITHIN COMMUNITIES

Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
4.1.1 Communities are well positioned to advance social development	<p>Designate and commemorate places, persons and events of national historic significance, particularly in under-represented priority areas.</p> <p>Designate other heritage places (Historic Places Initiative; programs related to federal heritage buildings, heritage rivers, railway stations, prime minister's gravesites and World Heritage Sites).</p> <p>For those park communities that it administers, Parks Canada will produce State of the Community Reports that include among other things, discussion related to the social health of the community.</p>	<p>Designate, on average, 24 new places, persons and events per year, of which, on average, 33 % relate to at least one of the under-represented priority areas- Aboriginal history, ethno-cultural communities history and women's history.</p> <p>Submit 100 % of federal records regarding heritage designations to the Canadian Register on Historic Places by March 2008.</p> <p>List 10,000 designated historic places on the Register by March 2009, and 17,500 by 2014.</p> <p>Advise on the preparation of one World Heritage Site nomination per year.</p>

OBJECTIVE 4.2: ENCOURAGE VIBRANT, COMPETITIVE LOCAL ECONOMIES		
Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
4.2.1 Communities are well-positioned to adapt and to maintain or generate sustainable economic activities	<p>Parks Canada is the federal government agent for the administration of the Heritage Buildings Policy component of the Treasury Board Policy on the Management of Real Property and the custodian of the largest number of federal heritage buildings. Parks Canada will confirm and monitor the physical condition of all federal buildings in national parks and invest to bring the physical condition of those assets rated “poor” up to at least “fair” condition.</p> <p>Parks Canada will update the program terms and conditions of the National Historic Sites Cost Sharing Program and make use of the program to address specific conservation issues at threatened national historic sites.</p> <p>Parks Canada will work with local and Aboriginal communities to develop experience opportunities for current and potential visitors.</p>	<p>Percentage of federal buildings in national parks rated poor whose condition is improved to at least fair.</p> <p>The National Historic Sites Cost Share Program terms and conditions will be updated by March 2007.</p> <p>Develop indicators, expectations and protocols to assess visitor satisfaction and connections with Canadian heritage places.</p>
OBJECTIVE 4.3 PROMOTE A HIGH LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN COMMUNITIES		
Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
4.3.1 Canadian communities are actively engaged in sound environmental and natural resource management practices, stewardship initiatives, and biodiversity conservation.	<p>Parks Canada will continue to work in collaboration with provinces and territories to further develop and implement the <i>Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada</i>. This includes the adaptive use of heritage resources in ways that contribute to intelligent growth in communities and reduced pressures on landfill sites.</p> <p>Parks Canada will develop learning opportunities that help bring about a culture of conservation through partnerships, increased understanding of key audiences, and the use of best practices in the areas of environmental education, place-based education and social marketing.</p> <p>Parks Canada will continue its successful television broadcast partnership with <i>Canadian Geographic</i> magazine through “CG Kids” and to reach children with messages related to the stories of heritage places, ecological and commemorative integrity.</p> <p>Parks Canada will enhance its efforts to reach school audiences by working with members of the formal education community who influence curriculum and resources development and by providing web-based curriculum-linked learning materials.</p> <p>Through a collaborative arrangement with Nature Canada, provide learning activities for urban youth at national parks and other venues.</p>	<p>Provide advice, recommendations or certification of interventions to built cultural heritage consistent with the <i>Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada</i> as opportunity permits.</p> <p>Encourage the support and involvement of Canadians and stakeholders, and their knowledge and appreciation of Canada’s heritage places.</p> <p>Develop indicators, expectations and protocols for measuring public appreciation and understanding of Canadians and stakeholders by March 2007.</p>

