

April 17, 2026

Dear Premier Ford,

We are writing to urgently request that you visit the former Kanata Golf Course (KGC) lands in Kanata North to see firsthand what is happening on the ground.

With your upcoming visit to Ottawa on Monday, this is an ideal opportunity to come to the site and hear directly from residents about the growing concerns in our community.

This issue has reached a critical point. What was once a defining greenspace in our community – part of an integrated stormwater management system supporting Kanata Lakes (5000 homes) and Beaverbrook (2500 homes) – is now undergoing significant alteration through ongoing site work. Residents are increasingly concerned about the pace and scope of this work, given 185 technical conditions remain outstanding.

In recent weeks, hundreds of residents have rallied to express their concern. The scale of the community response shows this is not a simple development debate – it is a matter of public safety, environmental stewardship, and responsible planning.

These concerns are based on information available to residents and ongoing public reporting.

There are three areas of particular concern:

**1. Stormwater and Flood Risk**

The former golf course plays a key role in managing stormwater for our neighbourhoods. Beaverbrook sits, on average, 3-metres below the KGC lands, and past weather events have demonstrated the areas vulnerability to flooding. Ongoing trenching, soil movement, and construction are raising serious concerns about how water is moving across this site – especially in the absence of a fully approved stormwater management solution.

The pond at hole #9 has been flooding for weeks despite ongoing expansion of silt barrier fencing well beyond the original pond permitter. Crews have been observed trenching in areas where water is accumulating, including toward adjacent low-lying marsh lands.

**2. Environmental Concerns**

Recent soil testing associated with site activity reported detection of mercury in the vast majority of samples collected. This additional testing was undertaken after a third-party review identified gaps and omissions in the developer's original environmental assessment, which had been relied upon in proceedings before the Ontario Land Tribunal. While we await further study, residents are deeply concerned about continued soil disturbance before a complete and transparent understanding of site conditions is established.

There is also growing frustration that responsibility for addressing potential health implications appears to be shifting between the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Ottawa Public Health, leaving residents without clear answers or accountability.

### **3. Community Safety and Confidence**

Heavy equipment, open excavations, and active construction within an established residential area presents immediate safety concerns for nearby families. At the same time, uncertainty around flooding risk and environmental conditions is affecting residents' sense of security in our homes and neighbourhood.

Premier Ford, you have previously recognized the important role municipalities play in managing growth and land use planning, saying in September, "I support the Mayor and he knows what the people feel, I know the local mayors know how the people feel, and if they don't want it, they shouldn't do it. If the Mayor wants to put up roadblocks, God bless him. Good for him, he's protecting his community."

Our community is not opposed to growth. As Mayor Sutcliffe said, "there are properties all over the city where homes can be built. And there are places all over the city where homes should not be built."

The broader implications of this situation are also being recognized beyond our community. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has formally raised concerns with the Attorney General of Ontario regarding recent decisions affecting municipalities' ability to manage local growth and land use, underscoring the significance of what is happening here in Kanata North.

Your government has intervened in specific development cases where warranted (for example, the protection of Glen Abbey in Oakville). This is one of those moments where provincial leadership and firsthand awareness can make a meaningful difference.

We are asking you to come to Kanata North, walk the site (or view it from our backyards), speak with residents, and see the current conditions for yourself. The situation on the ground is evolving quickly, and it is difficult to fully appreciate the scale and impact without being here in person.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you during your visit and share our concerns directly.

We hope you will take the time to see what is happening here and consider the implications for our community.

Sincerely,

The Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition