



BACKGROUNDER: Territorial Parks Regulations: Schedule D Fee Increases

Northwest Territories (NWT) Parks permit fees were last updated in 2009, as part of a *Territorial Parks Regulations* (TPR) amendment process that included extensive public consultation.

In 2021, the Financial Management Board (FMB) directed ITI to perform a detailed review of Schedule D – Fees of the TPR and report with proposed adjustments by January 31, 2022. The timeline for the directive extended to fall 2022.

In 2022, minor amendments were made to the prescribed fees in Schedule D of the TPR. The amendments were predominantly administrative in nature including:

- an alignment of kitchen shelter fees for Fred Henne Territorial Park;
- inclusion of a daily campsite permit fee for the new North Arm Territorial Park Campground;
- broadening the application of the group camping permit fees to include additional territorial parks; and
- removing a fee for a group picnic area permit at Fred Henne no longer in use.

The NWT Parks fee review included an economic assessment based on the Canadian Consumer Price Index, a jurisdictional comparison of Canadian and Territorial campground fees, and internal input from regional staff based on operational considerations.

Following the economic analysis of the current market, a recommendation was made to increase park fees. The regional input included rounding the recommended increase up to the nearest \$5.00 (goods and services tax (GST) included) to streamline park operations, simplifying cash payments at the park.

The cross-Canada scan confirmed that while some NWT Parks fees could compare with other jurisdictions providing similar services, generally NWT Parks fees were lower than elsewhere in Canada. All fees were below the national median cost.

In addition, all jurisdictions charge administrative fees to offset the cost for their reservation software services. When additional costs for services (i.e., sewage disposal) and administrative fees (reservation, changes, and cancellation fees) were considered, NWT Parks fees were among the lowest in Canada.

This fee increase will also support local industry, specifically private campgrounds. By charging market value for campsite rentals, the Government of Northwest Territories will



avoid undercutting businesses who are providing similar services, which has been an industry complaint.

To align with current market conditions, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) proposed proceeding with fee increases recommended for the 2024 parks season.