



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OPEN DOORS PROGRAM



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program?

- A. In 2014, Parks Canada created the “Aboriginal Peoples Open Door Program” to provide ease of access to community members who have traditional ties with Parks Canada heritage places. The program aims to enhance relationships with Canada’s Indigenous Peoples by providing free access to national parks or historic sites, encouraging Indigenous Peoples’ reconnection with these heritage places.

Q. What is the Memorandum of Understanding between Parks Canada and the Métis Nation within Alberta (MNA)?

- A. Citizens of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government have a deep, ancestral connection to the lands and waters comprising the National Parks/National Historic Sites within Alberta. In recognition of this historical connection, Parks Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the MNA on July 31, 2018, making the Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program available to our Citizens.

On August 1, 2018, National Parks and National Historic Sites located in Alberta began offering Citizens free access. Since early 2021, Parks Canada and the MNA built on the 2018 MOU by providing MNA Citizens with a custom 5-Year Entry Pass.

Q. How does a Citizen of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government obtain a 5-Year Entry Pass?

- A. Citizens can obtain their pass by completing the application form at albertametis.com or contacting the Otipemisiwak Métis Government at parkspass@metis.org or 780-455-2200 Ext.166.

Q. How does the MNA Entry Pass work?

- A. The 5-Year Entry Pass is offered to individual Citizens of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and will act as a vehicle identifier. As with other park passes, the 5-Year Entry Pass will have to remain in the vehicle, at all times, visible to Parks Canada staff. These passes will replace the need for daily permits so our Citizens will no longer need to self identify at gate entrances.

Q. Do Citizens of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government receive free entry prior to obtaining the 5-Year Entry Pass?

- A. Yes – the MNA citizenship card can be used to obtain free **DAILY** entry. The citizenship card can be presented at the entry gate or kiosk and a **DAILY** entry permit will be issued.

Q. Do I need to carry my MNA citizenship card even when I have the 5-Year Entry Pass?

- A. No – once you have received your 5-Year Entry Pass you will no longer need to self identify when entering Parks Canada places in Alberta.

Q. Do I need to pay for campgrounds, special activities, and programs?

- A.** The Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program with the MNA provides free entry to National Parks and National Historic Sites in Alberta. Fees other than entry still apply for attractions and services, including campgrounds, hot pools, other park facilities, or any other levies associated with park/site/area use.

Q. Can I hunt or practice traditional activities in the park?

- A.** Except where pre-existing harvesting agreements exist, the Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program does not authorize the bearer to, among other things, hunt, fish, trap, harvest plants and natural objects, or remove cultural objects within the National Park/ National Historic Site.

Q. Why do Indigenous Peoples have free access to some parks and sites but not people who are not Indigenous?

- A.** The Government of Canada is committed to reconciliation and renewed relationships with Indigenous Peoples, based on a recognition of rights, respect, co-operation, and partnership. Parks Canada is committed to a system of national heritage places that recognizes and honours the contributions of Indigenous Peoples, their histories and cultures, as well as the special relationships Indigenous Peoples have with traditional lands and waters. The Indigenous Peoples Open Doors Program is intended to be a tool for strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples that have a traditional association with national parks, national historic sites, or national marine conservation areas.

Q. Where can I receive free entry under this program?

- A.** The MNA Open Doors Program and 5-Year Entry Pass applies to the following Parks Canada places in Alberta:

NATIONAL PARKS

- » Banff National Park
- » Elk Island National Park
- » Jasper National Park
- » Waterton Lakes National Park

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

- » Banff Park Museum National Historic Site
- » Bar-U Ranch National Historic Site
- » Cave and Basin National Historic Site
- » Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES WITHIN NATIONAL PARKS

- » Athabasca Pass National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- » First Oil Well in Western Canada National Historic Site (within Waterton Lakes National Park) – closed until further notice because of the Kenow fire – see website
- » Howse Pass National Historic Site (within Banff National Park)
- » Jasper House National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- » Jasper Park Information Centre National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- » Maligne Lake Chalet and Guest House National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- » Sulphur Mountain Cosmic Ray Station National Historic Site (within Banff National Park)
- » Yellowhead Pass National Historic Site (within Jasper National Park)
- » National Park or National Historic Sites with no entry fees
- » Frog Lake National Historic Site – self-guided site
- » Wood Buffalo National Park

NATIONAL PARK OR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES WITH NO ENTRY FEES

- » Frog Lake National Historic Site – self-guided site
- » Wood Buffalo National Park