OBJECTIVE 4.3 PROMOTE A HIGH LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN COMMUNITIES (cont'd)		
Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
4.3.1 (cont'd)	<p>Provide opportunities for storytelling by Aboriginal people at protected heritage areas.</p> <p>In collaboration with ethno-cultural organizations and stakeholders, provide learning experiences for these new audiences.</p> <p>Parks Canada-administered communities will have in place inventories of their heritage assets, together with condition ratings, performance targets and priorities; and plans to conserve priority heritage buildings.</p> <p>In the Parks Canada administered communities of Field and Lake Louise, require leaseholders to develop environmental strategies as part of all redevelopment proposals.</p>	
4.3.2 Risks to human and ecosystem health from harmful substances are reduced (including cleanup of federal contaminated sites)	<p>In the National Park communities, provide responsible environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, and efficient and affordable administration.</p> <p>Develop and implement a contaminated site remediation or risk management plan for all sites.</p>	<p>Meet targets for sewage effluent quality, water conservation, solid waste diversion, management of contaminated sites, and legislated limits to growth in Park communities.</p> <p>All 24 remaining suspected contaminated sites assessed.</p> <p>Remediation or risk management action plans prepared for all sites by March 2009.</p>

Goal 5: Sustainable development and use of natural resources

OBJECTIVE 5.3: ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES SO AS TO CONSERVE AND PROTECTS ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
5.3.1 Environmentally sustainable use of natural resources is promoted.	<p>Parks Canada will provide meaningful opportunities by facilitating experiential connections with Canada's protected heritage areas.</p> <p>Parks Canada will develop and deliver educational programming in and around national parks promoting personal discovery of park ecosystems and improved understanding of ecological integrity challenges.</p> <p>The Agency will adjust its asset base to respond to visitor expectations and to contribute to meaningful visitor experiences.</p>	<p>85 % of visitors are satisfied and 50% are very satisfied with their experience at national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas.</p> <p>50 % of visitors to national parks and national marine conservation areas and 80 % of visitors to national historic sites participate in learning experiences.</p> <p>Parks Canada will review and enhance indicators, measurement protocols and targets for all aspects of the planned results and performance expectations by March 2007.</p>

Goal 6: Strengthen federal governance and decision-making to support sustainable development

OBJECTIVE 6.1: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES SUPPORT MEANINGFUL AND SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

Government-wide Outcome	Agency or Collaborative Commitment	Agency Performance Measures
6.1.1 SDS commitments are integrated into the key planning and reporting processes of departments and agencies.	<p>Parks Canada will exercise leadership and work closely with partners to develop the heritage conservation sector in Canada, emphasizing the contribution that heritage can make to the broader sustainable development agenda.</p> <p>Parks Canada will develop legislative proposals to better protect national historic sites, federal heritage buildings, and archaeological resources under federal jurisdiction.</p> <p>All Parks Canada management units will produce 5- year business plans to guide resource investment (people and money) at Canada's protected heritage areas. Financial, ecological and commemorative sustainability are at the core of these plans.</p>	
6.1.2 Clear and effective governance mechanisms to integrate sustainable development in decision making	<p>100% of materiel managers and procurement personnel take green procurement training³ by 2010.</p> <p>Sustainable development strategies continue to be integrated into the annual Agency Corporate Plan.</p>	Report annually on the percentage of materiel managers and procurement community trained.

Appendix 1: Strategic Environmental Assessment (Summary)

The issues described in the Parks Canada Agency SDS are contained in the Parks Canada Corporate Plan approved by Treasury Board on September 21, 2006. All matters have been previously subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Individual policies, plans, programs and projects will be proposed as the means of implementing the strategies in this plan. These will undergo environmental assessment, as required as they are developed, at the appropriate level of detail.

Appendix 2: Parks Canada Agency 2004-2007 SDS

Report on Accomplishments

In the 2004-2007 Parks Canada SDS, strategic objectives, key activities and performance expectations were presented according to a management framework called PRAS (Planning, Reporting and Accountability

Framework). The PRAS has since been replaced by the Program Activity Architecture (PAA). There is an almost a direct correspondence between the PRAS and the PAA activities as indicated below:

PRAS	PAA
Service Line	Program Activity
Establishment of National Heritage Places	Establish Heritage Places
Heritage Resources Protection	Conserve Heritage Resources
Heritage Presentation	Promote Public Appreciation and Understanding
Visitor Services	Enhance Visitor Experience
Townsites	Townsite Management
Through Highways	Throughway Management
Corporate Services	Corporate Services

The annual Agency Performance Report (see: www.pc.gc.ca) provides additional details about Parks Canada accomplishments by year.

