

June \_\_, 2025

The Hon. David McGuinty, PC, MP  
Member of Parliament, Ottawa South

**Re: Southern Corridor: NCC's Development Plans**

Dear Mr. McGuinty,

On behalf of the Hunt Club Community Association (HCCA), I am writing to express concern about the National Capital Commission's plans for the development of urban greenspace in the Hunt Club and Riverside Park communities.

The NCC's Southern Corridor stretches from the Rideau River to the Airport Parkway. It includes McCarthy Woods (designated as "Valuable Natural Habitat"), small sections intended for a future pathway ("Capital Urban Greenspace"), and the large meadows west of McCarthy Woods ("Regional Interest Landmass"). Additional open spaces, woods, and wetlands are located near Revelstoke Drive, Rivergate Way, and Plante Drive.

In Draft 2 of the new Zoning By-law, the City of Ottawa proposes to apply an "Environmental Protection" zone to McCarthy Woods and a "Greenspace" zone to a small parcel of land along the CNR line. Most of the remaining NCC-owned land will be transferred from recreational, greenspace, or open space zones to a "*Development Reserve*" zone – one step closer to planning permission for development.

The HCCA recognizes that there is a need for all levels of government to address the housing crisis and that the NCC has been asked to release lands for residential development. At the same time, we know that it is important to preserve the NCC's urban greenspace network, which is one of the National Capital's most valuable assets.

We are particularly concerned about the fate of the "McCarthy Meadows", which provide an important buffer for McCarthy Woods and are well-used by local residents for recreational purposes. If these open spaces and thickets are developed, there will be a loss of biodiversity and greatly increased pressure on the "valuable natural habitat" in McCarthy Woods.

We are aware that an NCC study, co-authored with the David Suzuki Foundation, has recognized that some parts of the McCarthy meadows, Plante wetlands, and Revelstoke woods have considerable ecological and economic value. The NCC has also included a proposed “Southern Corridor Pathway” in its future network of Discovery Routes. We would welcome such a pathway, but remain concerned that its value would be greatly diminished by the development of the surrounding lands.

In order to better understand the NCC’s plans for the Southern Corridor, we would be grateful for your assistance in obtaining responses to the following questions:

1. **NCC’s Development Plans.** What are the NCC’s current plans for the development of the Southern Corridor, including the McCarthy meadows, the wetlands near Plante Drive, the woodlot near Rivergate Way, and the woods near Revelstoke Drive? Have any environment impact assessments or other studies been conducted of these lands and, if so, could they be shared with the HCCA? Will there be any consultation with community groups before releasing these lands for development?
2. **NCC’s Future Pathway.** What is the status of the “Southern Corridor Pathway” that will run along the CNR line to the Rideau River shoreline? Have any feasibility or ecological impact studies been conducted in support of this pathway (as recommended by the Capital Pathway Strategic Plan)? If so, could the NCC share these studies with the HCCA?

We look forward to the NCC’s responses to these questions and would welcome your views on this matter. We would very much appreciate your support in preserving the urban greenspace in the Southern Corridor.

Sincerely,

Audrey Bélanger  
President, Hunt Club Community Association

c.c. Councillor Riley Brockington  
c.c. John Fraser, MPP, Ottawa South  
c.c. Dave Coyle, President, Riverside Park Community Association  
c.c. Owen Clarkin, President, Ottawa Field Naturalists’ Club  
c.c. Paul Johanis, President, Federation of Citizens’ Associations