



**Natural Resources  
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 698, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2T9 • Telephone 902 424-6037 Fax 902 424-0594 • [www.gov.ns.ca](http://www.gov.ns.ca)

**MAY 04 2010**

Mr. Stephen Adams  
Councillor, District 18  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Councillor Adams:

I am responding to your letter of April 14, 2010 regarding your concerns with Crystal Crescent Beach Provincial Park.


Crystal Crescent Beach Provincial Park, designated in 1981, is the most publically-accessible, recreational beach resource between Halifax and Bridgewater. The greater number of park users are those from the surrounding community as well as from the urban area of HRM. The department believes park visitors are looking for a "traditional" provincial park with park regulations enforced. Unfortunately, the department continually deals with theft, vandalism, destruction and litter in this particular park. During this past winter, we have seen the entrance gate destroyed, two pit privies and two boardwalks damaged, with the associated wood being used for beach fires. All these deficiencies will be corrected prior to the park opening on May 21, 2010.

As this park is designated under the *Provincial Parks Act*, public access and use are permitted. During the park season there is a basic level of service provided, such as beach cleanup, garbage collection, and repairs for public safety. These tasks are handled by a crew that perform these duties at several other locations, therefore, they are only present at Crystal Crescent for short periods. During the off-season, there is no on-site presence of staff and no consistent custodial/enforcement presence. Pit toilet maintenance and garbage removal is also curtailed.

Parks are to provide a nature based experience for a variety of users, those with and without pets. Under the *Parks Act*, it is required that dogs be on leash at all times. This is viewed as a reasonable compromise for the dog owners and those that do not own dogs. Staff are continually updating these signs in our provincial parks, as they occasionally go missing. Prior to the park season opening, staff will be re-posting any missing signs in an effort to ensure all park users are aware of park regulations as they enter the park.

The installation of "no parking" signs along the main road falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal.

Yours truly,



John M<sup>rs</sup> Donell  
Minister

c Supt. Jim Perrin, Halifax Regional Police, HRM