



June 21, 2010

To: Peter Hume
Chair, Planning and Environment Committee
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

RE: 182-hectare development by Urbandale in Kanata's South March Highlands

Dear Mr. Hume,

I am writing you with regards to the scheduled Urbandale development in Kanata's South March Highlands. Under planning regulations, Urbandale is submitting a tree preservation plan that must be reviewed before development commences. I urge you to ensure that that this plan is carefully examined, given the existence of threatened flora and other wildlife in the South March Highlands, as well as the importance of this near-urban forest to sustaining community health and wellbeing.

For example, the South March Highlands stands out in the entire National Capital Area for its richness of plant diversity. There are 30 distinct ecotypes of vegetation in the area, consisting of 440 native vascular plants, of which 2 are endangered species, 6 are provincially rare, 64 are regionally rare, and 50 are uncommon to the City of Ottawa. The trees in this ecologically significant zone include species of Butternut and Red Spruce that are Provincially Rare.

If the development is allowed to proceed, we fear that massive tree cutting in SMH's mature forests may also adversely impact the habitat of the dozens of species of birds that are known to nest in this sensitive ecological area.

By preventing the degradation of this important near-urban forest to development you will ensure that the region's ecological assets, like wildlife habitat, are protected and that local human communities will continue to benefit from the critical ecological services that these green spaces provide, like clean air and water, healthy soil, and habitat for wildlife, including many threatened and endangered plants and animals.

Decision-makers often ignore the fact that the farmland, forests and green spaces within and surrounding urban areas provide an astonishing range of ecological services for free, like filtering and storing drinking water and preventing erosion by ensuring that riverbanks remain stable. Research by the David Suzuki Foundation and others has shown that nature's benefits are extremely valuable in monetary terms, and in some cases are truly priceless¹.

The City's guidelines, in section 4.7.1 of the Official Plan, named "Integrated Environmental Review to Assess Development Applications," provides for public consultation when development has an environmental impact. On behalf of the David Suzuki Foundation, I request that the PEC provide for a public review process of Urbandale's tree plan. This will ensure that proper care is taken to preserve trees and habitat that are irreplaceable and which help enhance



**David
Suzuki
Foundation**

■ Vancouver (Head Office)
219-2211 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver BC, V6K 4S2
604-732-4228 tel

■ Toronto
421-215 Spadina Avenue
Toronto ON, M5T 2C7
416-644-1032 tel

■ Ottawa
606-251 Bank Street
Ottawa ON, K2P 1X3
800-453-1533 tel

■ Montréal
307-460, rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest
Montréal QC, H3B 1A7
514-316-4646 tel

the status of Ottawa, as not only the nation's capital, but as an environmentally-responsible example to all other communities in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Moola'.

Dr. Faisal Moola, PhD
Director, Terrestrial Conservation and Science Program
David Suzuki Foundation
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto
Cc: Councillor Marianne Wilkinson
Mayor, Larry O'Brien

[Ontario's Wealth, Canada's Future: Appreciating the Value of the Greenbelt's Eco-Services](#)