



APR 12 2022

Mr. Yasir Naqvi, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Ottawa Centre
yasir.naqvi@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Naqvi:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 21, 2022, concerning the future protection of the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site of Canada.

The Government of Canada takes its role to protect the country's cultural heritage and share it with Canadians very seriously. As Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency, I support measures to strengthen the conservation of heritage places. I am sympathetic to the concerns of Ottawa residents and, in particular, of those communities surrounding the Central Experimental Farm about these lands that were designated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1997.

The mandate letter I received on December 16, 2021, as you note in your correspondence, confirmed the Government of Canada's strong commitment to introduce comprehensive legislation to protect federally-owned historic places. Further, as you are likely aware, the Government of Canada made a commitment in Budget 2021 to introduce legislation to establish a framework for the transparent designation of historic places at the federal level, and for the sustainable protection of over 300 federally-owned historic places. I am confident that work underway will be an important step toward the lasting protection of these places, and will demonstrate the Government of Canada's engagement in and commitment to protecting Canada's cultural heritage under federal jurisdiction.

The Government of Canada has heard Canadians, including Ottawa residents, and we will act on their expectation to protect historic places in cooperation with other levels of government and federal custodian departments. As such, I have asked the Parks Canada Agency to continue to work in collaboration with officials of the National Capital Commission and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and to continue to provide heritage conservation advice with respect to the protection and conservation of the heritage value of the Central Experimental Farm.

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As a national historic site, the Central Experimental Farm is a vital part of Canada's history and the national capital region in particular. As a nationally significant cultural landscape, this place deserves to be protected for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

I appreciate your ongoing support of Canada's historic places.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P. (il/lui/he/him)

c.c.: The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, P.C., M.P.
 The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, P.C., M.P.
 The Honourable David McGuinty, P.C., M.P.
 The Honourable Filomena Tassi, P.C., M.P.
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