

May 13, 2021



Honourable Keith Irving
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
1894 Barrington Street
Suite 1800, PO Box 442
Halifax, NS B3J 2P8

6589 Chebucto Road, Suite 201
Halifax, NS B3L 1L9

Tel. 902.423.4480
800.948.4267

Fax. 902.422.0184

www.tians.org

Dear Minister Irving:

We are writing today, as the Voice of the Nova Scotia tourism industry, to support the formal designation of two candidate locations to Nova Scotia's Protected Areas Network.

A healthy tourism industry is integrally linked with a healthy environment. Adventure tourism and recreational tourism are the fastest growing sectors of the broad tourism economy, which generated \$2.64 billion in the province in 2019. The proposed Ingram River and Archibald Lake Wilderness Areas each hold unique and relevant environmental and recreational values, positioning them as appropriate candidates for formal protection.



In addition to providing important wildlife habitat for animals including the endangered mainland moose, Archibald Lake has a strong history of being used for recreational tourism activities. During the provincial consultations in 2020, camping, fishing, paddling, and wilderness hiking were all documented in the area. There is also potential to strengthen and support the work being carried on by Historic Sherbrooke Village and the proposed Beluga Whale Sanctuary at Port Hilford. TIANS also urges the formal protection of this area to mitigate the environmental risk associated with the proposed gold mine expansion on adjacent lands.

The Ingram River Candidate Wilderness Area has been recognized by the Nova Scotia Crown Share Land Legacy Trust and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society for its significant old growth forests, including some of the oldest trees in the Maritimes, as well as being home for numerous species at risk. The area is ideally situated for a proposed Bay-to-Bay trail which would run from Windsor to St. Margaret's Bay, providing eco-tourism activity opportunities and generating associated economic impact.

As we begin the rebuild of Nova Scotia's economy post pandemic, places such as Ingram River and Archibald Lake Wilderness Areas will play a valuable role around inciting travel for residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for your work to ensure a sustainable future for Nova Scotia. We look forward to the formal designation of these areas.

Sincerely,


Judy Saunders
TIANS Chair


Darlene Grant Fiander
TIANS President

cc Hon. Chuck Porter, Minister of Lands and Forestry
TIANS Board of Directors