



NIAGARA FALLS & GREAT GORGE

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The Niagara Parks Commission Receives Results of Governance Review and Audit

Niagara Falls, ON – The Ministry of Tourism has shared with The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) findings from the governance review and audit that were conducted on the agency.

In its governance review of NPC, the consulting firm KPMG noted that, while the report of the governance review acknowledged the good work of Commissioners in many of their past decisions, it also recommended actions that NPC should take to strengthen agency governance and ensure effective decision-making and practices. The Commission will be reviewing the preliminary findings and implementing changes to improve its decision making processes.

In addition, NPC participated in the audit undertaken by the Government of Ontario's Internal Audit Division which examined NPC's procurement policies and its practices for revenue generating opportunities, including leases. The Niagara Parks Commission is pleased that the audit found that NPC's procurement policies and practices are generally consistent with best practices.

NPC will be reviewing its procurement policies relative to the audit findings and will work with the Ministry to develop a formal policy for revenue generating opportunities.

"The Niagara Parks Commission is pleased with the results of the Ontario government's governance review and audit," stated NPC Chairman Jim Williams. "We welcome KPMG's recommendations to help us continue to modernize our processes. We are also pleased to learn that the audit found that our purchasing policies generally conform to best practices. Working with the Ministry, we will now begin the process of developing a written policy for revenue generating opportunities," added Williams.

The governance review and audit were undertaken in response to recommendations by the Integrity Commissioner in March 2009 that the Ministry of Tourism undertake actions to instill public confidence in NPC and its Board of Commissioners to provide robust, transparent oversight.

Summaries of highlights of the governance review and audit findings are available at:

<http://www.niagaraparks.com/aboutus/audit-governance-reviews.php>

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