

Production and Marketing Branch

Plant Protection Division,  
767 Sir John Carling Bldg.,  
OTTAWA, K1A 0C5

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August 20, 1974.

Director of Parks,  
Department of Lands, Forests and  
Water Resources,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

As a former resident and active forest survey officer in British Columbia, I came to know many areas of your province very well. During forest survey work, I became interested in minerals and for several years carried a prospector's licence.

My work in Ottawa has continued to involve me in surveys in all provinces. During one such survey I took a couple of days for hiking and have discovered a very startling find. I have kept my information entirely secret because of its location and value and would like it that way until something concrete develops.

The find I estimate at a value of well over one billion dollars, probably as high as twenty. However, it is within the borders of a provincial park. Would it be possible to obtain a special permit to enter the park and remove surface samples for analysis and evaluation?

If this is to be pursued further this year, there is some urgency, as weather conditions and terrain make winter travel very difficult and dangerous. Would you please forward as soon as possible some indication of what your department might feel regarding the issuing of such a special permit. Samples could then be obtained and the matter taken from there. I realize there are many things involved but cannot see that the removal of a few surface samples for analysis could affect the value of the park. Further considerations could be weighed after the analysis and evaluation of the find.

I doubt if anyone has ever had to sit on anything like this before!

Yours truly,

G. Stuart Brown  
Supervisor, Surveys Section  
Plant Protection Division

P.S. Please reply to my home address: 2713 Norberry Crescent, Ottawa, Ont.  
K1V 6N3



WHEN REPLYING  
PLEASE QUOTE FILE NO. 3-2-7

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
PARKS BRANCH  
V8W 2Y9

179

Victoria, B.C.

August 29, 1974

Mr. G. Stuart Brown  
2713 Norberry Crescent,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1V 6N3

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of August 20, 1974 regarding your application for a Park Use Permit to prospect and remove samples from a Provincial Park.

Enclosed please find a Policy Statement approved by the Minister on March 1, 1973 which states the following:

"Effective January 1, 1973, prospecting for minerals and the registration of new mineral claims shall not be authorized or permitted within any Provincial Park"

Accordingly, we cannot approve your request.

Yours very truly,

R. H. Ahrens,  
Director

*D. Lowrey*  
R. Lowrey,  
Chief of Management

Encl.

See  
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Mineral Law

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file  
1979

Term of certificate

3. Where a free miner certificate is issued it is valid from the beginning of the day on which the application was received until the end of the day it is expressed to expire.

1977-54-3.

Register may be searched

4. On payment of the prescribed fee, a person may have searched the register of free miner certificates and obtain a written report respecting the presence or absence of a particular name or certificate on the register.

1977-54-4.

Failure to renew certificate

5. Failure to renew a free miner certificate does not affect title to mining property.

1977-54-5.

Land on which free miner may enter

6. (1) Subject to this section, a free miner may enter
- (a) Crown land and land in which minerals are reserved to the Crown and prospect and explore for, locate, mine and produce minerals; and
  - (b) land in which gold or silver is reserved to the Crown and prospect and explore for, locate, mine and produce gold or silver.
- (2) The right of entry under subsection (1) does not extend to
- (a) land occupied by a building;
  - (b) the curtilage of a dwelling house;
  - (c) orchard land;
  - (d) land under cultivation; or
  - (e) land lawfully occupied for mining purposes other than placer mining.

1977-54-6.

No exploration in parks without consent

\*7. Notwithstanding an Act, agreement, free miner certificate, mineral claim, mining lease or licence, no person shall locate, prospect or explore for, mine or produce minerals in a park created under an Act unless authorized by the Lieutenant Governor in Council on the recommendation of the person, corporation or government that is responsible for the park.

1977-54-7.

Prohibitory orders

8. The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by order, prohibit a free miner from locating or recording a mineral claim on land specified in the order in respect of all minerals or a particular mineral specified in the order, either absolutely or subject to conditions specified in the order.

