



Photo courtesy of Travel Alberta

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## AMPPE's Monthly Membership Newsletter

### *Your source for up-to-date information in the Mountain Parks*

Parks Canada Agency was one of the hardest hit federal departments in the aftermath of the federal government budget announcements. In the mountain national parks it triggered cutbacks to staff, campground and visitor information centre hours, among other serious impacts to visitor experience. AMPPE plans to lobby at all government levels for re-investment, not cuts. Sincerely, Monica Andreeff, Executive Director.

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## Jasper Park Staff Losing Jobs to Budget Cuts

Due to federal cutbacks at Parks Canada, one in eight Jasper National Park employees will lose their jobs. As a result, maintaining wildlife habitat and trails in the backcountry will be compromised and the interests and safety of tourists will be challenged. In this article by The Edmonton Journal's Ed Struzik, AMPPE says that cutting back on services in the mountain parks is at odds with Parks Canada's goal to increase visitor numbers.

[More Details](#)

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## Privatization of Hot Springs in Banff, Radium and Jasper

Parks Canada is inviting private sector proposals to take over the operation of the famed hot springs in Banff, Jasper and Radium. The tendering process will begin soon with the expected hand-over of operations by May 2013. In total 42 full time positions will be "affected", along with 42 casual and term positions. Parks believes the private sector can better enhance the facilities and increase visitation.

[More Details](#)

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## Parks Canada Eliminates 12 Banff Jobs due to Federal Budget Cuts

Notices were issued to 1,689 Parks employees across Canada on April 30th, including 12 positions that were eliminated in Banff. Parks believes changes to tourism will not be significant, despite the Parks Museum closing in the winter and shortened hours at the info centre. AMPPE believes that a high level of visitor experience needs to be delivered and continued re-investment in the mountain parks should be a priority.

[More Details](#)

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## Lynx Image Captures World's Imagination

The high quality image of this lynx, using a wildlife overpass on the Trans-Canada highway, has proven the importance of highway overpasses for wildlife. The photograph has brought hope to wildlife managers that have sensitive lynx populations. This evidence will help efforts to mitigate highways in the U.S. where lynx are a threatened species.

[More Details](#)

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## Christine Cusanelli is new Minister of Tourism, Parks & Recreation

"I'm thrilled and I think it's a good fit for this constituency and for me," said Cusanelli, MLA for Calgary-Currie. The rookie MLA and principal of St. Michael School takes on a small, but sometimes unwieldy, portfolio. Two years ago, then-minister Cindy Ady was forced to back down from controversial legislation after environmental groups said it gave cabinet too much latitude in determining the fate of Alberta's provincial parks.

[More Details](#)

