

SAMPLE LETTER TO HONORARY PATRON (from Lee-Anne Broadhead), 1 June 2015

Dear x:

I am writing today to ask you to reconsider your position as “Patron” of the Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation.

While I personally do not support the erection of this monument anywhere, it is certainly not appropriate for a national park. The mandate of Parks Canada is to protect the ecological integrity of the sites under its control and the proposed project would certainly not respect this obligation.

According to the Atlantic Geoscience Society: “The rocks exposed at Green Cove headland are very significant to geoscientists, exhibiting features of such importance that the outcrop has been under consideration by the provincial Department of Natural Resources since 2012 as a Nova Scotia Geoheritage Site....Cape Breton Highlands National Park is dedicated to the presentation and preservation of the natural heritage of a special part of Nova Scotia that has outstanding beauty. Green Cove contributes superbly to this natural heritage, being an important geological component of the part. A Veteran’s Memorial monument at Green Cove would undermine the Park’s present pristine condition.”

The Ecology Action Centre (Halifax) takes a similar position: “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.”

The recently released “Draft Impact Analysis” (DIA) by Stantec Consulting gives the appearance of a serious investigation into the potential ecological impact of the project. It is nothing of the kind. The NFNM Foundation commissioned the report and Stantec is, as you must surely know, a corporate sponsor of the project. This is a blatant conflict of interest. Bizarrely, the report reassures us that “the **effects of the environment on the Project** are predicted to be not significant.” This report is not the result of a serious scientific investigation and is, furthermore, based on the incorrect assumption that this would be the “first national memorial to commemorate our fallen soldiers in this manner”. What, if not a powerful memorial to commemorate the fallen, is the National War Memorial in Ottawa?

Some Patrons of the NFNM Foundation have suggested that, while they support the project, they are not necessarily in favour of the site. This, however, is a disingenuous claim. The

Foundation's website is clear about the project: "The location of the Never Forgotten National Memorial will take advantage of the Cabot Trail's iconic ocean look-out at Green Cove on Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island. From this point, Mother Canada will stand tall with arms outstretched to embrace each and every one of Our Fallen who lost their lives in overseas conflicts, peacekeeping roles and Canadian missions." There is no ambiguity here and your status as a Patron necessarily involves supporting the location.

Again, I urge you to reconsider your participation in this project.

Sincerely,

Lee-Anne Broadhead (Dr.)
Professor
Department of Political Science