



February 3, 2014

Re: MOA Transfer of lands for national Rouge Park

Dear City of Toronto Executive Committee:

To diligently protect the City's interest in a healthy Rouge Park and Lake Ontario shoreline, we respectfully ask the Executive Committee of Toronto Council to accept the following four recommendations for improving the proposed Rouge land transfer MOA.

Recommendation 1:

Please add conditions **c, d and e** to Part 1.

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| <p>1. City Council authorize the City of Toronto to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement providing for the transfer of City-owned lands, (set out in Schedule "C" to the Memorandum of Agreement), to Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of the Environment for the purposes of the Parks Canada Agency ("Parks Canada"), substantially in the form of Attachment 1 to this report, conditional upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. as statedb. as statedc. The establishment of a Supplementary Agreement, pursuant to Clause 2.12 of the MOA, requiring City of Toronto review and agreement with the national Rouge Park legislation and management plan prior to the final transfer of City of Toronto lands;d. City of Toronto Staff and Council being satisfied that the legislation and management plan for the national Rouge Park adequately address Council's unanimous November 29, 2012 Rouge Park motion;e. The supplementary agreements and written policies referenced in the Provincial and Federal MOA dated January 26, 2013 are finalized to ensure the national Rouge Park legislation and management plan meet or preferably exceed the environmental policies of longstanding Rouge Park Plans (1994 and 2001); the Rouge Park Natural Heritage Action Plan (2008); Provincial Greenbelt (2005) and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plans (2002); and remedial action plans, watershed plans, and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreements, to improve water quality in the Rouge Watershed and along Toronto's Lake Ontario shoreline. | <p>FRW Patrons</p> <p>Lois James, "Save the Rouge" founding member and Order of Canada Recipient</p> <p>Rathika Sitsabaesan, M Scarborough Rouge Riv</p> <p>Hon. David Peterson, former Ontario Premier</p> <p>Hon. Gerry Phillips, former MPP Scarborough Agincourt</p> <p>Hon. Alvin Curling, former MPP Scarborough Rouge River</p> <p>Derek Lee, former MP Scarborough Rouge Riv</p> <p>Joyce Trimmer, former Mayor of Scarborough, posthumous</p> |
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Recommendation 2:

In the first whereas of the draft MOA the words "Rouge Valley" should be replaced with the words "**Rouge River and Valley Ecosystem**" to accurately describe the inclusion of valleys and tablelands in the park and to respect the ecosystem and watershed context outlined in longstanding Rouge Park Management Plans and Toronto Waterfront Plans.

2012.11.29

Recommendation 3:

The seventh whereas of the draft MOA should be deleted from the MOA being signed by Toronto because this clause prematurely outlines a new vision for the park which is contrary to the longstanding vision of 1994 and 2001 Rouge Park Management Plans and contrary to Council's unanimous Nov 29, 2012 motion.

As Council has unanimously stated, the longstanding Rouge Park vision should be adopted within the national Rouge Park legislation and management plan. At the very least, the longstanding vision should not be changed prior to further consultation with the public, the City of Toronto and the Province regarding the national park management plan and legislation.

Recommendation 4:

In the definition section c) the words "Rouge Valley" should be replaced with the words "**Rouge River and Valley Ecosystem**".

Conclusion:

We trust that the Executive Committee of Toronto Council will accept these four constructive recommendations.

Sincerely,

Jim Robb
General Manager
Friends of the Rouge Watershed
647-891-9550