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Repeal the legislated 'Park'ing fines which target supporters of BC Parks!

The Liberal government, via the Park Act, collects a hidden, regressive tax from visitors who support educational, environmental tourism in BC Parks. The 'Client Rate Fee' ranges from 1-4 dollars/person and is collected through commercial operators in Provincial Parks. So, while Parks budgets have been going down and staff laid off, Parks have been generating more money than ever. The money collected goes into General Revenue, like a parking fine. It does not go into Parks budgets; it does not go into tourism promotion for the province; it is essentially a hidden penalty for visitors supporting Parks.

Cave Parks (Horne Lake, near Qualicum and Cody Caves, near Ainsworth) pay proportionally more per person than any other Park operator. Cave Parks rely entirely on their commercial operators to uphold the mandate of Park resource protection. The closure of Cody Caves this summer has put a very sensitive ecosystem at risk!

Moreover, the fee does not discriminate according to the type of commercial service provided. The flat rate fee applies regardless of gross income. So, a tour operator collecting \$15 pays the same \$1 as a tour operator collecting \$100. If the Government insists on business models to provide Park services and Park protection, then it ought to engage in fair business practises.

Parks need MANAGEMENT PLANS - NOT BUSINESS PLANS! - Change the Park Act now! - Put CONSERVATION, NOT CASH GRABS, at the centre of Park Act Policy!