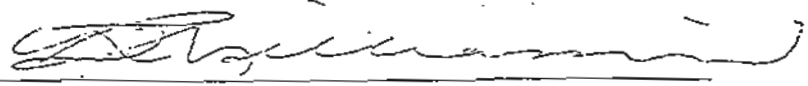
1977-54-8.

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Policy on  
Prospecting and Mining In Provincial Parks (March 1, 1973)  
(Superseding Ministerial Policy Statement dated 11/8/65)

1. Effective January 1, 1973, prospecting for minerals and the registration of new mineral claims shall not be authorized or permitted within any Provincial park.
2. Effective from the date of this statement, no permit to mine or conduct operations in connection with mining or providing access to, or accommodations at, a mine, shall be issued until the applicant has complied with the provisions of the Park Act (Sec. 25) and demonstrated conclusively that issuance of the permit is not detrimental to the recreational values of the park involved.
3. Effective from the date of this statement the Director, Parks Branch, is required to apply the provisions of the Park Act (Sec. 26) and Provincial Parks Regulations, 1970, (Sec. 3) to insure that, before any mining operation is authorized in any park, an appropriate restoration fund is deposited by the applicant and that, at termination of every operation appropriate restoration is provided by the operator.
4. No permit authorizing surface works in connection with mining development in any park shall be issued before it has been determined that it is impractical, at the time, to acquire, by purchase or other means, on behalf of the Crown, the mineral rights and other interests involved.

Approved:



Minister of Recreation and Conservation

Date:

March 1, 1973

713 Norberry Cres.  
Ottawa, K1V 6N3,  
September 24, 1974.

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick,  
Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Victoria, B. C.

152

Honorable Sir,

As a former resident and active forest survey officer in British Columbia I came to know many areas of your province very well. During forest survey work I became interested in minerals and for several years carried a prospectors licence.

My work in Ottawa has continued to involve me in survey work in all provinces but it was not until this summer that I was able to take time to investigate properly certain locations in which I had previously been interested. To be brief, I have come up with some extremely startling results which have shaken me thoroughly.

There is one problem. The particular spot of extreme interest is within the confines of one of your provincial parks and prospecting, removal of samples, and mine development is therefore against the law.

I do not wish in any way to flout the laws of the province so am writing to you. My request is that I be able to bring out loose surface samples to you and then have the situation discussed with your cabinet. For emphasis I would estimate that there is over twenty billion dollars involved, much of it loose on the surface. Appearances indicate much more, even to hundreds of billions and this could make the Klondike and Cariboo appear like peanuts.

Please above all else keep this confidential for several reasons. If news breaks hordes of people will be in there and you will lose control. Moreover, I could have removed \$100,000 easily in one trip (50 lbs. = 800 oz. pure) with little risk of being caught. If I could, so could others and few would honor the law as outlined (see underlined above). Please communicate with me only through my home address. My office mail is pre-opened by staff before reaching my desk and I would prefer the whole situation remain confidential between us until I can produce samples to prove my find. Things can in this way then proceed in a legal manner.

Regardless of the above the news will make headlines when it breaks, and it will! When the news media gets it things will go wild. I am only human and the fame of such an event is too much to pass up!

Can you get me a permit to bring out loose samples? If so, will you?

Sincerely  
G. Stuart Brown



VICTORIA  
V8V 452

183

September 30th, 1974.

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,  
2713 Norberry Crescent,  
OTTAWA, Ont.  
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

I have for acknowledgement receipt of your letter dated September 24th regarding certain mineral findings in the province of British Columbia.

I do not know how sure you are about your findings and the value you place on them. Therefore, it would be impossible for me to give you a permit unless I had much more information regarding both yourself and the area from which you wish to obtain samples. You will understand that the staking of claims in provincial parks has now been curtailed.

I would appreciate knowing how many years ago it was that you worked as a Forest Service Officer in British Columbia. Prior to the present Government coming into power, claim staking was allowed in parks, but as I stated above, this is no longer possible.

Yours sincerely,

Leo T. Nimsick,  
MINISTER.

No. D. P.

