



## STATEMENT FROM CANADIANS FOR CAMPING REGARDING THE FUTURE OF FAMILY-RUN CAMPGROUNDS IN CANADA

PICKERING, ON – September 6, 2016. Canadians for Camping is issuing the following statement regarding the future of all family-run campgrounds in Canada, following a recent media release by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and the tax treatment of family-run campgrounds:

On August 23, the CRA issued a bulletin acknowledging that there may be circumstances under which family-run campgrounds, though categorized as investment businesses, could be eligible for the small business tax credit, provided they present proof of services they offer.

Over the past year, small family-run campgrounds have received warnings from the CRA that they are "too small" to qualify for the small business tax deduction. Consequently these campgrounds are being subjected to 300% increases to their tax rates – tax rates that are greater than those of Canada's biggest billion-dollar businesses. With over 4200 campgrounds across Canada employing 60,000 people, this policy is a threat to the entire camping industry and the reason behind the Canadians for Camping campaign launched by Camping In Ontario in May this year.

The recent CRA bulletin is a positive step in the right direction, but ultimately our objective is to ensure that family-run campgrounds are classified as "active small businesses" and contributing members of Canada's tourism sector, similar to hotels, motels and other tourism-related businesses.

This is a policy change that will need to be made by Finance Minister Bill Morneau.

Consequently, over the coming weeks and months we will focus on working with Minister Morneau, staff in the departments of Finance and Small Business and Tourism, and all MPs, to find a solution that ensures family-run campgrounds are subject to the same taxes as all other small businesses in the country.

We wish to thank the thousands of Canadians who have demonstrated their support for Canada's campground industry by signing our online and written petitions, liking our Facebook group, and emailing their support. We also thank campground owners across Canada for meeting with MPs and Ministers this summer to raise awareness of this serious threat to an iconic Canadian industry.

Government officials and MPs from all parties met with campground owners and delivered our message to federal decision makers. We appreciate their assistance and look forward to their continued support of our efforts.

Camping is a national past-time that is part of the Canadian identity. Campgrounds are also significant contributors to Canada's tourism economy. In 2016, over 5.8 million Canadians are expected to participate in camping activities. The industry contributes over \$4.7-billion to Canada's GDP and supports 60,000 jobs in communities across the country.

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