



WILDLANDS LEAGUE

May 12, 2023

Support Bill C-248, *An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Ojibway National Urban Park of Canada)*

Dear Senators,

Wildlands League is one of Canada's pre-eminent conservation organizations, a not-for-profit charity that has been working in the public interest since 1968 to protect nature.

We collaborate with communities, governments, First Nations, scientists and progressive industry in building solutions that provide a future for all our kids, for climate and for the natural world.

We urge you to support Bill C-248, *An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Ojibway National Urban Park of Canada)*. We have promoted the establishment of a National Urban Park in Windsor for years. Brian Masse's private member's bill moves this vision towards reality.

As the pandemic revealed, we crave nature for sanctuary. Nature unites us. Being in nature, having access to nature and working on projects to protect and restore nature heals us.

The biodiversity and climate crises also require nature protection to resolve them. Wildlands League supports Canada's pledge to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and reach 30% protection by 2030 while fighting climate change.

We encourage public representatives at every level of government to support these goals. Quebec was the first Province to publicly commit to protecting 30% by 2030. It also recognized the importance of protecting nature in cities, suburbs and farmland and connecting it through healthy landscapes.

Windsor embodies the threats and opportunities that are being faced across Canada's South. Its remnant Tallgrass Prairie is the most endangered ecosystem in Canada with more rare species than anywhere else in Ontario. It's a biodiversity hotspot within a hotspot. But tallgrass is also the landcover most resilient to a warming climate and one of the best natural sponges when the skies open up and waters rise. This is a natural solution in a city where annual flooding makes insurance almost impossible to obtain.

Wildlands League has a vision for Southern Canada of expanded protected areas connected to each other and to the broader landscape by ecological corridors. The establishment of a new



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Ojibway National Urban Park that includes the Federal Ojibway Shores property is a great example of what can be done to protect Nature in and around cities - the front lines of the extinction crisis and the climate emergency.

Together, moving forward with legislation to create a new national urban park in Windsor, we can restore, protect and connect the natural landscapes of this great city and inspire similar work across the country.

Please support Bill C-248.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Sumner', written in a cursive style.

Janet Sumner  
Executive Director  
Wildlands League