



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

January 17, 2017

Honourable Richard Mostyn
Minister of Highways and Public Works
Box 2703 CM-6
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Honourable John Streicker
Minister of Community Services
Box 2703 CM-4
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Ministers,

I am looking for some information in reference to the Destruction Bay Marina.

The Marina is run by the Kluane Lake Athletics Association (KLAA), but the water license is held by Highways and Public Works. As you are aware, cottage lots are being developed in Dutch Harbour through a partnership with the Government of Yukon and the Kluane First Nation.

As the Slims River drainage from the Kaskawulsh Glacier has changed direction and the low volume of the river is not likely to increase in the formidable future, the levels on Kluane Lake are very low.

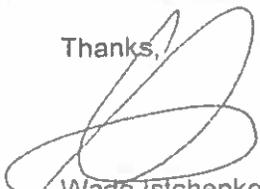
Regardless, Kluane is a very busy lake, and the only two boat launches are located at Destruction Bay and Sheep Mountain. Many business operators, First Nations members, locals, and tourists rely very heavily on the lake access. In addition, the KLAA hosts a very popular Annual Fishing Derby to generate revenue for themselves.

The Sheep Mountain launch currently poses a number of risks to those needing access to the lake, as the large rocks surrounding it are dangerous and could damage equipment. Due to the low water levels, the Destruction Bay Marina is in need of dredging that was scheduled to be done last winter. However when locals steamed through the ice they found it had not frozen to the bottom. The work could not be done as it would require a special exemption on the water license.

A year later, the work has yet to resume, which has raised concern for the communities and for those looking to develop their lots in Dutch Harbour.

I am wondering if you could provide some information regarding the progress on this file, particularly when the work is scheduled to resume, and if Highways and Public Works is working with the Kluane Lake Athletics Association to provide funding to do so?

Thanks,



Wade Istchenko
MLA for Kluane



Office of the Minister
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

February 6, 2017

Wade Istchenko
MLA for Kluane
PO Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Istchenko:

Re: Destruction Bay Marina

Thank you for your January 17, 2017, letter requesting information regarding improvements to the Destruction Bay Marina and Sheep Mountain boat launch. The change in the Slims River drainage pattern has lowered Kluane Lake levels, increasing the complexity of designing and implementing improvements at these sites.

Given the uncertainty regarding future lake levels, further assessment is required to determine the best approach for the Destruction Bay Marina. Understanding what future lake levels are expected to be, will influence any design work, environmental assessment, and permitting requirements associated with any potential work at the marina.

The Department of Environment Water Resources Branch will be conducting further analysis on lake levels in 2017. Highways and Public Works will not proceed with any physical work at the Destruction Bay Marina in 2017 in the absence of this assessment. Upon completion of this assessment, Highways and Public Works will meet with the Kluane Lake Athletics Association in the winter of 2017/18 to outline options for the Marina.

Given the value of access to Kluane Lake we will proceed with minor work at the Sheep Mountain boat launch in the spring/summer of 2017 to ensure it remains functional for the season. Any future work will also be guided by the Water Resources Branch assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Mostyn", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard Mostyn
Minister of Highways and Public Works

cc: John Streiker, Minister of Community Services





Haines Junction RCMP Detachment
Box 5563
Haines Junction, YT
Y0B1L0

Your File

Wade Istchenko
MLA for Kluane
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 2C6

Our File

2017/02/28

Dear Mr. Istchenko

Kluane Lake- Destruction Bay Marina

This letter is in regards to the current condition of the boat launches on Kluane Lake, specifically Destruction Bay. At present, given the water levels observed on the lake the launch doesn't allow for the launching of a vessel at the Destruction Bay/Kluane Lake Marina.

The Kluane Lake does see considerable traffic by Yukon residents, Miners, Outfitters and Tourists and stands to increase with the recent sale of water access Cottage Lots along the lake.

With this in mind, the Destruction Bay launch remains as the most strategic position of launch location from which to access the lake, moderating travel times in all directions. (Map attached). The value of this launch is further bolstered by the already existing infrastructure, sheltered harbour and immediate access to Medical services on location. As well as presence of a viable area to accommodate air medivac in the event it's necessary.

I remain alert to the potential that Kluane Lake may continue to under go change as the affects of the reduction in flow of the Slim River unfold. As a stop gap measure could the operational status of the Destruction Bay launch be maintained while a more permanent solution can be identified via analysis to the extent that the lake level recedes.

