

Office of the Chairman Cabinet du président

June 21, 2005

Mr. Erwin Dreessen  
Chair, Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital  
P.O. Box 55085, 240 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 1A1

Dear Mr. Dreessen:

Thank you for your presentation to the National Capital Commission's (NCC) Board of Directors, on the evening of May 3, 2005, concerning your proposal for a Poets' Pathway. As your presentation reveals, Canada has a literary heritage of which we can be proud, and your proposal to commemorate and interpret this heritage in a natural setting is very interesting.

The NCC would welcome a proposal to commemorate national poets along an outdoor route; however, we would strongly advocate that such a commemoration be located in the core area of the Capital, as that is where the majority of visitors focus their experience.

Please find enclosed a copy of the *NCC's Commemoration Policy*. We recommend that you address the requirements described therein in submitting a formal proposal. One of the key requirements is the need to indicate funding sources for proposed commemorations. It should be emphasized that while the NCC coordinates the development of commemorations on federal lands in the Capital, it does not provide funding.

On the matter of the southern corridor, the NCC cannot commit to preserving all the green space identified in your proposal. These lands were declared surplus by the NCC in 1988, with the approval of the Treasury Board Secretariat, and this status remains.

Notwithstanding, the NCC has made significant open space commitments for the protection of McCarthy Woods as well as for the lands between the Rideau River and Riverside Drive. The NCC is also committed to preserving a corridor for an east-west recreational pathway, which would, undoubtedly, be suited to the type of interpretation you describe.

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As you are aware, some of the remaining lands are subject to an appeal by the NCC to the Ontario Municipal Board. I understand that the Greenspace Alliance is a party to these appeals. This forum will provide the Alliance an opportunity to have its concerns heard.

Once again, on behalf of the NCC's Board of Directors, I thank you for your presentation on this subject.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcel Beaudry". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Marcel Beaudry  
Chairman

Enclosure