



Hon. Michael Chong, P.C., M.P.
Wellington-Halton Hills

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Rouge National Urban Park Act* Receives Royal Assent**

The Senate of Canada passes *Rouge National Urban Park Act* to create Canada's first National Urban Park, protecting thousands of acres of land

OTTAWA – Michael Chong, M.P. for Wellington-Halton Hills, today thanked Senators for reviewing and passing Bill C-40, *Rouge National Urban Park Act*.

“The *Rouge National Urban Park Act* will provide an unprecedented level of protection for the Rouge watershed and provide residents of the Greater Toronto Area with a unique, and potentially first-time, Parks Canada experience,” Chong said.

The *Rouge National Urban Park Act* will give Parks Canada the tools it needs to ensure the strongest level of protection is applied to the park's ecosystems, wildlife, flora, fossils, artifacts, and other natural and cultural resources. Parks Canada mandate will also include the promotion of the park's vibrant farming community and the park's historical evidence of human history, including some of Canada's oldest known Aboriginal historic sites and villages.

“It is important that the Province of Ontario uphold its commitment made in the Memorandum of Agreement, signed in January 2013, and transfer the 9,000 acres of provincially controlled lands to Parks Canada,” Chong stated. “With the passage of the *Rouge National Urban Park Act*, the Rouge watershed will have an unprecedented level of environmental protection under the management of Parks Canada.”

The Government of Canada has committed \$143.7 million of funding for the first ten years of Rouge National Urban Park, and \$7.6 million annually after that. This funding will be used for operations as well as conservation and restoration activities within the Park.

Established over 100 years ago, Parks Canada is a world-renowned manager of Canada's National Park system, preserving and presenting Canada's vast natural landscapes and rich history.

For more information on the Rouge National Urban Park, please visit: <http://goo.gl/RWxUqy>

– 30 –

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