



February 5, 2019

John MacKenzie
Toronto and Region and Conservation Authority
101 Exchange Ave
Concord, ON L4K 5R6

Dear Mr. MacKenzie,

Further to our recent conversation, I am writing today to confirm our interests and priorities in working with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to advance the completion of the establishment of Rouge National Urban Park.

As a preliminary point however, I would like to express our deep and sincere appreciation for the work that you and your team have done to help to make the vision for the Rouge ever closer to reality. A clear commitment to getting the job done and a firm spirit of collaboration have been the hallmark of the work of your team over the last eight years and the Parks Canada Agency deeply appreciates it.

A key recent accomplishment has been the approval of the inaugural management plan for the park. As you know, the Rouge National Urban Park Management Plan has now been tabled in the House of Commons (<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/on/rouge/info/gestion-management>) and Parks Canada is keen to move forward with the TRCA in completing land assembly for the park and in protecting and celebrating its amazing natural, cultural, and agricultural heritage.

In this context, I would like to commend and thank the TRCA for the November 1, 2018 transfer of more than 190 hectares (470 acres) of land to Parks Canada in the Bob Hunter Memorial Park area for inclusion in Rouge National Urban Park. With the management plan now complete we are eager to build on the momentum this transfer creates. Our top priority in the coming weeks is to finalize the park's remaining land transfers, with the additional 2060 hectares (5090 acres) of TRCA land being the highest priority on the list for land transfer.

The TRCA lands remaining to transfer include approximately 166 individual parcels of property (see attachment); 118 in the City of Toronto, 30 in the City of Pickering and 18 in the City of Markham. Our teams continue to work with our respective legal counsels, and surveyors from the Legal Surveys Branch of Natural Resources Canada, to secure the requisite authorities, prepare legal descriptions and complete the documentation required to effect the transfer. Given that completing the transfer of these lands is of the greatest urgency to Parks Canada, my team is prepared to do whatever is necessary to assist the TRCA in order for us to successfully complete the transfer of lands as soon as possible. It is our strong hope that we can wrap these transactions up this spring and shift gears to fully implementing the management plan. I look forward to working with you in this regard and to identifying and resolving any issues that may be preventing our achievement of this collective goal.

On a related note, I would like to update you regarding Parks Canada's plans for a Toronto 'Gateway' Learning and Welcome Facility in the Scarborough area of Rouge National Urban Park, an initiative Parks Canada has publicly committed to in the recently released park management plan. Parks Canada's intention is to ensure the facility's location and design provide the greatest educational and interpretive value to the park, its partners, and the public.

As you know, Parks Canada recently completed a feasibility assessment of nine locations in the Toronto area of the park to determine the best location for a learning and orientation facility to act as a gateway to discovering RNUP and as a community hub in Scarborough. Parks Canada agreed to conduct this assessment based on feedback from partners and stakeholders in the summer of 2018.

After careful analysis, which factored in technical environmental and cultural heritage criteria along with Indigenous and stakeholder feedback, Parks Canada would like to move ahead with pursuing a location on the east side of Meadowvale Road, which is also the preferred location and recommendation of Mayor John Tory and the Friends of Rouge National Urban Park. As Parks Canada's preferred location is currently part of the Toronto Zoo's leasehold on land owned by the TRCA, a final location decision is subject to further discussions with the TRCA, Toronto Zoo and City of Toronto.

In order for the facility to be viable and best serve the needs of the public, the park's Indigenous partners, neighbouring Scarborough communities, and park visitors, the lands in question would need to be transferred to Parks Canada for inclusion in RNUP. This request is consistent with a TRCA Executive Board Tripartite resolution 2.2 ratified at the June 2018 meeting, which stated:

That a clause be added to the Tripartite Agreement that the parties may agree to amend the [Tripartite] boundary at a future date to accommodate the outcome of the Parks Canada-led process for determining the ultimate location of an orientation and education facility.

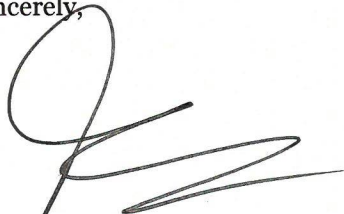
To this end, we appreciate that the Toronto Zoo has expressed an openness to negotiate a mutually beneficial outcome and preliminary discussions are now underway. It is my hope and expectation that, to avoid further delays in bringing Rouge National Urban Park to full operations, we can collectively confirm the facility's final location by spring of 2019, at the latest, with public engagement to follow and construction phases occurring from 2020 to 2022.

We look forward to working with the TRCA, Toronto Zoo, and City of Toronto to facilitate a mutually beneficial outcome for all parties involved at the earliest opportunity.

To this end, Parks Canada has already committed to working with the TRCA to make agricultural park lands available to the Zoo to sustainably grow browse foods for Zoo wildlife as well as the provision of 41 acres of former 'Rouge Park' land that Parks Canada and the TRCA agreed to provide the Zoo to manage as conservation lands and a future location for their species-at-risk breeding facilities.

In closing, I would like to reiterate our appreciation for TRCA's work as a central partner in Rouge National Urban Park. I look forward to working with you and your team as we move the land transfer process across the finish line this spring!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Swerdfager', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Trevor Swerdfager
Senior Vice President Operations