Parks Canada has issued the following (condensed) Special Travel Advisory for the Canadian side of the Trail:

SPECIAL TRAVEL ADVISORY

Persistent Winter Conditions Prompt Warning on Chilkoot Trail

WHITEHORSE, YUKON, May 24, 2013 – Due to a cold, late spring, Parks Canada today issued a special travel advisory for visitors contemplating hiking the Chilkoot Trail in the coming weeks. As a result of persistent winter conditions, deep winter snow has been slow to melt. Visitors will encounter late-winter snowpack conditions with increased avalanche risk and more snow covered trail sections.

Visitor safety is a top priority for Parks Canada. Parks Canada is recommending that trail hikers avoid solo travel and take extra precautions for the increased avalanche danger in run-out zones from Sheep Camp to Happy Camp. Avalanche zones will be marked with warning signs and travel in these areas is recommended only while the snowpack remains frozen, usually early in the day. Travel through avalanche terrain should be avoided later in the day or on days when there has not been a good overnight freeze. While these conditions persist, Parks Canada recommends visitors carry avalanche rescue gear (transceiver, probe and shovel) and be trained and prepared for self-rescue. Snowshoes and trekking poles are advised for travel on snow.

Parks Canada will be monitoring the conditions as the spring season progresses. Visitors are encouraged to check the trail conditions on Parks Canada's website (www.parkscanada.gc.ca/chilkoot) or contact Parks Canada directly for up-to-date conditions (1-800-661-0486). In addition, beginning June 2, 2013, the Skagway Trail Centre, jointly managed by Parks Canada and US National Park, will be open and visitors can receive information by calling 907-983-9234.