



Karen Stintz

Councillor - Ward 16, Eglinton Lawrence

March 24, 2014

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq

Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec, K1A 0H3

Re: Recommendations for the national Rouge Park Strategic Plan and Legislation

Dear Ms. Aglukkaq:

On November 29, 2012, Toronto City Council voted unanimously (33-0) to:

Thank Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Federal government for committing to create a National Park in the Rouge Valley area and further encourage the Federal government to:

i. Ensure that the concept, legislation and management plan for Rouge National Urban Park respects, strengthens and implements the vision, goals and objectives of the City approved Rouge Park Plans (1994 and 2001) and current Toronto Official Plan, the Provincial Greenbelt Plan (2005) and the Rouge Natural Heritage Action Plan (2008); including incorporating the existing park vision that:

The Rouge National Urban Park will be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage in an urban-rural setting, protected and flourishing as an ecosystem in perpetuity. Human activities will exist in harmony with the natural values of the Park. The Park will be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit;

ii. Respect conservation science, good planning principles and long term park ecological health and visitor potential, by including the 100+ km² public land assembly within the Rouge and Duffins Creek watersheds as part of the Rouge National Urban Park study area;

iii. Ensure restoration of a large mixed-wood and Carolinian forest habitat system linking Lake Ontario to the Oak Ridges Moraine with public parkland and trails; and

iv. Include First Nations and respected conservation NGOs on the Rouge National Urban Park Advisory Board.

