

Delivered Electronically

April 14, 2021

Hon. Omar Alhabra
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada
K1A 0A6

Hon. Omar Alhabra,

RE: Transport Canada Surplus Lands in Niagara on the Lake Ontario

The Niagara Region is the home of the Welland Canal, an important marine transportation corridor. Niagara is also home to a growing population, expected to reach 675,000 in the next 30 years.

Niagara Region Council has prioritized the establishment of healthy and vibrant communities which foster a high quality of life through safe, healthy, and inclusive neighbourhoods. To this end, I am reaching out to share the Region's vision for the establishment of an Eco Park in the Glendale District of Niagara on the Lake.

The Glendale District is a strategic growth area located alongside the Welland Canal. The District was envisioned through a collaborative community consultation process which included participation from the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC).

The District envisions a passive Eco Park that will provide natural space for Niagara's growing population. The park will enhance existing natural environment features located on lands immediately adjacent to the Welland Canal.

Transport Canada is currently in the process of divesting a site (NN-026-C) which was formerly under the jurisdiction of the SLSMC. While we understand Transport Canada has established a market value asking price for the site, we are hopeful you will consider alternatives that will allow us to preserve and enhance this unique site while making it available as passive park space.

The Niagara Region has several existing long-term lease agreements for recreational trails with the Federal Government for lands alongside the Welland Canal. We would be interested in a similar arrangement for site NN-026-C. Alternatively, we would consider a nominal sum purchase of the site.

We're excited about the opportunity to preserve and enhance these lands through the establishment of a passive Eco Park. We hope Transport Canada shares our vision and value for this project.

If your Office would like additional information about the project or Transport Canada site, please feel free to contact myself or Erik Acs, Manager of Community Planning
Erik.Acs@niagararegion.ca.

Sincerely,

<name>

<title>

Cc:

Hon. Chris Bittle MP St. Catharines

Hon. Vance Badaway MP Niagara Centre

Hon. Tony Baldinelli MP Niagara Falls

Hon. Dean Allison MP Niagara West

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April 14, 2021

Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation of Ontario
5th Floor, 777 Bay St,
Toronto, ON
M7A 1Z8

Hon. Caroline Mulroney,

RE: Vacant MTO Lands in Niagara on the Lake

On behalf of the Niagara Region Council, I wanted to extend my thanks to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) for their participating in the Glendale District Planning process. The Glendale District will soon be home to Ontario's first diverging diamond interchange.

The Glendale District is a strategic growth area designed to accommodate a significant amount of Niagara's growth over the next 30 years.

Niagara Region Council has prioritized the establishment of healthy and vibrant communities which foster a high quality of life through safe, healthy, and inclusive neighbourhoods. To this end, I am reaching out to share the Region's vision for the establishment of an Eco Park in the Glendale District of Niagara on the Lake.

The District envisions a passive Eco Park that will provide natural space for Niagara's growing population. The park will enhance existing natural environment features located on lands adjacent to the Welland Canal and Queen Elizabeth Way. A portion of the Eco Park site identifies the potential use of a large parcel owned by the Ministry of Transportation.

The MTO retains historical ownership of an approximate 24 hectare parcel at the corner of Homer and Taylor Roads in Niagara on the Lake. We are hoping your Ministry could review its land needs and consider leasing us all or a portion of this site for parkland use, either for the long term or until the MTO requires the site for its own purposes.

If this site is surplus to MTO needs, the Region would like to discuss opportunities for a long term lease or purchase.

We're excited about the opportunity to preserve and enhance these lands through the establishment of a passive Eco Park. We hope your Ministry shares our vision and value for this project.

If your Office would like additional information about the project or the MTO lands in question, please feel free to contact myself or Erik Acs, Manager of Community Planning Erik.Acs@niagararegion.ca.

Sincerely,

<name>

<title>

Cc:

Hon. Wayne Gates