


Government of Alberta  Transportation	PARKS CANADA SIGNING ALONG PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS		<i>Issued: MAY 2011</i>
			<i>Revised:</i>
			<i>Page 1 of 5</i>
RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS	
	SECTION	GUIDE AND INFORMATION	
	SUB-SECTION		

General

National Parks, National Historic Sites, and National Marine Conservation Areas are present across Canada and Parks Canada has implemented the Parks Canada Identity Program to ensure that these areas are signed in a consistent manner across the country.

The Parks Canada Identity Program, Exterior Signage Standards and Guidelines manual states that:

A strong Parks Canada Identity Program will ensure that Canadians recognize at a glance their government at work for them protecting, presenting, and fostering enjoyment of Canada's heritage places for present and future generations. A good sign system is not only important to transmit information and ensure the safety of visitors, but also vital to Parks Canada's public image and identity. A coordinated and effective identity program will enable Parks Canada to be identified in a distinct, consistent way the public can recognize in all circumstances. It helps symbolize the values, goals and dedication Parks Canada strives for in protecting and presenting nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage.

The Parks Canada signage system plays a fundamental role in the visitor experience by:

- *Enabling visitors to find Canada's national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas;*

- *Ensuring that visitors, once they arrive, can enjoy and navigate these heritage places in a safe and effective way; and*
- *Ensuring that essential information needed for visitors to experience Canada's natural and cultural heritage is properly and effectively conveyed.*

There are presently five National Parks and twenty-three National Historic Sites in Alberta. This Recommended Practice details what signs may be used on provincial highways and roads in advance of these National Parks and National Historic Sites as a means of meeting the goals set forth by the Parks Canada Identity Program while adhering to the standards set by Alberta Transportation.

Mandatory

Highway guide and information signs used at National Park boundaries and within National Parks are specified by Parks Canada and should adhere to the guidelines outlined in the Parks Canada Identity Program, Exterior Signage Standards and Guidelines manual.

Parks Canada signs placed outside the boundaries of a national park and along a provincial highway or road require the approval of the local Alberta Transportation district office. A listing of Alberta Transportation district offices can be found here:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/Content/docType329/Production/distaddress.pdf>

Standard

Alberta Transportation will consider the following Parks Canada signs for placement on provincial highways and roads:

Parks Canada Header



Variable Sizes		
Colour	Symbol and border Background	White PC Heritage Green
Sheeting	ASTM Type IX or XI	

Parks Canada Destination Sign



Variable Sizes		
Colour	Symbol and border Background	White PC Heritage Green
Sheeting	ASTM Type IX or XI	

Park Gate Lane Assignment Signs



Variable Sizes		
Colour	Symbol and border Background	White PC Heritage Green
Sheeting	ASTM Type IX or XI	

Parks Canada Trailblazer



	610 mm x 991 mm 610 mm x 864 mm 610 mm x 737 mm	
Colour	Symbol and border Background	Black, White, Red PC Heritage Green
Sheeting	ASTM Type IX or XI	

Parks Canada Trailblazer Tab



	610 mm x Variable Height	
Colour	Text and border Background	White PC Heritage Green
Sheeting	ASTM Type IX or XI	

Parks Canada Symbol



	600 mm x 600 mm 750 mm x 750 mm	
Colour	Symbol and border Background	Black, Red White
Sheeting	ASTM Type IX or XI	

All Parks Canada guide signs shall feature white symbols on a Parks Canada (PC) Heritage Green background and bilingual signs shall display the English message above or to the left of the French message.

Guidelines for Use

Parks Canada Header

The Parks Canada Header sign may be placed above any guide sign directing traffic to a feature within a national park or to a national historic site if the guide sign does not already feature the Parks Canada logo (beaver symbol). As an option, the national park or national historic site name may be placed to the right of the Parks Canada logo. If the national park or national historic site name is used, it must be used on all Parks Canada Header signs in the area for consistency.

Park Gate Lane Assignment Signs

Park Gate Lane Assignment signs shall be placed in advance of the park gates at the entrance to a national park. The design and layout of the signs shall be site specific and overhead and side mounted signs may be used as necessary.

The Park Gate Lane Assignment signs displayed in this recommended practice may have a Parks Canada Header sign mounted above them as the Park Gate Lane Assignment signs do not feature the Parks Canada Logo.

Parks Canada Destination Sign

The Parks Canada Destination sign may be used to inform motorists that they are approaching a national park or national historic site.

For destinations on or immediately adjacent to a provincial highway, one advance Parks Canada Destination sign is permitted in each direction. The sign shall display the distance to the destination and may be placed up to 3 km in advance of the national park or national historic site as appropriate.

Advance signs with distances greater than 3 km may only be considered by Alberta Transportation when there is a clear and demonstrated need for the sign.

If access to a national park or national historic site is not located on a provincial highway, a Parks Canada Destination sign may be placed prior to the nearest highway access. The sign may include the distance to the destination as well as a destination direction arrow for guidance.

Parks Canada Trailblazer

The Parks Canada Trailblazer may be used to direct motorists to national parks and national historic sites located off of a provincial highway. If used, the sign shall be placed at each decision point along the route from a provincial highway to the destination.

A bilingual tab sign (with English appearing above French) may be used to provide additional information such as the name of the destination.

Tourist Oriented Directional Sign Program

As an option, national historic sites may be signed under Alberta Transportations' existing Tourist Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) program.

If a national historic site is signed under the TODS program, all signs directing motorists to the national historic site shall adhere to the TODS program guidelines, and the Parks Canada Trailblazer signs shall not be used. Instead, the Parks Canada symbol may be used for directing motorists to the national historic site as part of the TODS program.

More details on the TODS program can be found here:

http://www.signupalberta.com/tods/how_work.html

Guidelines for Placement

Lateral and vertical sign placement should be in accordance with the Recommended Practices guideline entitled Placement of Signs.

References to Standards

<i>Parks Canada Identity Program - Exterior Signage Standards and Guidelines</i> Section 3	Sign Planning
<i>Recommended Practices</i> Section: General	Placement of Signs