Nanaimo

2715 Norberry Cres.,  
Ottawa, K1V 6N3,  
October 24, 1974.

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick,  
Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Victoria, B. C.

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Honorable Sir,

I have reread my letter of September 24 and your answer of September 30 regarding staking of mineral claims and removal of samples from provincial parks in British Columbia.

My purpose in writing to you at that time was to obtain permission to remove loose surface samples and bring them to you as proof of the find and as a basis from which further developments might progress. I have offered to keep this confidential until I delivered these samples to you and thereafter as long as necessary to set up suitable controls to prevent pilfering and what might be chaos resulting in the loss of lives. It is apparent to me that I have been unable to impress on you the significance of the find. If the information I have given you with the general idea of the location were released to the public I doubt if your laws would in any way be respected.

I have, therefore, no intention of releasing to anyone any further information on the subject and will proceed as circumstances dictate at the time each decision is necessary. I fully realize that in your position you cannot afford to make mistakes and it is for this reason that I have agreed to keep this confidential until your government can agree on a course of action. If you wish to issue me permission to collect and bring representative samples to you I am willing to do this still. If this permission is not forthcoming matters will develop anyway, but in a less controlled manner. I think I have been most considerate so far in keeping things under control but this can only be a matter of time.

Yours very truly,

G. Stuart Brown



VICTORIA

V8V 4S2

185

November 5th, 1974.

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,  
2713 Norberry Crescent,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.  
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing in addition to the letter sent to you by my office secretary, Mrs. Halisheff, on October 29th in reply to your letter of October 24th.

All I can say is that the law states quite definitely that the staking of claims in parks is not allowed, and whether or not your find is valuable, you would not be able to stake a claim.

The reason I asked you for the location of the area was not to let the information out to the public, but to have some idea of the location. But since you cannot release this information, I do not think I could be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Leo T. Nimsick,  
MINISTER.



'13 Norberry Cres.,  
Ottawa K1V 6N3,  
November 15, 1974.

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick,  
Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Victoria, B. C.

1486

Honorable Sir,

This will have reference to previous correspondence between us regarding removal of samples from Provincial parks in British Columbia.

It is quite apparent to me that you have not read my previous letter correctly for at no time did I request permission to stake a mineral claim within any park or even within the Province of British Columbia. What I did request was permission to remove and bring to your department sufficient samples, which are loose on the surface, for analysis to prove the existence and value of the find. From that point in time we could discuss what might follow in the development of the find and what your government might do in the way of controlling access and abuse of the area.

I am beginning to feel that perhaps I am being too honest with you. However, I have considerable experience in other provinces in the removal of biological specimens and, in certain instances I have been asked to obtain written permission from the Minister to set insect traps for detection purposes. If this applies to insects you can understand why I am requesting permission for authority to remove geological samples. If I were stopped by a park official or even a police officer I could be in considerable difficulty if I did not have proof of permission to remove samples.

My reason for not informing you now of location or accessibility is that I can see no advantage in spreading this knowledge around. It is not written down even in my files nor do I retain a map identifying the location or even the park involved. If I were to write this even in a letter to you it could then become available by theft, duplication of the letter, or numerous other methods. I would not ask you to accept my word on the value involved without some proof in the form of a sample. Nor would I trust anyone with the information to go and collect a sample for you. You have therefore no choice but to trust me to bring suitable samples to you as a basis for governmental control of the whole situation. Is this such an eccentric request that it cannot be permitted?

Sincerely,



VICTORIA  
V8V 4S2

187

December 2nd, 1974.

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,  
2713 Norberry Crescent,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.  
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing in reply to your letter dated November 15th regarding your request to pick up certain samples of rock in the parks areas of British Columbia.

Since park matters come within the jurisdiction of the Parks Branch of the Department of Recreation and Conservation, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to Mr. R. Ahrens, Director of the Parks Branch, for his consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Leo T. Nimsick,  
MINISTER.

cc: R. Ahrens.



