
May 28th, 2015

Dear Friends of Green Cove:

The Ecology Action Centre is Nova Scotia's oldest and largest environmental organization. We have worked for the past four decades towards a sustainable environment and economy for Nova Scotia.

One of our greatest accomplishments is supporting projects and policies that protect important wilderness areas in the province, and working together with our partners and allies to achieve up to 14% of our province as protected wilderness by 2020. This total area includes our two National Parks, which include some of our most important areas for terrestrial biodiversity conservation and for the protection of endangered species habitat. While our specific areas of work have tended to be focused on provincially-owned Crown lands and advocating for improved practices relating to natural resource extraction, we feel that our work and commitment to Nova Scotia's environment generally allows us to comment on the proposed Never Forgotten National Memorial project in Cape Breton Highlands National Park (CBHNP).

Although there may be some merit to the idea of creating another monument to Canada's war dead, it is our strong view that Cape Breton Highlands National Park, or indeed any national park, is the wrong place for such a development. The primary objective of our national parks is to protect and preserve native species and their habitats – not to build large private developments on top of them. Our opposition to this project also stems from the dangerous precedent it sets for any private endeavor in a publicly protected wilderness area, the lack of clear public process around siting, the long-term impacts on biodiversity in the immediate area of Green Cove, as well as the additional infrastructure surrounding the proposed monument goes against good public process. The Green Cove site is an important geological area, as well as natural vista that allows for peace and reflection already. The imposition of the proposed monument vastly change this and would significantly impact the natural value of the immediate area.

We are pleased to support the work of the Friends of Green Cove in their opposition to the NFMC and urge both the Federal and Provincial governments to immediately withdraw their permission and support for this ill-conceived initiative.



Raymond Plourde
Wilderness
Coordinator



Susanna D. Fuller
Marine Coordinator