Very Respectfully,

Cpl. Ryan HACK
NCO i/c Haines Junction Detachment



KLUANE LAKE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
GENERAL DELIVERY
DESTRUCTION BAY YT
Y0B 1H0

March 17, 2017

Honourable Richard Mostyn
Minister of Highways and Public Works
Box 2703 CM-6
Whitehorse YT Y1A 2C6

Honourable John Streicker
Minister of Community Services
Box 2703 CM-4
Whitehorse YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Ministers:

Re: Dredging at Destruction Bay Marina

The marina at Destruction Bay is looked after by the Kluane Lake Athletic Association (KLAA), but the water license is held by Highways and Public Works. As you are aware, cottage lots are being developed in Dutch Harbour through a partnership with the Government of Yukon and the Kluane First Nation.

The marina at Destruction Bay is an integral part of the community, it is used by locals and tourists alike to enter the water of the Kluane Lake, the largest lake in the Yukon for people to fish and enjoy their summer out on the water. However, the marina requires dredging, this dredging was supposed to be completed in 2016 and was not and now it will be held off again as you study the water levels in the lake.

You have written a letter to MLA Istchenko advising that you are willing to do work at the Sheep Mountain boat launch but not the marina at Destruction Bay until you can study the water levels for one year, what is the difference between the water level at Sheep Mountain and the water level at Destruction Bay? You went into partnership with Kluane First Nation on the lots at Dutch Harbour that are only supposed to be accessible by water, however if an emergency happened, rescuers would need to drive all the way to Sheep Mountain to put their boat into the water to get out and help someone at Dutch Harbour or anyone else that chooses to use the lake? Is this not a danger to them? The Ambulance station is at Destruction Bay, wouldn't it make more sense to be able to take 5 minutes to get help onto the water than approximately 45 minutes? Anyone that knows this area knows the winds can come up very quickly and pose a danger to anyone trying to enter the water, so the sooner a rescue can be started the more chance of a better outcome.

The water license for the marina at Destruction Bay is held by Highways and Public Works, however the KLAA does not seem to get the support required from them to look after the marina, can that license be transferred back to the KLAA and the permits given out (free of charge as they are a non profit organization) without excuses, so the work can be completed in a timely fashion by the KLAA members.

KLAA also holds a large fishing derby each year (the last of it's kind in the Yukon), last year there were over 100 participants and not having the marina dredged is putting this derby in jeopardy, people are taking chances unloading their boats and also by bringing their boats into the marina to weigh their fish during the derby, which could mean damage to their boats.

KLUANE LAKE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
GENERAL DELIVERY
DESTRUCTION BAY YT
YOB 1H0

We understand the water levels in the Kluane Lake are at an all time low because of the change in the Slims River drainage pattern, however, this means the water should not get any lower than it is now, so wouldn't it make sense to dredge the marina at the lowest water level and have it usable even if the water levels went higher, than have the marina dredged when the water levels are possibly higher so if they go lower it would need to be done again?

We support the request made by MLA Istchenko to have the marina at Destruction Bay dredged in 2017 and not wait until 2018. We also know this would need to be done within the next month as right now the lake is frozen to the bottom due to the cold temperatures in the area this winter and if the dredging is held off too long it will be put on hold again because of water being in the marina again.

Yours truly,



Jane Woolverton
KLAA President

Cc: Wade Istchenko

Wade Istchenko

From: Friedrich Mayr-Melnhof <fmm1@gmx.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 9:02 AM
To: Richard.Mostyn
Cc: Wade Istchenko; john@rockingstar.ca; info@rubyrangeoutfitters.com
Subject: Kluane Lake

Dear Mr Mostyn,

May I introduce myself. My name is Fritz Mayr-Melnhof and I am in the outfitting business since 25 years. I have a beautiful camp at the Kluane Lake across from Destruction Bay. Over the years many international guests visited our place for holidays and enjoy hunting, fishing, and wilderness tourism.

As you know there has been a drastic change to the water level of Kluane Lake. Therefore, we are unable to use the bay to unload and load the necessary gear for the outfit and the guests themselves with their luggage.

In order for us to be able to do our work we would greatly appreciate it if you could give the order to clear the docking area in Destruction Bay.

I kindly thank you in advance,
Sincerely,

Fritz Mayr-Melnhof

Wade Istchenko

From: Ross <info@rubyrangeoutfitters.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 8:55 AM
To: Richard.Mostyn
Cc: Wade Istchenko
Subject: Destruction Bay boat launch

Dear Mr. Mostyn,

I hold the Outfitters license for Ruby Range Outfitters which is located across Kluane Lake from Destruction Bay.

In the past we have used the boat launch in Destruction Bay for both transfer of clients by boat as well as pre season set up of equipment and camp supplies needed to run our business. With the drop in water level of Kluane Lake we were unable to use the boat launch in 2016.

There has been some discussion in the Destruction Bay area to improve the boat launch and harbour so it can be used again. Having this work completed in early 2017 would be a huge benefit to our business as we can continue to operate in an efficient manner.

Thank you, Ross Elliott / Ruby Range Outfitters

Sent from my iPhone