WHEN REPLYING 3-2-7  
PLEASE QUOTE FILE NO. 3-4-13

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
PARKS BRANCH

V8W 2Y9

Victoria, B. C.

December 6, 1974

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Mr. G. Stuart Brown  
2713 Norberry Crescent  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1V 6N3


Dear Sir:

Your letter to the Honourable Leo Nimsick has been passed to this office for reply as the subject matter is within the scope of the Parks Branch.

Our files indicate that you were in correspondence with this Branch earlier this year and our reply to you dated August 29, 1974, denied your request for a special permit.

We must again deny your request for the reasons previously given, and regret that we can be of no further assistance to you in this matter.

Yours very truly,

  
R. H. Ahrens,  
Director.

2713 Norberry Cres.,  
Ottawa, K1V 6N3,  
September 25, 1975.

Honorable Leo T. Nimsick,  
Minister of Mines & Petroleum Resources,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Victoria, B. C.

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Honorable Sir,

After I visited your office at the beginning of September I travelled with my wife and family to Vancouver to spend a few days visiting friends there. On Saturday, September 6, I made another attempt to go to the site in the park for the purpose of obtaining samples but could not complete my mission due to weather and treacherous mud slides barring the route. It was necessary to turn back and, as I had to drive to work in Ottawa for Monday, September 15, I gave up thoughts of a further attempt during 1975. Weather and terrain are unpredictable and likely to become very treacherous after the middle of September in the area. My next attempt will have to wait until the beginning of August, 1976.

Regarding the contract to protect my interests in a claim, this is of secondary consideration. However, there are two of us who are involved primarily, and three others to a lesser degree. We would be interested in obtaining reimbursement for all our expenses plus either an initial payment or share of early production which would provide for us to live comfortably for the rest of our lives. If in the form of an initial payment I would expect it to be in the form of a sale of all rights to, presumably, the provincial government, thus placing ownership in the hands of the people of the province.

I am making plans for a determined effort in 1976 but the terrain is tough and the site in a very secluded spot. You will hear further from me at a later date.

Sincerely,

G. Stuart Brown.

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Note:

During my visit to Mr. Nimsick's office as mentioned in my letter of September 25, 1975, we discussed the value of the find and it's inaccessibility, what sort of an operation would be involved, and the potential effect on the environment of the area.

The value of the find cannot be estimated accurately until a proper geological assessment of the site is made. However, I have stated that there is an abundance of surface gold in the form of nuggets and dust lying loose on the rock in the streambed and a mother-lode present in the adjacent bed-rock. What I consider a conservative estimate would place this at over two billion dollars.

Because of my refusal to identify the site on a map or in any way reveal the location of the site the route in and the difficulty of reaching it were not discussed in any detail.

The effect on the environment would undoubtedly be rather severe. I suggested that no road should be constructed to the site but that removal of material should be carried out by means of a helicopter. The area involved might easily be confined to less than 600 acres including a landing site and buildings required in the operation. I know ~~of~~ at least two animals not recorded to be in the area, are present and I would hate to be the one to interfere with their natural habitat.

At the end of the discussion Mr. Nimsick agreed that I should bring out representative samples directly to him and he proposed that I should draw up a form of contract which could be the basis of an agreement for further discussion.

I agreed to cover all of my expenses up to the time that enough gold was removed to cover them, but reserved the right to require that I be reimbursed for these from the first proceeds.

Further mention of what I discussed is outlined in my letter of August 17, 1978, to Mr. James Fyles, Deputy Minister of Mines and Petroleum Resources, a copy of which I sent to the Victoria Daily Times.

*G. Stuart Brown*



VICTORIA  
V8V 4S2

192

September 30th, 1975.

Mr. G. Stuart Brown,  
2713 Norberry Crescent,  
OTTAWA, Ontario.  
K1V 6N3

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated September 25th in regard to your attempt to collect mineral samples from provincial parks.

I enjoyed the conversation we had in my office recently, and I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to my Deputy Minister, Mr. J. E. McMynn, for his information.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Leo T. Nimsick,  
MINISTER.

cc: J. E. McMynn