

TAKE ACTION...BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Letter Writing Tips

Yes, the closure of trails within the Castle Park and the manner in which they were announced are outrageous. But your aim is to be listened to. Assume your reader is open to reason and write your letter should be polite, and respectfully worded appeal.

Before you start writing, think what might persuade the authority to take action.

The following are letter-writing tips in response to the recent announcement on the Castle Park Area.

- Write an actionable letter and ask that this matter be given immediate attention.
- Use a reasoned and respectful tone.
- Keep to the facts that have been provided to you by your club and AOHVA. Make sure that your letter is insightful and well written. The letters that wind up at the top of the stack will be readable, relevant, and easy for the official to understand.
- Point to positive opportunities for solutions.
- Be brief. Letters should easily fit on one side of a single page.

So, please commit to writing to Premier Rachel Notley, Minister of Environment and Parks, Shannon Phillips and your MLA. Take Action and be part of the solution by **stating your position on the closure of trails within the Castle Park area.**

Following is some information to help you get started and to make the task a little easier.

1. Always date your letter.
2. Follow this with the name and address of who you are writing to.
NOTE: Certain contacts are included at the end of this document as well as a link to all Alberta MLA contact information.
3. Before you start writing, consider your personal perspective on the issue and think about what might persuade the government to reconsider their decision and take action.
 - The intent is to ask the government to reconsider their decision to close the Castle to OHV use.
 - You might talk about your enjoyment of the outdoors while hunting, fishing, on family outings, teaching your children to appreciate and respect Alberta's wide open spaces, etc. – it is the Alberta way.

You might also want to personalize and incorporate a few points from the information below:

- The majority of motorized recreationists are responsible.
- The majority of motorized recreationists respect the environment.
- Motorized recreation is a legitimate use of public lands.
- Attitudes can be changed through education.
- Users must be given the opportunity to participate in the decisions on trail use and management.
- Trails can be shared by all users, we respect the rights of other users.
- The motorized recreation community provides significant economic benefit to local communities.
- We value our privilege to ride on public lands.
- Our natural and archaeological treasures that our great outdoors hold are important.
- We value nature and respect its diversity.
- We value clean air, water and land.
- It is of the utmost importance that the future use of trails for our children and other users is preserved.
- Respect the environment and be responsible when riding by using designated trails and minimizing impact.
- Obey the rules and legislation.

4. Try to incorporate facts that have been provided to you by your club and AOHVA.

You might want to reference the fact that:

Responsible user groups, such as the club you belong to and the Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association (AOHVA), have invested millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours to build trails for motorized recreation in Alberta. They have hauled material, built bridges and created a sustainable trail network to ensure that responsible trail users have a safe place to ride, hike, mountain bike and generally enjoy the wilderness of our great province. They did this without any government support.

Despite clear messages from the government, land use process workshops, and statements repeatedly made by Minister Phillips herself that designated trail systems would remain, the fact is: this Minister and the Premier had the Order in Council amending the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP) passed January 20, 2017; banning OHVs and random camping - even though they tout public input sessions running through to March 20, 2017.

5. Point to positive opportunities for solutions.

You might want to reference some ideas behind the AOHVA position in favour of creating a Delegated Administrative Organization (a 'DAO').

We also encourage and support the continuing development of the Land Use Framework for the respectful enjoyment of the back country, understanding that it is to protect the environment and wilderness for the people of Alberta not to keep it from the people.

Since 2009 the AOHVA has been advocating for a designated OHV trail system that is funded, planned, managed, and maintained by our user group. We are dedicated to seeing this become a reality and remain firmly committed to the establishment of an OHV Recreational Trails DAO as the Service Delivery structure.

A Delegated Administrative Organization (a 'DAO') is an arms-length, user-funded, legal entity established for the purpose of administering a comprehensive management/regulatory/education program for the delivery of a service or set of programs traditionally delivered by government.

The DAO structure proposed by the AOHVA allows for a designated Off Highway Vehicle ('OHV') trail system supported by legislation, which would be delivered by a Primary Service Delivery Organization in partnership with their respective clubs.

6. Clearly ask for a response.

You might incorporate something like:

Please confirm receipt of this letter and advise me as to the next steps you will take in helping to resolve this matter and reverse the decision to close the Castle - in consideration of all Albertans.

7. Include your contact information after your closing; this is important to getting a response.

Name, address, email, telephone

Contact Information

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Alberta NDP Caucus contact information <https://albertandpcaucus.ca/your-mlas>

MLA contact information can be found here.

https://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=mla_home