



THE BUFFALO: A TREATY OF COOPERATION, RENEWAL AND RESTORATION

September 29, 2016

Ms. Connie Wyatt Anderson

Geographical Names Board of Canada, Chairperson

c/o: GNBC Secretariat

560 Rochester Street, 1st floor

Ottawa ON K1A 0E4

E-mail: nrcan.gnbc-ctc.rncan@canada.ca

Dear Ms. Anderson

Amba Wastech, Okii,

In recent months, research groups have requested traditional place names in national parks, from the Stoney Nakoda Nations. In response to these requests, and in accordance with oral history and traditional knowledge protocols, the Stoney Nakoda conducted meetings and ceremonies throughout 2016.

Historically, there have been many miscommunications and misinterpretations about places, names and people in our Canadian History. When we consider translations between Indigenous languages and European languages, much of the Indigenous meaning has been altered or not recognized. As such, current interpretations and translations, do not carry the full meaning and importance of Indigenous people.

The Indigenous place name for "Tunnel Mountain" is "Iinii Istako" in Blackfoot or "Eyarhey Tatanga Woweyahgey Wakân" or translated into English as "Sacred Buffalo Guardian Mountain."

We believe that "Sacred Buffalo Guardian Mountain" best captures the meaning of this culturally and spiritually important place. The name reflects the belief that this sacred mountain stands guard over the many healing waters, medicines, habitat and climate conditions, that the Stoney Nakoda have used and understood for generations.

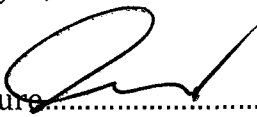
There are many progressive elements to the Indigenous name change for Tunnel Mountain. The Indigenous name change can be seen as (1) a way of implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, as mentioned in the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #43; (2) and a way of revitalizing

historical sites, as is mentioned in Article 11, of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.


We believe that an Indigenous name change reflects a true effort in moving towards reconciliation. An Indigenous name change can reflect understanding and the actions that flow from these words, in living out the Calls to Action and Articles of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

We, the signatories, want to thank you, in advance, for your time and attention to this very important issue for not only our people but for all Canadians and future generations.

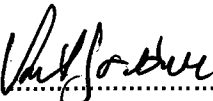
Ish Neysh, Nitsiiksinniii'tsi'pinnaan, (Thank you).

Signature  Name *Chief Charles Weasitchee* Date *Sept. 29. 14*

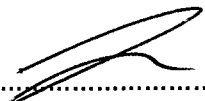
Address:

Signature  Name *CHIEF Mark Azure* Date.....

Address:

Signature  Name *Vincent J. Keldor* Date.....

Address:

Signature  Name *Howell Yellowhorn* Date.....

Address:

Cc. Mr. Jarred Picher, Director
Archaeology and History Branch
Heritage Conservation and Commemoration Directorate
Parks Canada
30 Victoria Street
Gatineau QC J8X 0B3

Mr. Geoff Cole, Director
Lands and Environmental Management Branch
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
10 Wellington St.,
Gatineau QC K1A 0H4

Mr. Matthew Wangler, Executive Director
Alberta Geographical Names Program
Historic Resources Management Branch
Alberta Culture and Tourism
8820-112th Street
Edmonton AB T6G 2P8



THE BUFFALO: A TREATY OF COOPERATION, RENEWAL AND RESTORATION

RENAMING TUNNEL MOUNTAIN TO BUFFALO MOUNTAIN IN BANFF

Whereas

a treaty was signed by the undersigned signatories, namely "The Buffalo: A Treaty Of Cooperation, Renewal, And Restoration" in September, 2014 ('The Buffalo Treaty' from herein);

the signatories promised to welcome back the buffalo and collectively work together to provide a safe environment for the buffalo;

the signatories recognize the buffalo as a practitioner of conservation and collectively agree to perpetuate conservation by respecting the interrelationship between us and 'all our relations' including animals, plants, and mother earth; to perpetuate and continue our spiritual ceremonies, sacred societies, sacred languages, and sacred bundles as a means to embody the thoughts and beliefs of ecological balance;

the buffalo is foundational to our customs, practices, harvesting, beliefs, songs, and ceremonies;

the signatories promised to welcome back the buffalo and collectively work together to provide a safe environment for the buffalo;

and whereas Tunnel Mountain was called Sacred Buffalo Guardian Mountain/Sleeping Buffalo/Buffalo Sleeps formally years before the coming of the railway is now call that by many people.

It is hereby resolved that the signatories of the Buffalo Treaty, as witnessed by their signatures herein, humbly but urgently request the Geographical Board of Canada to officially change the name of Tunnel Mountain to Sacred Buffalo Guardian Mountain and work with the community in integrating the story of the buffalo into the Banff National Park and Town of Banff.



THE BUFFALO: A TREATY OF COOPERATION, RENEWAL AND RESTORATION

RENAMING TUNNEL MOUNTAIN TO BUFFALO MOUNTAIN IN BANFF

Name Robert magnon

Nation Fort Peck Tribes

Signature Robert mag

Date 9/29/2016

Name HANK SNOEN

Nation Nakoda Wesley

Signature Hank S

Date 9/29/16

Name Cl. Floyd Poudorf

Nation Chiniki Nation

Signature Cl. Floyd P

Date 9/29/2016

Name GEORGE MURD

Nation CREE NATION

Signature George Mural

Date 9/29/16

Name BLAIN PINAY

Nation FIEE PEKISIS Cree Nation

Signature B

Date Sept 29/2016

Name Miiniipoka

Nation Weasel Tribe

Signature Peter Mural

Date 9/29/2016

Name NORBERT FOX

Nation Blood (elder)

Signature Norbert Fox

Date Sept 29/2016

Name

Nation

Signature

Date



THE BUFFALO: A TREATY OF COOPERATION, RENEWAL AND RESTORATION

RENAMING TUNNEL MOUNTAIN TO BUFFALO MOUNTAIN IN BANFF

Name [Signature]
Signature Chief Charles Weaselhead

Nation BLOOD TRIBE
Date 24-09-16

Name Chief Mark L. Azure
Signature [Signature]

Nation Fort Belknap
Date

Name Chief [Signature]
Signature [Signature]

Nation Siksika
Date

Name howell Yellowhorn
Signature [Signature]

Nation Pikani
Date Sept 29/16

Name John D. Muro [Signature]
Signature [Signature]

Nation Blackfoot
Date 9/29/2016

Name Chief Kurt Bullab
Signature [Signature]

Nation Samsen Cree
Date Sept 29/2016

Name Dean Maymounds
Signature [Signature]

Nation Tsuutina Nation
Date Sept 29/16

Name Leonard W. Gray
Signature [Signature]

Nation CS & KT
Date 9-29-16