

## Provincial Grant Supports Friends' Partnership with Alberta Parks



*Alberta Premier Jason Kenney (in front), MLAs and members of the Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society gather for the announcement of a \$480,000 grant.*

On September 15, 2020, the space outside the Friends of Fish Creek office was transformed into a media centre to host a very special announcement. We never thought we would see the day when Alberta's Premier, Jason Kenney, the Minister of Parks and six MLAs would gather in front of our office before the assembled press for such an occasion.

The announcement was the culmination of 18 months of negotiations and process building that led to a \$480,000 grant from the provincial government. The grant will support the Friends in building their partnership role with Alberta Parks as well as growing and developing programs and projects in Fish Creek Provincial Park.

This is the first time in our 27-year history that the Friends have received a direct government grant. The money recognizes the importance of the work conducted by our volunteers and staff in the park and the potential to harness all of this goodwill, knowledge and experience to do more.

The grant money, to be delivered over three years, will allow the Friends to do more of the essential stewardship tasks that need to be tackled to better manage the park's natural resources. This grant will

also support new ways in which the Friends and Alberta Parks can work together to provide a better service to park users. These include reopening and staffing the Bow Valley Ranch Visitor Centre, expanding our IT capacity to further support park planning and management, and developing new education programs, partnerships and ways to engage park users in the future of our beloved park.

We are grateful for all the support we received from our colleagues in Alberta Parks to bring this proposal to fruition, and for their commitment to working with us over the next few years to ensure its success. We are looking forward to an exciting new chapter in our history and to working closely with our volunteers and supporters to make the most of this important opportunity.

*Nic Blanchet, Executive Director  
Friends of Fish Creek Provincial Park Society*