Alberta Environment and Parks

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107824

November 17, 2020

Marlin Schmidt, MLA
Edmonton-Gold Bar
5th Floor, 9820 - 107 Street
Edmonton AB T5K 1E7
edmonton.goldbar@assembly.ab.ca

Dear Marlin Schmidt:

Thank you for your letter regarding Fortress Mountain Holdings. I welcome the opportunity to provide the following information.

Tourism is a major economic driver for the Government of Alberta. Environment and Parks is committed to ensuring Albertans receive the appropriate social and economic returns from these public lands and supports economic growth in the region where environmentally appropriate. This location has the opportunity to support the government's outcomes for tourism and economic development.

As of November 2, 2020, the department has not received an application from Fortress Mountain Resort for a 60-year tourism and commercial lease. If we receive an application, department staff will review it through the regulatory process, which will assess impacts to the environment and alignment with department legislation, regulation, policy and management plans for the area.

There is a requirement for First Nations consultation on applications for new *Public Lands Act* dispositions, and the Government of Alberta's Aboriginal Consultation Office makes determinations on First Nations consultation assessments for projects. The department assesses the need for public consultation based on the specifics of a project on a case-by-case basis. For amendments to existing dispositions, public consultation is not a legislative requirement under the *Public Lands Act* nor the Public Lands Administration Regulation. Fortress Mountain Resort already has dispositions to establish a ski hill and resort at the site. Environment and Parks understands the resort is working hard to see the ski hill open in the near future.

Access for Albertans and good stewardship of our air, land, water and wildlife will always be hallmarks of the Alberta government, even through tough economic times.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

Bev Yee