Accomplishment Highlights

I. Establishment of National Heritage Places

Strategic Objective	Key Activities	Performance Expectations
To substantially complete the systems of national parks of Canada and significantly advance the system of national marine conservation areas in representing all of Canada's terrestrial and marine natural regions, as identified in Parks Canada's system plans, and to enhance the system of national historic sites of Canada which commemorates Canada's history.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, assess, consult and negotiate agreements for ten new national parks of Canada and five new national marine conservation areas of Canada. Maintain progress towards the completion of land assembly in five unfinished parks. Consult and provide research support to identify and designate new sites, persons and events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signed agreements for ten national parks, five national marine conservation areas by March 2008. Five national park expansions accomplished by March 2008 Identify and designate 27 new sites, persons and events per year.

Accomplishments

In the period covered by the 2004 SDS, three new national parks representing previously unrepresented natural regions of the parks systems plan were created: Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve, Gulf Islands National Park Reserve and Ukkusiksalik National Park.

Parks Canada continues to work toward the representation of four priority areas identified as possible national marine conservation areas: Gwaii Haanas, Southern Strait of Georgia, Western Lake Superior, and les Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Parks Canada Agency signed a memorandum of understanding to work together to secure additional land within or around the boundaries of selected Canadian protected heritage areas. Lands have been acquired in or around five national parks conserving an additional 3,482.3 hectares.

Under the same partnership, land was acquired to enhance the ecological integrity and visitor experiences at Grasslands, Bruce Peninsula, St. Lawrence Islands, and Riding Mountain national parks. St. Lawrence Islands, Canada's smallest national park, was almost doubled in size.

An agreement was signed with the Deline Land Corporation to expand Tukturnogait National Park by adding 1,841 square kilometers of land to the parks territory. Work is progressing with the Dehcho First Nation to add lands to Nahanni National Park Reserve.

In 2005–06, 19 new designations of national historic significance were made by the Minister on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Four of these relate to women's history, two to aboriginal history, and six to ethno-cultural history, the three priority themes of the National Historic Sites System Plan.

A variety of initiatives enabled communities and governments in Canada to exercise better stewardship of heritage resources for present and future generations. After the SDS 2004 was tabled, the Government approved the Historic Places Initiative.

In collaboration with provinces and territories the Canadian Register of Historic Places has been created and, as of March 31, 2006, 3303 historic places out of an estimated 17,751 have been included in the Register.

II. Heritage Resources Protection

Strategic Objective	Key Activities	Performance Expectations
Ensure better-functioning ecosystems, through maintaining or restoring the ecological integrity of national parks of Canada and the sustainability of national marine conservation areas of Canada; ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites of Canada so that resources of national significance are not threatened, messages of national significance are communicated, and other heritage values are respected; manage cultural resources at national parks and national historic sites of Canada in accord with the principles of value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain or restore ecological integrity of national parks of Canada and the sustainability of national marine conservation areas of Canada. Ensure the commemorative integrity of those national historic sites of Canada operated by Parks Canada. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment and analysis of all park monitoring programs. State of the Park Reports produced for all park management plans. Recovery strategies for eight species at risk in place by March 2005. Evaluate the state of commemorative integrity at 14 or 15 sites each year.

Accomplishments

Ecological Integrity Monitoring

- All national parks are developing ecological integrity monitoring programs focusing on six to eight indicators for each park.
- All national parks have been assigned to one of six bioregions which that share similar characteristics such as landscape, species and stressors. In this way, they will be able to work together operationally.
- Each national park has conducted a self-assessment of its existing monitoring projects and has outlined a strategy to address gaps and improve its program. Each park has an ecological integrity monitoring and reporting work plan that has been independently evaluated by a national ecological integrity monitoring task team.

Ecological Integrity Strategic Investments

In Budget 2003, the government provided \$75 million over five years and \$25 million annually thereafter to improve and restore the ecological integrity of Canada's national Parks. Budget 2005 provided an additional \$60 million over five years, and \$15 million thereafter.

