

OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

The Niagara Parks Commission

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For Immediate Release

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The Niagara Parks Commission Denies Wallenda Request

(Niagara Falls, ON Canada) After careful consideration, The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) has decided not to support Mr. Nik Wallenda's proposal for a tightrope walk across the Niagara gorge.

The Commission is making this decision based on a number of considerations in support of its mandate, priorities and long-term goals. Approving Mr. Wallenda's proposal would undermine these objectives, set a precedent for other similar requests and, potentially, encourage other individuals to attempt unsanctioned acts which could put themselves and the lives of others at risk.

These types of activities are risky and can result in tragic consequences for performers, spectators and emergency personnel.

"Safety and our responsibility to preserve and protect the Falls, and all those who wish to view its beauty, are our paramount concern in reaching the decision we have," stated Janice Thomson, Chair of The Niagara Parks Commission.

Numerous proposals with respect to one-time stunts have been submitted to NPC for special consideration, but the Commission has consistently turned them down under the authority granted to it by Regulation 829 of the Niagara Parks Act. The Act prohibits stunts and the performance of any feat within the Park without specific Board approval.

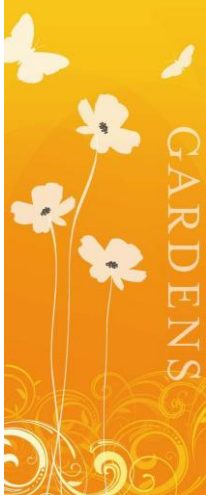
After careful review of Mr. Wallenda's submission, the Board has concluded that a change in Board policy is not warranted at this time.

As one of the Niagara Region's largest employers (more than 1,600 part-time and full-time employees), NPC is strongly committed to increasing economic activity and job creation within the local communities of which it is a member. NPC is focused on doing this in a strategic manner that will result in long-term benefits. That is why in recent years, the Commission has strengthened its efforts to promote the Falls as a world-class, natural attraction with unmatched scenery and beauty.

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Recognizing the local interest in these same goals, Commission Chair Janice Thomson today sent a letter to the Mayor of Niagara Falls suggesting options to further strengthen the working relationships and mutual interests they have in pursuing sustainable strategies for long-term economic improvement for the Niagara region. NPC will continue to maintain its ongoing cooperation with key stakeholders, including the other area municipalities, businesses and tourism groups and residents with which it deals.

NPC remains committed to its vision of Ontario's Niagara Parks as one which **Preserves** a rich heritage, **Conserves** natural wonders, and **Inspires** people world-wide.

Founded in 1885, The Niagara Parks Commission is an Operational Enterprise Agency of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. Its mission is to protect the natural and cultural heritage along the Niagara River for the enjoyment of visitors while maintaining financial self-sufficiency.

For more information, please contact:

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