



A 3-part plan to stop invasive mussels, launched by the 2016 PARCS Board of Directors

A belated Happy New Year to Saskatchewan Cottage Communities,

You heard nothing from PARCS last fall immediately after our 2015 Convention because our computer suffered a virus attack which wiped out our address book. It took more than a month to rebuild our contact files. In December we re-established contact by sending you each an updated **Catalogue of Convention Presentations**. The updated catalogue included all of the 2015 convention presentations. We have been answering your requests for materials and emailing those out to you. (If you've misplaced your catalogue, let us know and we'll send you another.)

Meanwhile, your new Board of Directors met on November 7, 2015 and again on January 9, 2016. The main topic of discussion was planning how to answer your strongly stated directions at convention: that PARCS make it a priority to take a firm stance to keep invasive mussels out of our lakes by **lobbying for the establishment of border inspections of boats entering the province from the east or the south**.

The document **AIM to STAB** (*Aquatic Invasive Mussels - Stop them at the Border*) is enclosed and provides the background information for that program. Please examine it carefully.

The **STAB program** has been planned in three parts:

1. A **meeting with the Board of the Sask Association of Watersheds** in response to their invitation to work together and to invite them to support the STAB program. That meeting will happen this Saturday, January 30th.
2. **Lobby letters from cottage communities and cottage owners** to the Saskatchewan political parties currently preparing for a spring election, urging each party to include in their platform a plan to fight invasive mussels by stopping them at the border. This update explains how you and/or your community can be a part of STAB.
3. **Letters to potential partner organizations** asking them to add their voice as supporters of the STAB program (see chart on next page).

To launch this step 2 of this campaign, your Board of Directors is asking every Organized Hamlet Board, Resort Village Council and RM Council on our mailing list to supporting the STAB position:

"That the government of Saskatchewan:

1. Continue and expand the building of **Awareness** via the Clean/Drain/Dry program, and the **Monitoring** of our lakes, **plus**
2. Adopt new legislation, new regulations and new funding to implement **border checks**, along with **Penalties** to ensure **Enforcement**."

How to support the STAB program

Step 1: Resort Village Councils and RM Councils - Place this item on the agenda for your next meeting of your council.

Step 2: Email both this newsletter and the **AIM to STAB document** to every council member to study in preparation for your February meeting.

Step 3: At your February Council meeting, pass a motion supporting the STAB position and agreeing to send a letter to the political parties.

(Organized Hamlet Boards do step 3 by telephone to determine your Board's support for STAB.)

Step 4: Copy the template on the following page to write your letter. Insert:

- The name, return address and email address of your resort village, RM or OH at the top.
- Your reasons for urging the government to take action. (*We believe . . .*)

Step 5: Send an email jointly address to each of the 4 political parties, with a CC to parcs@sasktel.net. **Attach your letter and the AIM to Stab document.** - OR -
You may choose, instead, to print 4 copies of your letter and **send one to each of the political parties, along with a copy of the Aim to Stab document.** If you choose to use regular mail, please still email a copy of your letter to us.

Organization that will be invited to support the STAB program:

- Cottage Owner Associations
- Sask Power (hydroelectric division)
- Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association and their member groups
- Other town and villages located on lakes
- The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian
- The many communities whose drinking water comes from the Saskatchewan river
- The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and their 120 branch organizations
- Duck Unlimited
- The Crooked and Round Lake Flood Committee
- Lumsden Valley Community Association
- Retail outlets for fishing and boating equipment
- Other organizations that you suggest to us

If individual cottage owners wish to send individual letters, please pass along this newsletter and the **AIM to STAB document**.

In February: We hope that letters will begin to flow to the political parties. We hope that the issue of aquatic invasive mussels will be addressed in each party platform. Meanwhile, PARCS will be contacting the organizations listed in the sidebar, urging them to support our position with letters to the political parties.

In the first week of March: The writ will drop and we hope that the issue of aquatic invasive species will become part of the campaign dialogue. PARCS will issue press releases.

On April 4, the government will be elected. It is our hope that both the governing party and opposition party MLAs will be aware of the citizens' concerns about protecting our lakes and that they will be ready to follow the lead of Manitoba.

Note: Please send copies of the **AIM to STAB document** to as many people and local organizations as possible. Please email us about your support for stopping these mussels at the border. We need to work together.

From:

Date: February, 2016

To: **Green Party of Saskatchewan** (Attn: Victor Lau)
Box PO Box 26001, RPO Northgate, Regina, SK, S4R 8R7
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Liberal Party of Canada in Saskatchewan (Attn: Darren Lamoureux)
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Phone: (306) 543-3032, E-mail: info@lpcsask.ca

New Democratic Party of Saskatchewan (Attn: Cam Broten)
1122 Saskatchewan Drive, Regina, SK, S4P 0C4
Phone: (306) 525-1322, Email: info@saskndp.ca

Saskatchewan Party (Attn: Brad Wall)
6135 Rochdale Blvd, Regina, SK, S4X 2R1
Phone: (306) 359-1638, Email: info@saskparty.com

Re: Our support for the STAB program

This letter is to advise you that the Council of the Resort Village of ... (or RM of ..., or Elected Board of the OH of ...) passed a motion supporting the STAB position namely that "That the government of Saskatchewan:

1. Continue and expand the building of **Awareness** via the Clean/Drain/Dry program, and the **Monitoring** of our lakes, **plus**
2. Adopt new legislation, new regulations and new funding to implement **border checks**, along with **Penalties** to ensure **Enforcement.**"

We write to you today to ask that your party **adopt a platform** regarding the actions that should be taken by the next government, immediately upon election, to protect our lakes during the 2016 lake season, and henceforth going forward.

We ask that you carefully examine the **AIM to STAB document** which accompanies this letter. Surely the facts speak for themselves. We must take action to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive mussels into Saskatchewan Lakes.

We believe ...

We look forward to receiving a copy of your party's platform with regards to protecting our Saskatchewan lakes and rivers from aquatic invasive mussels.

Cc: parcs@sasktel.net