

## Parliament

Room 713, Confederation Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
Tel.: 613 996 5322



## Parlement

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## Yasir Naqvi

Member of Parliament | Député  
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March 21, 2022

Hon. Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

I am writing to you about the future protection of the Central Experimental Farm. It is an issue that is very important to my constituents of Ottawa Centre, and all residents of Ottawa.

The Central Experimental Farm is an agricultural research facility and a working farm located in the heart of Ottawa. In 1997, the Central Experimental Farm was designated a national historic site. The Farm, spanning more than 400-hectares, is well loved by residents of Ottawa and visitors alike.

Since its establishment in 1886, the Central Experimental Farm has made significant scientific contributions to agriculture in Canada. As a rare example of a farm within a city, the Central Experimental Farm has become a symbol of the central role agriculture has played in shaping our country.

As you may be aware, a small part of the farm is being used to build a new Civic Campus of The Ottawa Hospital. Although no downtown site is perfect, it is clear that Ottawa needs a modern, 21st-century hospital located downtown to serve the people of Ottawa, Eastern Ontario and Nunavut. However, I have heard from communities surrounding the Central Experimental Farm that they are concerned that in the long term, the farm might be turned over to further development and that the construction of the hospital is the beginning of this process. As such, I committed to introduce legislation that will protect the lands of the Central Experimental Farm from any additional development, forever.

I am thrilled to see in your mandate letter, dated December 16, 2021, that the Prime Minister has asked you to "introduce comprehensive legislation to protect federally-owned historic places." The Central Experimental Farm is federally owned land, and is of significant national importance and value. The farm is located in the heart of the city, includes the Dominion Arboretum, and adjacent to the Rideau Canal (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). As such, I request that the Central Experimental Farm be added as a protected historic place under the proposed new legislation. This would allow the residents of Ottawa access to a new world-class hospital, and preservation of the farm for generations to come.

I look forward to working with you to make this a reality. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yasir Naqvi".

Yasir Naqvi, MP  
Ottawa Centre

CC: Honourable Filomena Tassi, Minister of Public Services and Procurement  
Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Honourable Mona Fortier, President of the Treasury Board  
Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage