



CAFES Ottawa

Community Associations for
Environmental Sustainability

November 28th, 2023

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Fontaine Building 12th Floor
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

On behalf of the CAFES Ottawa network, I would like to express my support for the efforts of the Save Hunt Club Forest community group to save the local pine forest and its access to nearby residents. The Hunt Club Forest is a widely used and deeply valued natural area for local residents. After 60 years of growth, it has become a flourishing forest inhabited by hundreds of diverse plant and animal species.

While I understand the Hunt Club Forest is under the jurisdiction of the Ottawa International Airport Authority (OIAA), it is situated on federal land. I feel that it is reasonable for the federal government to delay the decision made by the OIAA in order to find a solution that will preserve part of the forest.

It appears that it is in your **mandate** to ensure that all Canadians have access to greenspace, that we conserve 25% of our lands by 2025 and that we reverse nature loss by 2030. Given that we are currently experiencing detrimental effects from the climate crisis and that your **policy priorities** state that preserving Canada's natural areas must be grounded in part by local perspectives, it would seem this action should receive your support.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Erica Shardlow

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