



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nov. 2, 2005

The Editor
The Province

Editor:

Here are the facts about parking fees in BC Parks.

Four years ago, we inherited a \$40 million park infrastructure deficit from the previous NDP government.

To help catch up on those needed improvements, our government introduced modest parking fees in some provincial parks. All revenue is being invested back into our parks system.

It is not unusual for provinces to charge user fees for their parks. Ontario charges fees of \$7 to \$15 just to enter their parks, while Saskatchewan charges \$7 for a day pass. In contrast, B.C.'s day-use vehicle parking fees range from \$3 to \$5 per vehicle.

I'm aware of problems some people have had with the parking ticket dispensing machines, but I'm also disappointed to learn that some people continue to vandalize public property. Every dollar that goes towards repairing vandalism is a dollar that doesn't go towards the upkeep of trails and other parks facilities.

While B.C.'s parks are already among the best in the world, this government is working hard to make them even better. That is why I have asked for a review of the program and I expect a report in time to implement possible changes for next summer.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment