

April 21, 2022

Dear Director Gay,

We have been following the Galloway Land Proposal process with intense interest over the last number of months. We are concerned that Handshake Holdings and the proposal team have not been providing clear and complete responses to many of the concerns that have been expressed for the residential development of the property. These include septic, road access, community wildfire protection plan, wildlife corridors, life cycle of costs development, and covenant accountability and management as outlined directly on the RDEK's own website "News" link. Too many of their responses are generic and vague and seem like "Developer Promises" that disappear after approval and as the development proceeds and it's too late.

This is a unique opportunity to expand Mount Fernie Provincial Park that deserves to be properly considered. We are not anti-development and understand that thoughtful development needs to occur in the Fernie area. We also understand that the property owner deserves to be compensated fairly for the land. That being said, opportunities to expand a small and popular provincial park in an important wildlife area don't come around very often. There also aren't really any opportunities to expand Mount Fernie Park other than the Galloway Lands. Expansion of the park would be an opportunity that could be enjoyed and shared forever by the public, as opposed to building some homes that would be enjoyed by a select few at the expense of this area. There are other, less sensitive areas to build homes. Let's focus development thoughtfully in those areas and protect some of the wilder places while we still have them.

We urge the RDEK not to fast track this development proposal and to carefully consider the option to expand the Provincial Park. It really is a unique opportunity.

Sincerely,

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cc: RDEK Board