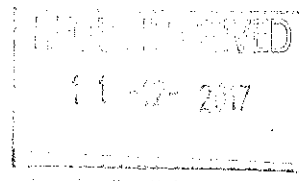


Minister of Transport



Ministre des Transports

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N5



DEC 6 2017

Mr. Brian Masse, M.P.
Windsor West
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Masse:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 25, 2017, in which you expressed your concerns regarding the status of Ojibway Shores.

I share the belief that the preservation of environmentally sensitive areas is of great importance, and I take the concerns that you have raised most seriously. As Minister of Transport, I have been entrusted with the responsibility to ensure that Canada's transportation system functions in the best interest of our economy, while preserving our natural environment through prudent, sustainable management. Achieving an appropriate balance between these two areas is a priority for the government.

Canada Port Authorities, including the Windsor Port Authority (WPA), are autonomous entities that operate on a commercial basis at arm's length from the federal government. As with other Canada Port Authorities, the WPA has the responsibility and the legal authority to carry out day-to-day operations related to the Port within the limits established by the *Canada Marine Act* and its letters patent. An independent Board of Directors is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Port Authority and overseeing operational decisions.

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

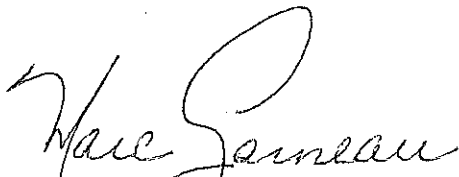
Canada

It is my understanding that the WPA and the City of Windsor are currently engaged in discussions related to the Ojibway Shores that would ultimately result in the preservation of the Ojibway Prairie Complex, which I had the privilege of seeing on a recent visit to the Windsor-Essex region.

As I have noted previously, I encourage all key stakeholders and interested parties to continue working together toward a consensus that will benefit all involved.

Thank you again for sharing your views on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marc Garneau". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

c.c. Office of the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change