

The CPS Report Card Survey on Prince Albert National Park for 2007-08

The following summary of responses to the report card survey by CPS members provides a snapshot of opinion about six aspects of the Park's operations.

Infrastructure (capital assets like roads, buildings, equipment, facilities, etc.)

- The majority (82%) of responses indicated disagreement with the statement that the general condition of assets in the Park is satisfactory.
- Responses were equally divided that capital assets in the Park are maintained at appropriate standards of safety and access for visitors.
- The majority (86%) of responses indicated disagreement with the statement that Parks Canada Agency nationally allocates sufficient resources annually (funds and staff) to properly maintain or replace the Park's capital assets.
- The majority of responses (58%) indicated disagreement with the statement that PANP maintains the Park's capital assets as effectively and efficiently as it can with the resources it is given.
- The majority of responses (86%) indicated disapproval with PANP's decision to decommission the main beach breakwater and let it deteriorate to a point where it will have to be dismantled and removed.

Watershed Management (Managing the interconnected system of rivers, streams, lakes etc. within the Park)

- The majority (70%) of responses indicated agreement that the new riffle in the Waskesiu River is performing well by maintaining appropriate water levels for recreational purposes.
- The majority (67%) of responses indicated agreement that storm drains, sewer lines, lagoon overflow and golf course run-off should be rerouted to protect Waskesiu Lake from further pollution.
- The majority of responses (60%) indicated disagreement with the PANP policy to remove all man-made dams (Anglin and Crean) in the park.

Increasing Visitation (attracting more visitors to the Park through a comprehensive marketing strategy and plan).

- The majority (90%) of responses indicated agreement that all Canadians should share the cost of maintaining National Parks by distributing the cost among all Canadians through Parks Canada Agency increases rather than through steadily increasing user fees.
- The majority (86%) of responses indicated agreement that increasing park fees will have a dampening effect on visitation, particularly among lower-income households.
- The majority (61%) of responses indicated disagreement that the Park's method of counting visitors (all vehicles, including seasonal residents, each time they enter the park) is a valid indicator of annual park visitation levels.
- The majority (56%) of responses indicated agreement that Parks Canada could be doing more to increase interest in visiting PANP, particularly among new Canadians living in larger centres. The remainder were equally divided between undecided and disagree/strongly disagree.
- The majority (84%) of responses indicated agreement that Parks Canada should inform Canadians of their plans for improving visitor services.

Community Involvement

- Less than half (46%) of responses indicated agreement that the Park provides sufficient notice and lead time for the public to respond to its invitations for input into processes like the Scoping document, State of the Park Report, and Management Plans.
- The majority (86%) of responses indicated agreement that decision-making processes affecting how the Park is managed and operated, including the Park's annual operating budget, should involve local stakeholder groups such as the Waskesiu Community Council and CPS.
- The majority (92%) of responses indicated agreement that the public's role in stewardship of the Park's resources is much more than being "educated" about the Park. It is an opportunity for Park supporters to participate directly with Parks Canada in creating and building the vision of the Park and helping to manage the Park

Rules and Regulations

- Under half (43%) of responses indicated an understanding of the impact of current and future fire management policies, practices and plans on plants, animals, lakes and rivers.
- Nearly 62% of responses approve of the Park's policy of "controlled burns". Nearly 31% of the responses were undecided.
- More than a third (38%) of responses agreed that current rules on access to backcountry areas in the Park by horses, bicycles or motorized vehicles and boats are too restrictive. Those that disagreed or were undecided were equal at nearly 31%.
- Nearly 93% of the responses indicated agreement that it is important that PANP provide enforcement to ensure park visitors comply with Park regulations.
- The majority (66%) of responses indicated agreement that current fishing regulations are reasonable and necessary to protect fish species and populations in PANP.

Credibility and Integrity

- Less than half (43%) of responses indicated disagreement that by its actions over the past several years, PANP has improved their level of trust in its management decisions. A third of the responses were in agreement that PANP has improved their level of trust, while 22% were undecided.
- A little under half (46%) of responses indicated agreement that PANP has instilled greater public confidence and trust in its operating methods than it had five years ago. More than a third (36%) of the responses indicated disagreement.
- Nearly 58% of the responses indicated agreement that PANP has been doing a good job of keeping the public informed of plans, activities and operations in the Park.
- A little more than half (52%) of responses indicated agreement that PANP's information services and facilities present a negative slant on how humans affect the Park's natural environment. Almost 28% of the responses were undecided.
- More than half (55%) of responses disagreed with the statement that the Park operates in a transparent manner in terms of its policies, plans and intentions. Those that agreed were 26%.
- The majority (70%) of responses indicated agreement that although decision-making and implementation generally seem to take considerable time in government organizations, PANP gets things done quickly. Slightly more than 19% were undecided.