Notable Initiatives as of March 31, 2006

- In 2005, the Agency published *Action on the Ground* (see http://www.pc.gc.ca/docs/v-g/ie-ei/at-ag/sec1/index_e.asp) to showcase projects related to better park management, ecological restoration, heritage presentation, regional partnerships and protection of species at risk.
- Since 2003, \$22 million has been committed to multi-year priority projects in ten national parks; improvement of the montane region in Jasper NP; reintroduction of bison to the long-grass prairie ecosystem of Grasslands NP. An additional \$6.9 million was allocated to shorter-term projects.
- \$2.56 million has been provided to parks to assist in the development of ecological monitoring plans
- \$384,700 of funding has been provided to help parks assess the movement of people across parks' landscapes and understand the influences of humans on the landscape.
- \$1.36 million has been invested in the re-introduction of fire as a natural process in a healthy ecosystem

- Two restoration projects have re-introduced of plains bison to the grasslands ecosystem at Grasslands National Park of Canada and have put measures in place to protect grizzly bears and their habitat in the Rocky Mountain national parks.

Planning and Reporting

State of the park reports (SoPRs) are produced for protected heritage areas to better enable management planning and review. Eight reports were completed by March 31, 2006 with an additional 14 scheduled to be completed by April 2007.

The development of an ecological vision for each national park has been a requirement since the revised *Canada National Parks Act* came into force in 2000, and the obligation of doing so was described in the Agency’s 2000 *Guide to Management Planning*. Four of the five national park management plans that have been tabled since 2000 have met this requirement, while the fifth plan revision is currently being revised to do so.

Species at Risk

Starting in 2003, the Agency received an additional \$36.8 million over five years and \$3.5 million in ongoing funding to implement the National Strategy for the Protection of Species at Risk in protected heritage areas.

Approximately \$23 million was invested between 2003 and 2006 for the protection and management of species at risk in national historic sites, national parks and other protected heritage areas. Parks Canada has developed and published three finalized recovery strategies for species at risk found in protected heritage areas, covering 20 species.

Commemorative Integrity

In the period covered by the SDS, the Agency completed 32 evaluations of the commemorative integrity of national historic sites. These evaluations provide important information to guide the development of management plans for these sites.

III. Heritage Presentation		
Strategic Objective	Key Activities	Performance Expectations
To raise awareness, and foster understanding, enjoyment, and sense of ownership of, and strengthen emotional connections to the national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas of Canada.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market national historic sites of Canada. • Education to assist in the achievement of ecological integrity of the national parks of Canada. • School curriculum programming. • Engage corporate Canada. • Quality on-site and outreach programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitation to targeted national historic sites increased by 10%. • National school curriculum programming in 75% of jurisdictions. • 75% of visitors understand key messages.

Accomplishments

There has been an increase in the number of person-visits at three of the four-targeted sites chosen to participate in the Marketing of NHS Program when compared with the 2003-04 benchmark year. The Agency will continue

with its national marketing program at these four locations and will share best practices with other sites across the system.

A Parks Canada in Schools team has been established which includes seven educators from across Canada who work closely with

outreach specialists in the Agency's national office and at regional service centre.

Examples of success include:

- In Alberta, the newly revised Social Studies curriculum incorporates learning about national parks in grades 4 and 5.
- In Ontario, grade 9, 11 and 12 geography students study national parks and world heritage sites in their classroom.
- In Quebec, workshops presenting the on-line activity "Defending Quebec, Capital of New France" have been successful in university classrooms and with current and future teachers attending conferences.

The average level of understanding by users of national historic sites and national parks surveyed in 2005-2006 was 66 %; this was below the target set for understanding of 75 %). Seven of 12 national historic sites, but only two national parks surveyed met the target.

The Agency is building the capacity and tools required throughout the organization in order to be more effective in engaging and involving Corporate Canada.

The Agency has done this and the 2007-2009 Strategy reflects this enhanced capacity.

IV. Visitor Services

Strategic Objective	Key Activities	Performance Expectations
To provide visitors with services to enable them to enjoy and appreciate heritage places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage human use to minimize impact on natural and cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand visitor impact indicators by March 2005. • Long-term capital reinvestment strategies ensuring quality services are maintained and associated negative impacts are minimized.

Accomplishments

Note: the key activity was modified to indicate that monitoring of human influences would be completed as part of ecological integrity monitoring at individual parks, rather than through a separate suite of Canada-wide indicators.

