

## Bill 29 (Alberta Parks Act) – Frequently Asked Questions

1. In the ELC's opinion, what are the main implications of Bill 29?
  - a. Protective standards for wilderness areas and ecological reserves are repealed (i.e. nullified).
  - b. A overriding mandate to maintain ecological integrity in parks is absent.

Bill 29	Under current laws
2. Can existing and new Provincial Park boundaries be changed by:	
a. The Minister? <b>No</b> b. Cabinet? <b>Yes</b>	Wilderness areas are changed by amending the schedule to the Act. <sup>1</sup> Ecological reserves are changed by Cabinet Order. Provincial parks or recreation areas are changed by Cabinet Order.
3. Does the Bill require a phasing out of activities (industrial or otherwise) in Provincial parks?	
<b>No</b> - The Minister has the discretion under the Bill to cancel, withdraw or suspend authorizations (in accordance with regulations).	Ecological reserves – Activities at the time of designation are allowed to continue, and can be renewed with the Minister's consent.  Wilderness Areas - Authorizations are to be terminated or withdrawn as soon as possible.  Provincial Parks and recreation areas – Phase out of activities is not mentioned.
4. Does the Bill permit activities and the granting of new authorizations (dispositions) in <b>existing parks and protected areas</b> ?	
<b>Yes</b> – Zoning (i.e. regulations) may prevent this but regulations have not been published.	Ecological reserves and wilderness areas - A list of activities are prohibited and most types of government authorization are prohibited.  Provincial parks and recreation areas – The Minister has the discretion to grant or cancel dispositions (in accordance with Cabinet regulations).
5. Can the Minister allow activities and issue Crown dispositions in <b>newly established Provincial Parks</b> ?	
<b>Yes</b> - Zoning (i.e. regulations) may prevent this but regulations have not be published.	Wilderness areas and ecological reserves - A list of activities are prohibited and most types of government authorization are prohibited.  Provincial Parks and recreation areas - The Minister has the discretion to grant or cancel an authorization (in accordance with Cabinet regulations).

<sup>1</sup> Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves, Natural Areas, and Heritage Rangelands Act, R.S.A., 2000, c. W-9.