



**MAY 18 2021**

Mr. Leroy Little Bear  
The Buffalo Treaty  
info@buffalotreaty.com

Dear Mr. Little Bear:

Thank you for your correspondence of January 7 and 11, 2021, written on behalf of the Buffalo Treaty signatories, concerning your support for a number of nature, climate and reconciliation initiatives, and promoting collaboration with the U.S. Department of Interior. I regret the delay in responding.

Parks Canada is encouraged and very supportive of the work done by the Buffalo Treaty signatories and the U.S. Department of the Interior, and their commitment to the ecocultural conservation of bison. Parks Canada has identified bison as a signature species that requires consideration at the continental scale. With much appreciation for your support, Parks Canada has re-established free-roaming bison in Banff National Park. It also recognizes the role of plains bison as a keystone species, and the importance of securing native grasslands for ecological, cultural and climate change reasons.

Furthermore, Parks Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada will continue to support greater reconciliation by continuing to work with Indigenous groups, including the Buffalo Treaty signatories, on ecological and cultural restoration of bison exemplified by such programs as the linnii Initiative.

I would like to meet with you to discuss how we might bring together the aspirations of the Buffalo Treaty, the Government of Canada's nature agenda (including protecting 25 percent of Canada by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030), and our shared interests in collaborating with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

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- 2 -

I appreciate receiving the views of the Buffalo Treaty signatories. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Wilkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Mr. Ron Hallman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada  
Ms. Tara Shannon, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Wildlife Service