



## Media Release

For release January 26, 2017

### **Alberta Off-Highway Vehicle Riders Disappointed with Decision to Shut Down All Motorized Trail Use in The Castle Area**

Edmonton, January 20, 2017: The Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Association (AOHVA) would like to express its deep disappointment in the NDP Government's decision to unilaterally shut down OHV use in The Castle.

"For decades the local OHV user club (CNP Quad Squad) have been active in The Castle Area putting in approximately 80,000 volunteer hours on trail maintenance, construction and installing infrastructure such as bridges. The AOHVA has supported the CNP Quad Squad with substantial grants from various sources to support trail revitalization, restoration and trail infrastructure. With increased pressure and expectations for recreational off-highway vehicle use on single and multi-use trails, AOHVA is actively advocating on behalf of off-highway vehicle recreation users to the provincial and local governments across Alberta to increase the number of recreation trails in the province and ensure continued access for Albertans and visitors." Stated Brent Hodgson, President of the AOHVA.

This decision has generated significant concern amongst riders around the NDP government's commitment to working with rural and urban OHV users who believe that proper trail use and ecological preservation are complimentary.

"OHV user clubs and the AOHVA have been deeply involved in land-use planning discussions in The Castle for over a year now. Throughout this time, we understood that the government shared our belief that responsible trail usage and environmental stewardship were not mutually exclusive. The announcement regarding OHV use in The Castle came as a shock to us and has led to countless phone calls from our members questioning the government's support for OHV users in other parts of Alberta." Stated Brent Hodgson of the AOHVA.

The AOHVA believes that the government should rethink the blanket ban on OHV use in The Castle and instead develop a roadmap for the creation of a GoA Framework that will allow for the appropriate development, enhancement and maintenance of a sustainable designated trail network for all Albertans.

"There are an estimated 165,000 OHV recreation users of which 124,000 are currently registered in the Province. By closing off The Castle without providing a safe sustainable place for riders to go will make the problem of OHV-linked environmental issues worse, not better. These users will need a place to ride, and with The Castle closed to us, we fear that responsible users may make poor decisions on trail access and usage. This will lead to more of the problems the restrictions in The Castle were supposed to avoid." Stated Brent Hodgson of the AOHVA.

The AOHVA encourages all concerned Albertans to contact their MLA and implore them to work with all the trail user sectors, local OHV user clubs and other impacted stakeholders to encourage the development of a GoA Framework that will lead to a designated trail system with effective stewardship.

**About the AOHVA:**

AOHVA is a non-profit organization representing the interests of the estimated 165,000 off-highway vehicle recreation users; those being all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-road motorcycles (ORMs) and side by sides (UTVs) across Alberta. We are dedicated to providing safe motorized recreational activities in an environmentally responsible manner. Our efforts focus on education, safety, and the revitalisation and restoration of trails and facilities on both public and private land throughout Alberta.

**AOHVA - Designated Trail System with Effective Stewardship - Working to Keep You Riding**

**AOHVA CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Alberta Off Highway Vehicle Assn.  
500 Country Hills Blvd.  
#725 Box 38017  
Calgary, Alberta  
T3K 5G9

T: 403.673.3332  
E: [office@aohva.com](mailto:office@aohva.com)  
[www.aohva.com](http://www.aohva.com)  
Find us on Facebook

**AOHVA MEDIA INQUIRIES:** Please contact Brent Hodgson at 1-780-241-5020 or email [office@aohva.com](mailto:office@aohva.com)

**CNP QUAD SQUAD CONTACT INFORMATION:**

CNP Quad Squad  
8342-19 Ave, Coleman, A  
Box 1031  
Blairmore, Alberta  
T0K 0E0

T: 403-562-8686  
E: [office@quadsquad.ca](mailto:office@quadsquad.ca)  
[www.quadsquad.ca](http://www.quadsquad.ca)  
Find us on Facebook

**CNP QUAD SQUAD MEDIA INQUIRES:** Please contact Gary Clark at 1-403-753-0029 or email [office@quadsquad.ca](mailto:office@quadsquad.ca)

**AMSA OFF-ROAD CONTACT INFORMATION:**

AMSA Off-Road  
972 Riverbend D  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2C 3L8

T: 403-642-7359  
E: [amsaoffroad@hotmail.com](mailto:amsaoffroad@hotmail.com)

**AMSA OFF-ROAD MEDIA INQUIRES:** Please contact Keith Routley at 1-403-642-7359 or email [sixsixty8@gmail.com](mailto:sixsixty8@gmail.com)