



Marlin Schmidt, MLA  
Edmonton-Gold Bar

September 2, 2020

Dear Minister Nixon:

I am writing regarding concerns I have heard from many Albertans about the commercial lease held by Fortress Mountain Holdings (FMH). You announced in the fall of 2019 that all commercial leases on public land would be extended to a period of up to 60 years. In their June 2020 update to AEP, FMH expressed dismay at the requirement to apply for a new lease and to consult with the public and Indigenous people before a new lease is granted.

The Albertans I have heard from are unequivocal in their desire for public consultations on this matter. It is critical that these consultations be conducted so that the maximum feasible public participation is achieved and that your duty to consult with Indigenous people is met. AEP is already being taken to court by the Stoney Nakoda First Nation for its failure to adequately consult with them on the matter of amending water licenses held by Fortress Mountain Holdings. Now is the time to demonstrate that mistakes will not be repeated and ensure consultations are conducted regarding the extension to the commercial lease. I urge you to hold firm to your requirements and conduct these consultations in good faith and with a willingness to listen and learn from Albertans. I assert that public consultation is a necessity – the interests and concerns of everyday Albertans about the well-being of our province must come first and must come before corporate lobbying and interests.

Regards,

Marlin Schmidt, MLA  
Edmonton-Gold Bar