

## NATIONAL PARKS ACT (1930)

The National Parks Act gives the Department of the Environment the authority to protect, for all time, representative natural areas of Canadian significance in a system of national parks, and to manage them so as to encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment. Enforcement responsibilities apply to National Parks and to those National Historic Sites set aside as National Historic Parks under Part II of this Act. These responsibilities include maintenance of the public peace as well as conservation or protection of natural and cultural resources. The Act also provides authority to establish and manage national marine parks, pending enactment of a National Marine Parks Act.

The scope of enforcement responsibilities includes: the protection of flora, soil, waters, fossils, natural features, air quality and cultural, historical and archaeological resources; the protection of fauna including the taking of specimens for scientific or propagation purposes; the management and regulation of fishing and the protection of fish including the prevention and remedying of any obstruction or pollution of waterways; traditional renewable resource use activities on a subsistence basis by entitled aboriginal people on a very limited, sunset basis, by persons affected by new park establishment; the use, transport and storage of pesticides and other toxic substances; the control of domestic animals; the public safety and control of firearms; and, the control of aircraft access.

Water use other than hydroelectrical in national parks is regulated under this Act. The Governor in Council is empowered to make regulations akin to municipal bylaws to regulate water and sewage services and the abatement of nuisances. Provisions for protection of fish, including pollution regulations, may also be made. The regulations include a general water pollution prohibition as well as specific provisions respecting the deposit of garbage and other substances in park waters.

## NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS GENERAL REGULATIONS

**Purpose:** to control and manage the national historic parks of Canada

**Application:** visitors to national historic parks set aside under Part II of the National Parks Act

These regulations concern various aspects of the control and management of national historic parks in Canada.

The regulations provide for the protection of archaeological and historical resources, and control the use of water resources in national historic parks. They provide for the designation of restricted areas and activities, and control nuisances such as unsanitary conditions or threats to health. They set out the terms for the issuing of camping licenses, and provide for the control of fires, explosives, aircraft, and vessels. The Minister is permitted to enter into agreements for the development and operation of utility services. Permits are required for the distribution or display of advertisements. Finally, the regulations set standards of personal conduct which are designed to prohibit destructive or disruptive behaviour.

These regulations were designed to provide for the safety of visitors to national historic parks and to protect the archaeological and historical resources found within them.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS WILDLIFE AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS REGULATIONS** (pursuant to both the National Parks Act and the Financial Administration Act)

**Purpose:** to protect wildlife and control domestic animals in Canada's national historic parks

**Application:** visitors to national historic parks set aside under Part II of the National Parks Act

These regulations provide for the safety of wildlife in national historic parks, and control the conditions under which domestic animals may be brought into them.

The regulations prohibit the disturbing, hunting or destruction of wildlife unless a permit has been issued. They control the use of firearms and substances such as poison within parks. The releasing of wildlife, exotic wildlife or domestic animals into national historic parks without permission is prohibited. The regulations set requirements for the physical control of domestic animals, and provide for the impoundment or destruction of domestic animals under certain circumstances. Fees for impounding and boarding domestic animals are set out in the schedule.

These regulations were put in place to protect both wildlife and visitors in national historic parks, and to provide for the control of domestic animals in them.