

Brian Masse M.P.  
Member of Parliament  
Windsor West



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December 12, 2017

Mayor Drew Dilkens  
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Dear Mayor Dilkens and Councillors,

I am writing you today regarding Ojibway Shores and specifically to clarify incorrect public statements from the CEO of the Windsor Port Authority (WPA) regarding the process whereby they can transfer property assets.

Specifically, in an article published in the Windsor Star on December 20<sup>th</sup>, the CEO of the WPA was quoted as follows:

"We don't have the authority to transfer the property," Cree said. "We are the administrators of it. We have no authority to transfer it or give the administration of it to somebody else."

This is incorrect and misleading.

I have included for your reference correspondence I received from the Federal Transport Minister responding to a letter I sent him proposing the transfer of Ojibway Shores to Environment Canada. I have drawn this excerpt from his letter to illustrate the Government's view regarding the autonomy of the Port.

*"The WPA is responsible for managing the federal real property comprising the Port of Windsor, which includes the Ojibway Shores lands. The WPA as been given legal and administrative autonomy to determine its own course of action, taking into consideration economic, social and environmental factors, as well as viewpoints and priorities of the port's users, stakeholders and communities. Transport Canada, as a matter of good governance, respects the Canada Port Authorities' autonomy in this regard."*

To further clarify on a broader level, a similar process was executed in 2007 by the Port of Halifax. The Board of Directors passed a motion to petition the Minister of Transport to acquire a specific parcel of land under management of the Port and transfer the property in question to the Department of Defense.

The simple fact is the WPA Board can direct their Administration to begin the process of requesting the transfer of administration of property assets. The Minister, in his letter to me re-asserted the Port's authority to proceed independently.

I understand that the City is involved in negotiations with the Port regarding the potential acquisition of this property as well. As you consider this issue it is important to be cognizant of the reality that citizens already own this land. I know you have a representative appointed on this Board – Mr. Mascaro. It is important for him (as well as all of his colleagues on the Board) to understand that this asset is already owned by the public and is not developable given its environmental significance.

Given this, Ojibway Shores – at least as far as the WPA is concerned is a pure liability. They recently disclosed that this property is an annual cost of roughly \$70,000 for maintenance and upkeep. A transfer of this property from the WPA to another entity better equipped to preserve and protect it (such as the City or Environment Canada) is – in-and-of-itself – a good business transaction for the WPA.

I am excited about the potential of Ojibway Shores and its significance to Windsor and Essex County and Canada as a whole. I look forward to working constructively with all stakeholders involved to ensure that as a community we protect and preserve this critical parcel of land. Collectively we have a rare opportunity to create a unique environmental corridor that will begin with Ojibway Shores. I look forward to us accomplishing this as a community in 2018.

Wishing you all a wonderful and happy holiday and all the best in the new year.

Sincerely,



Brian Masse M.P.  
Windsor West

Encl. Letter from Minister Garneau to Brian Masse M.P.

c.c. Councillor Fred Francis  
Councillor John Elliott  
Councillor Rino Bortolin  
Councillor Chris Holt  
Councillor Ed Sleiman

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac  
Councillor Irek Kusmierczyk  
Councillor Bill Marra  
Councillor Hilary Payne  
Councillor Paul Borelli