Parks Canada has developed an ecological integrity reporting framework for through highways that will be integrated with the ecological integrity monitoring program.

The framework outlines ecological measures related to:

- Vehicle-caused wildlife mortality

- Habitat fragmentation
- Pollution of ecologically sensitive areas
- Impacts of invasive alien species
- Impacts of construction and maintenance

The Agency established an External Relations and Visitor Services Directorate to provide a leadership focus for enhanced visitor services. A pilot Recreational Activities Assessment framework will enable the Agency to make better-informed decisions about new or changing visitor activities.

Parks Canada constructed major new or rehabilitated visitor facilities at Prince Edward Island National Park, the Canada Marine Discovery Centre in Hamilton, the Fort Battleford Visitor Centre, and at the Bruce Peninsula National Park. All these facilities are showcases of innovative environmental design, construction and operation, and whose construction incorporated recycled building materials, and made provision for such things as wind and solar energy, composting, low

water- use washroom appliances, heat pumps and reduced night-time lighting.

Parks Canada collaborated with the Tourism Industry Association of Canada on the release of a revised *Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism for Canada*. Parks Canada has adopted this code in its management practices and continues to promote the awareness and use of the Code.

V. Townsites

Strategic Objective	Key Activities	Performance Expectations
Park communities are effectively governed and efficiently administered as models of sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance cost recovery initiatives and sustainable business plans for townsites operations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve environmental performance.

Accomplishments

Parks Canada investments toward making the townsites models of environmental sustainability included: \$0.2 million for sewer design in Wasagaming, \$0.1 million for potable water intake improvements at Field and \$1.0 million for the assessment and design of a sewage effluent lagoon in Waterton Lakes.

Parks Canada has set leadership targets for effluent quality that exceed federal guidelines. Four communities met the Federal Wastewater Guidelines standards in 2005-06 while Banff met the more stringent Parks Canada standards for all measures of effluent quality. The other communities met most of the more stringent Parks Canada standards.

VI. Through Highways

Strategic Objective	Key Activities	Performance Expectations
To maintain reliable, safe through-transit that minimizes ecological impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions are designed to minimize ecological impact. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ecological monitoring and reporting framework for the highways will be prepared by April 2004, and validated at the field unit level before implementation by March 2005.

Accomplishments

See above.

VII. Corporate Services

Strategic Objective	Key Activities	Performance Expectations
To maintain or improve management integrity, particularly focusing on effective decision-making and results-based management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Canada will reduce its annual output of greenhouse gas emissions by improving the energy efficiency of its buildings and fleet as well as by increasing employee awareness. • Ensure compliance with regulations in management of PCBs, petroleum storage tanks and halocarbons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Canada will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2% from 1998 levels by 2010. • Maintain inventories and procedures to ensure full compliance with regulations.

Achievements

Please note that contaminated sites were not referenced in our 2004-2007 SDS, so there is no report on achievements. Contaminated sites will be covered in the Agency's 2007-2009 SDS.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)

Parks Canada GHG output in 2005-06 totaled 50.1 kilotonnes exceeding the 2010 target of 53.4 kilotonnes.

Key initiatives completed in the planning period included:

- Implementation of over 20 major renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects; ground source heat pumps, photovoltaic arrays, solar heating as well as Canada's first LEED Platinum certification for the operation centre building in Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.
- Fleet procurement direction to minimize engine and body sizes of light on-road vehicles, switch to ethanol blended gasoline, an increase in the number of hybrid vehicles and upgrading of small engine equipment from 2 cycle to four.
- Rolled-out a communication plan to increase employee awareness

Halocarbons, PCBs and Storage Tanks

As of March 2006:

- 74% of Parks Canada's management units (28 of 38) have entered their halocarbon inventories on the Agency EMS intranet site, and,
- 45% of Parks Canada's management units (17 of 38) have entered their PCB inventories on the Agency EMS website. Ten Agency management units have declared themselves to be PCB free.
- Parks Canada has systematically reduced the number of underground storage tanks to 46 (from 60 in 2004). Of these, 35% are in compliance. The number of aboveground storage tanks remained at 127, 13% of which are in compliance with requirements.