

**From:** Sea to Sky Natural Resource District Office FLNR:EX [<mailto:FLNRO.SeatoSkyDistrict@gov.bc.ca>]

**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2019 3:10 PM

**Subject:** Sea to Sky Natural Resource District Adventure Tourism Information - Local governments and stakeholders

Good afternoon,

On behalf of Dave Southam, District Manager, Sea to Sky Natural Resource District, please find the attached letter regarding Adventure Tourism in the Sea to Sky Natural Resource District.

Additional information has been attached on the Ministry's Adventure Tourism Policy and the Crown Land Policies.

Adventure Tourism Policy:

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/adventure\\_tourism.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/natural-resource-use/land-water-use/crown-land/adventure_tourism.pdf)

Crown Land Policies:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/crown-land-water/crown-land/land-policies>

If you have any questions, please contact our office at [FLNRO.SeatoSkyDistrict@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNRO.SeatoSkyDistrict@gov.bc.ca).

Thank you,



**Sea to Sky Natural Resource District**  
**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural**  
**Resource Operations and Rural Development**  
**FrontCounter BC**  
Phone: (604) 898-2100 Fax: (604) 898-2191  
Toll Free Service via Enquiry BC: 1-800-663-7867  
[FLNRO.SeaToSkyDistrict@gov.bc.ca](mailto:FLNRO.SeaToSkyDistrict@gov.bc.ca)  
101-42000 Loggers Lane, Squamish BC V8B 0H3



File: 11100-00/B001

December 19, 2019

## **BY EMAIL**

To local governments and stakeholders in the Sea to Sky Natural Resource District:

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (the Ministry) is reminding all recreational users of Crown land that authorization under the *Land Act* is required to use Crown land for business purposes such as guiding or tours. Commercial recreation and tourism enterprises are managed under the Ministry's Adventure Tourism Policy.

Adventure Tourism (AT) refers to commercial recreation/tourism operators and educational institutions who provide outdoor recreation/tourism activities on provincial Crown land (including land covered by water) for compensation or reward – these activities include: training, transportation, adventure experiences, food services, entertainment, races and improvements (e.g. lodge/cabin accommodations, structures, and docks). Examples of commercial AT activities on Crown land that require authorization include:

- Non-motorized mountain and ski guiding activities;
- Non-motorized guided tours or coaching activities such as mountain biking, hiking/running, or fitness programs;
- Non-motorized and motorized guided aquatic activities that use Crown land put-in/take-out/rest areas such as rafting, kayaking, paddleboarding, kiteboarding, personal watercraft tours, jetboating;
- Special events such as running, mountain biking, or adventure races;
- Custom backcountry adventures or experiences offered by concierge services or travel planners;
- Motorized guided tours or coaching activities such as ATV and snowmobiling tours;
- Snowcat or other motorized access recreation;
- Helicopter or float plane accessed commercial tourism experiences that make use of Crown land such as heli-skiing, heli-biking, heli-dining or offering to fly clients to remote natural features on Crown land;
- Existing authorized AT operators seeking to offer new commercial activities; and
- Commercial filming involving uses such as helicopter access, structures, special effects and public access restrictions (under the Commercial-General Policy).

The Ministry recognizes the importance of Adventure Tourism and seeks to promote a sustainable tourism industry with the following key principles:

- Providing continued access and tenure certainty on provincial Crown land for the AT sector;

- Balancing the interests of existing AT Tenure holders with the interests of new AT applicants by ensuring there is diverse, responsible and sustainable growth in AT/nature-based tourism;
- Encouraging respect and cooperation among AT Tenure holders;
- Promoting safety for the public, AT Tenure holder and clients;
- Encouraging sustainable tourism practices

Authorized AT operators possess a Licence of Occupation or Lease with the Ministry and are contractually bound to operate within the scope of their approved Management Plan, which outlines the extent of the permitted activities considering First Nations rights, environmental values and the public interest. The Ministry's oversight of these tenures is critical to ensure that all values on the land base are managed appropriately. The Ministry also ensures that operators have insurance and emergency response plans in place to protect clients.

The public is encouraged to pursue Adventure Tourism experiences with authorized operators. Many companies and operators in the marketplace are NOT authorized and are in non-compliance. A recent increase in unauthorized Adventure Tourism activity has resulted in increased conflict between AT operators and public recreation users, in addition to negative impacts to wildlife, the environment, and important cultural areas.

The Ministry is also concerned that helicopter companies are increasingly providing AT experiences on Crown land without authorization. These activities can put wildlife habitat areas and other sensitive wilderness values at risk and impact the visitor experience for other users. Commercial AT activities that make use of Crown land to facilitate the experience, require authorization under the *Land Act*.

Ministry staff are actively working to address the non-compliant AT operations to support both the public's and authorized AT operators' interests in responsible use of Crown land. In the Sea to Sky corridor this year, Ministry officials have already served several AT operators with Trespass Notices for conducting activities on Crown land without authorization. Financial penalties and orders to cease unauthorized activities have been included. Numerous investigations are ongoing. Unauthorized use of Crown land is a Trespass Offence under Section 60 of the *Land Act* and may result in administrative penalties of up to \$1000, and/or seizure of assets related to the offence. Significant offences may be prosecuted and result in fines of up to \$20,000 or 6 months in jail.

When booking an adventure experience on Crown land, ask about what authorizations the operator has and even for a license number. Legitimate AT providers worked hard to secure authorizations and will be happy to provide it!

**To report natural resource violations, including damage to or illegal use of Crown land, forest or water resources, call 1 877 952-7277 (Select Option "2") or visit [gov.bc.ca/NRV](http://gov.bc.ca/NRV).**

Thank you for your assistance in improving the management of our natural resources.

Yours truly,

Dave Southam, RPF  
District Manager  
Sea to Sky Natural Resource District