

## COMMUNIQUE

**Immediate Release**

### **C-20 Must Be Amended, says CPAWS-OV**

**Ottawa, May 5, 2010** – The Ottawa Valley Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS-OV) is disappointed that Bill C-20, An Action Plan for the National Capital Commission, will not give Gatineau Park adequate protection.

Gatineau Park is currently a park in name only, it does benefit from the same level of protection afforded to Canada's national and provincial parks. The park manager, the National Capital Commission may make changes to the park's boundaries and dispose of park land without the approval of Parliament or input from Canadians.

Introduced on Friday, April 30, 2010, Bill C-20 is nearly an exact copy of its predecessor, Bill C-37, which died on the Order Paper as a result of last December's prorogation.

"This bill doesn't give Gatineau Park formal, legal status as a park, nor does it give adequate protection to its boundaries, ecological integrity or territory," said Muriel How, chair of CPAWS Gatineau Park Committee. "To help ensure its protection for future generations, Gatineau Park must be formally created and defined as a park, and C-20 should be amended as we suggest," she added.

CPAWS-OV believes Gatineau Park legislation must meet the following conditions:

- Establish Gatineau Park in legislation and dedicate it to future generations;
- Ensure that it be managed primarily for its ecological integrity;
- Give the National Capital Commission right of first refusal on the sale of private property located inside Gatineau Park;
- Stipulate that changes to Gatineau Park boundaries can only be made by statute, as is the case for Canada's national parks.

"Gatineau Park is a national treasure – a beautiful wilderness of extraordinary biodiversity – whose ecological integrity is seriously threatened by various forms of development," said Ms. How. "Our proposed amendments are critical to ensuring a basic measure of protection for Gatineau Park for the people of Canada and for future generations," she added.

CPAWS-OV's amendments may be consulted in the backgrounder attached to this release. They were originally proposed when CPAWS-OV testified before the Commons Transport Committee October 19, 2010.

Founded in 1969, CPAWS is Canada's pre-eminent grassroots wilderness conservation organization. Over the last 40 years, the organization has been responsible for the protection of over 400,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Canada's wilderness – including such iconic places such as Nahanni National Park, the Dumoine River and Algonquin Park. With 20,000 members, hundreds of volunteers and over 50 staff members in 14 offices across the country, Tides Canada named CPAWS one of Canada's top ten charities in 2009.

Information: Muriel How, Chair, Gatineau Park Committee: (819) 827-1274; or John McDonnell, Executive Director, CPAWS-OV: (613) 232-7297.

**Backgrounder**  
**CPAWS-OV's Proposed Amendments to C-20**

- (a) Add a new clause stating: “There is hereby established a park named Gatineau Park, the boundaries of which are set out in Schedule 2.”
  
- (b) Add a new clause stating: “Gatineau Park is hereby dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment, and it shall be managed, maintained and made use of so as to leave it unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”
  
- (c) In Clause 2. (2), replace the word “area” with the word “park” (Page 2, Line 18).
  
- (a) In Clause 10.4 (2), replace “...give due regard to the maintenance of...” to “...ensure the maintenance and restoration of...” (Page 6, Lines 11-12).
  
- b) Add a clause granting the National Capital Commission the right of first refusal in the sale or disposal of any private property located within the boundaries of Gatineau Park.
  
- Replace the words “Schedules 1 and 2” with the words “Schedule 1” (Page 10, Line 15).