



Paul Dewar

*M.P. for Ottawa Centre
Député de Ottawa-Centre*



January 20, 2011

Madame Marie Lemay
Chief Executive Officer
National Capital Commission
202-40 Elgin Street
Ottawa ON K1P 1C7

Dear Madame Lemay,

I write to respectfully request that the South March Highlands in Kanata be included in an NCC review of Ottawa's Greenbelt, with a view to adding it to an expanded Greenbelt.

As you are aware, the lands in question are slated to be developed, with work beginning as early as this month. Supporters of the South March Highlands have raised some important points:

- This old-growth forest is the last of its kind in the Ottawa area
- 2011 is the United Nations International Year of the Forest
- Ottawa is the capital of a major OECD country and a member of the UN
- Aboriginal elders have voiced concerns about the need for a new archaeological study in the spring
- The area is home to 20 Species at Risk, with another 18 on the Candidate list

There has been growing realization among the citizens of the greater Ottawa area that this long-enjoyed parcel of nature will be lost forever. Many prominent individuals as well as thousands of 'ordinary' citizens are rallying together to protect this land for future generations.

I urge you to do everything possible within the NCC's mandate to save this ecologically-significant area for the enjoyment of Canadians. Adding the South March Highlands to the existing Greenbelt would be to add another jewel to the beloved necklace of green adorning our National Capital Region.

I look forward to your prompt response,

Paul Dewar, MP
Ottawa Centre

Cc: Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Coalition to Protect the South March Highlands

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