

Brian Masse

Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



December 19, 2017

The Windsor Port Authority
Board of Directors
c/o Mr. George Sandala – Chair
3190 Sandwich St.
Windsor, ON
N9C 1A6

Dear Windsor Port Authority Board of Directors:

Mr. George Sandala (Chair), Mr. Rocco Lucente (Vice Chair), Mr. Walter Benzinger, Mr. Barry Fowler, Mr. Anthony Mascaro, Ms. Bianca DeLuca, Mr. Thomas Porter,

I am writing you and your colleagues on the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) Board of Directors to take pro-active steps to ensure the long term protection of Ojibway Shores. As you know I have been calling upon the WPA to execute a transfer of stewardship over the Ojibway Shores property currently under your management to a more appropriate body. While I appreciate recent efforts to work collaboratively with the environmental community to study this ecological treasure, it is clear that the WPA is not the appropriate agency to manage this special parcel of land.

The environmental significance of Ojibway Shores is well known – the recently published Ojibway Shores Natural Heritage Inventory/Evaluation Report is more documented, scientifically rigorous evidence of this fact.

Despite the WPA's statements to work with the community to it is clear that the mandate of the WPA: "to maximize economic and development and trade" does not support the long-term ecological outcomes that are necessary for Ojibway Shores. Indeed it is clear the WPA still has conflicted intention, as you currently feature Ojibway Shores on your website as a development opportunity for commercial marine freight operations and recently asked another Government department to pay for the property.

Minister Garneau recently indicated in correspondence that the WPA Board of Directors is "responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Port Authority and overseeing operational decisions." This is clear confirmation that the WPA has the authority to execute a transfer of Ojibway Shores to another body with a more specific mandate to protect and preserve the natural heritage of this crucial ecological parcel of land. The Minister also emphasized that "...the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas is of great importance."

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This is good news for our community as it is clear that you and your Board will not have an appeal to protect Ojibway Shores, and will benefit your bottom line by removing (what to the WPA is) a financial liability.

Recently the WPA disclosed that the administration and maintenance of Ojibway Shores is roughly a \$70,000 annual expense. Furthermore, you indicated that the Port is not "pursuing marketing of the property", but have listed it as your featured development opportunity on your website. These confusing messages create anxiety for members of the public.

The community will never allow for the development of that property to proceed. Therefore the costs will continue to grow exponentially.

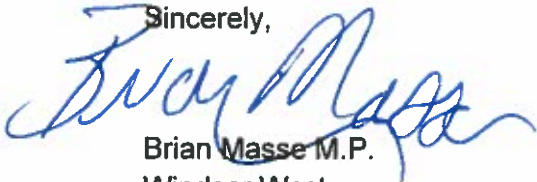
The WPA's recent proposal to extract \$12 Million in WDBA Community Benefit funds to subsidize a lease of this property to the community contemplates a 30 year time frame. Using the financial information you provided regarding the costs of maintaining Ojibway Shores, the WPA will lose a minimum \$2.1 Million over this period. Transferring what to you is a financial liability in fact frees resources for you to develop your own Community Benefit Framework similar to the WDBA with \$0.00 net impact to your budget.

Moving to transfer this property to a more appropriate body, be it the City of Windsor or Environment Canada represents a win for the Environment, the Community and (most importantly in the context of your membership on the Board) for the WPA. In fact, should this transfer proceed Ojibway Shores would be eligible for a significant infusion of resources and legal protections that could ensure the long-term ecological preservation of this property. In addition a suitable steward could leverage appropriate and unique tourism and or research opportunities as well as creating a spectacular border gateway entering or exiting Canada.

As Board Members you are in a position to give the community an early gift for the Holidays and let the "people's land" reach its fullest potential. The Minister has confirmed your independent authority to act on this issue and I urge you in the strongest possible terms to move with urgency in this direction for the betterment of the community as a whole and the WPA.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday and all the best in 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Masse".

Brian Masse M.P.
Windsor West

c.c. Drew Dilkens – Mayor of Windsor