



Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition

A Not-for-Profit Corporation Established in 2019

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
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Premier Ford,

We ask today for your leadership and action to protect 175 acres of linked green and open space central to the physical and mental health and social and economic well-being of the almost 45,000 residents of Kanata North – the Kanata Golf Club lands.

Mayor Jim Watson of the City of Ottawa informed you of a motion passed unanimously by Ottawa City Council on April 27, 2022, calling on our Ontario government to assist the City in preserving this land central to our community. Mayor Watson and our City Councillor Cathy Curry join with our MPP, the Honourable Merrilee Fullerton and all of our Kanata North community and business associations as longstanding supporters of the work of the Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition (KGPC) as a leader of the community's opposition to this development.

Recently, the KGPC co-hosted an event with the Kanata North Business Association entitled "Speak Up for Greenspace". Over 50 leaders from the Kanata North Tech Park heard expert speakers and panel discussions responding to the importance of protecting these natural and essential components of the lifestyle balance so critical to ensuring global competitiveness for the 540 plus member organizations in the Park. This critical issue puts our entire community at risk. It will impact not only people's choices secondary to community infrastructure and livability, but it also has the potential to cripple the future sustainability of an important Ontario economic engine – high tech growth in Kanata which currently generates \$13B in GDP.

The City of Ottawa and its taxpayers continue to invest aggressively to stop this inappropriate development and doubly so for the residents and business base of Kanata North who primarily fund our NFP organization. We ask for your government's assistance to stop the development of this truly inappropriate site by supporting Mayor Watson's requests and:

Requesting a complete and fully unbiased environmental assessment of the Kanata Golf Club lands before the balance of the developmental process unfolds

Assuring the residents and businesses in Kanata that a legitimate community consultation about this proposed development will be held

Utilizing all legislative tools and processes to ensure the conservation of this urban greenspace consistent with provincial statements on greenspace protection



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We also write to request that Ontario's government provide Kanata with the same green and open space protections that were provided almost a year ago to the residents of Oakville regarding the proposed Glen Abbey development. In doing so, it is important to remind you of the distinctly different circumstances that warrant your involvement here. In the case of Glen Abbey, as it is for most privately held lands, the lands were enjoyed and 'borrowed' for use by neighbouring communities. Our Kanata situation is profoundly different. Shared access to and use of these 175 acres of open space is an acknowledged legal obligation of its owner. Tens of thousands of residents in Kanata North are entitled by deed and right of land ownership via the historic 40% Agreement to use these open and greenspaces in perpetuity.

Premier Ford, please assist us today with your focused attention to right this unprincipled and seemingly unending wrong. Help us to ensure that our residents continue to enjoy their entitled access to this land and, protect as well, the health and multiplicity of benefits it provides not only to Kanata North but also to the City of Ottawa and the province of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Barbara Ramsay
Chair, Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition
chair@ourkanatagreenspace.ca

cc: Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
Hon. David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General
Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
And MPP Kanata-Carleton