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**Washington, DC, USA 20510**

June 26, 2025

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree  
Minister of Public Safety  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC, USA 20240

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault  
Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6

The Honorable Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC, USA 20528

**Re: Chilkoot Trail border crossing between the Yukon and Alaska**

Dear Secretaries and Ministers,

We are writing to emphasize the cultural, historical, and recreational significance of the Chilkoot Trail, and to respectfully urge both the Canadian and United States governments to work together to ensure that trail users may once again cross our shared border along this iconic route.

The Chilkoot Trail, stretching from Dyea to Bennett Lake, is an iconic landmark of our shared history and enduring partnership. Long before it became the primary route to the Klondike Gold Rush, the trail was a vital trade and travel corridor for the Tlingit people. For generations, the Tlingit used this route to connect coastal and inland communities, facilitating the exchange of goods, knowledge, and culture. Their deep connection to the land and stewardship of the trail laid the foundation for its later use during the Klondike Gold Rush and continues to be an essential part of its story today.

As a living monument to both Indigenous heritage and the resilience and ambition that shaped both our nations, the Chilkoot Trail stands as a testament to our deep historical and cultural ties. Each year, the trail attracts hundreds of hikers, backpackers, and outdoor enthusiasts from around the world, offering a unique opportunity to experience the natural beauty and rich, shared heritage of our two nations.

However, in recent years, administrative barriers – particularly related to crossing the international boundary between Canada and the U.S. – have made it increasingly difficult to complete the full length of the trail. For the 2025 season, Parks Canada and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), along with the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), have announced that “[i]t is illegal to cross the international border on the Chilkoot Trail. Hikers can hike the trail on the Canadian or U.S. sides and must turn around at the border.”<sup>12</sup>

The Chilkoot Trail stands as a powerful symbol of international collaboration, jointly managed by Parks Canada and the U.S. National Park Service through decades of exemplary cross-border partnership. As both governments continue to navigate the complexities of border management in remote areas, we urge you to build on this legacy by establishing a clear, practical process that allows hikers to legally and safely cross the U.S.- Canada border at Chilkoot Pass. Doing so would not only reinforce the spirit of cooperation that defines the trail, but also enhance regional economic opportunities, support cultural exchange, and honor the shared heritage—including Indigenous history—that the Chilkoot so vividly represents.

We stand ready to support any bilateral dialogue or administrative effort that would help reestablish this vital connection across our shared border.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued stewardship of our shared natural and historic heritage.

Sincerely,



Ranj Pillai  
Premier of the Yukon



Lisa Murkowski  
U.S. Senator for Alaska

CC: Erin O’Gorman, President, Canada Border Services Agency  
Christopher Pratt; Acting Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans; U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Rodney Scott, Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Ron Hallman, President & CEO, Parks Canada  
Jessica Bowron, Acting Director, National Parks Service  
Tyler Hassen; Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget; U.S. Department of the Interior  
William Hague, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior

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<sup>1</sup> <https://parks.canada.ca/lhn-nhs/yt/chilkoot/visit/frontiere-border>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/klgo/planyourvisit/planning-your-hike.htm>