

Dear Mayor Watson,

I am writing to seek your support for a worthy initiative which seeks to increase biodiversity in our communities and establish healthy pollinator habitats.

As you may be aware, the David Suzuki Foundation has been spearheading the [Butterflyway Project](#) in communities across the country. Thanks to the efforts of more than a thousand volunteers, [Butterflyway Rangers](#), communities across Canada have participated in establishing pollinator-friendly areas in public spaces such as parks and schools, and on private properties and gardens. There are 47 new Butterflyway Rangers in the Ottawa-Gatineau region this year, clearly a sign of a growing interest for this useful initiative.

Building on a similar practice in the United States, the David Suzuki Foundation is encouraging leaders to sign the [Mayors' Monarch Pledge](#). More than 300 Canadian communities have committed to creating monarch butterfly habitats by engaging their residents in educational and conservation projects. By signing the Mayors' Monarch Pledge you would put Ottawa on the map of other Canadian cities that are undertaking concrete action to revitalize habitats for monarch butterflies. Mayors who sign the pledge are committing to undertake at least 3 actions within a year to support monarch butterfly habitats. [A list of action items](#) provides examples of what leaders like you can do such as, issuing a proclamation to raise awareness about the decline of the monarch butterfly and the need for restoration of their habitats, adding native milkweed and nectar producing plants in community gardens, supporting local efforts to build pollinator patches and similar. Toronto, Montreal and several other Ontario mayors have signed this pledge already.

Engaging in initiatives such as these, gives the citizens a sense of agency and reinforces community-building spirit while growing healthy and biodiverse pollinator habitats - all of which is needed and would be welcome during these difficult pandemic times.

The Hunt Club Community Association is home to 3 Butterflyway Rangers and will start establishing [pollinator patches](#) in Hunt Club this year. I would like to invite you to sign the Mayors' Monarch Pledge as a visible sign of your continued support to environmental initiatives. The Hunt Club Community Association would be delighted to host you, in person or virtually, on the occasion of your signing of the Mayors' Monarch Pledge, ideally during [Pollinator Week \(June 21-27\)](#).

I sincerely hope that you will join other Canadian mayors in providing support for this worthy initiative.

Kind regards,

Zivana Pavic
Member of the Board of Directors
Hunt Club Community Association