

Brian Masse

Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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Honourable Drew Dilkens, Mayor of the City of Windsor
350 City Hall Square West
Windsor, Ontario
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Dear Mayor Dilkens,

As you are aware, significant progress has been made in the endeavour to create Ojibway National Urban Park (NUP) over the past several years.

Beginning at a townhall on August 2019 where the idea of Ojibway NUP was formally discussed by many local, national, and international organizations, including Caldwell First Nation, grass roots groups such as Friends of Ojibway, Friends of the Rouge, the Audubon society, the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge, the Wildlands League, scientists, former conservation workers, unions, former city parks directors, and many individual citizens. To the present local consensus of the need to establish Ojibway NUP, significant efforts by many stakeholders was needed to make this happen.

The City of Windsor's leadership has been essential and long standing in the work to protect Ojibway Shores, the universal support at city council with a unanimous vote to support the establishment of Ojibway NUP, to the discussions with other levels of government, and other undertakings to demonstrate its commitment to protecting this unique environmental jewel in our region. The crucial effort during the last federal election to include Ojibway NUP as part of the City's *Platform for Windsor* resulted in all candidates endorsing it, further demonstrating the consensus that has been achieved.

My private members bill C-248, An Act to amend the Canada National Parks Act (Ojibway National Urban Park of Canada), which was introduced this past February, had its first hour of debate and will come to vote on second reading after during the second week in June and then will go to the House of Commons Environment Committee for review. In Canada, the usual procedure for establishing a national park is to add the name and description of the park to a schedule in the Canada National Parks Act which is done by

amending the act which C-248 does. As part of this process of gathering support amongst members of parliament from across all parties, there has been an appreciation of the direct support of the City of Windsor in creating Ojibway NUP and the willingness of the municipality to transfer its local lands to Parks Canada as soon as possible to facilitate its establishment.

Accordingly, as with other supporters of Ojibway NUP from Caldwell First Nation to the Wildlands League, letters of support need to be presented to those members of parliament who wish to examine all aspects of the issue before voting on the bill. While the City has been explicit on its intention and efforts to establish Ojibway NUP, I am requesting a letter from your office in support of C-248 to ensure all members of parliament are clear that Ojibway NUP has broad support from all stakeholders.

I thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Masse MP

Windsor West

NDP Innovation, International Trade, Economic Development, and Great Lakes Critic