

# News Release

Senator Rosa Galvez  
M.P. Sophie Chatel



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## Bill introduced in the Senate to establish Gatineau Park in federal legislation

**Ottawa, Thursday, October 10, 2024** – The Honourable Rosa Galvez, Independent Senator from Quebec, introduces a bill in the Senate today to establish Gatineau Park in federal legislation. The bill – the result of close collaboration between Senator Galvez and Sophie Chatel, Member of Parliament for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi – aims, among other things, to protect the ecological integrity of Gatineau Park while dedicating it to the Canadian people for their well-being and enjoyment. It also prevents any reduction of the park’s boundaries without a legislative change and strengthens consultation and collaboration between the National Capital Commission (NCC), the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation, and surrounding municipalities. Additionally, the NCC will be authorized to negotiate right of first refusal agreements with private landowners within the park and adopt regulations governing activities and setting usage fees in the park.

The bill was drafted following consultations with the Kitigan Zibi Indigenous community, environmental groups, the National Capital Commission, resident associations, neighboring municipalities, and federal and provincial representatives from the region.

Only 7.6% of the Outaouais region and less than 9% of the Ottawa River watershed are currently protected. The protection of Gatineau Park is essential for Canada to meet its goal of protecting 30% of lands by 2030, as outlined in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

### Quote

“Gatineau Park is an important ecosystem for the Outaouais region, both for its rich biodiversity and for its recreational use by residents of the region. We have the opportunity to strengthen its legal status and ensure the park’s ecological integrity for future generations.”

– Honourable Rosa Galvez, Independent Senator for Quebec

“From the moment I was elected as Member of Parliament for Pontiac – Kitigan Zibi, I have been committed to making Gatineau Park a true park! This natural treasure, with its exceptional biodiversity, must be preserved for ourselves and for our children. We need to preserve our park for the Canadian people, dedicated to their benefit, education, and enjoyment.”

– Sophie Chatel, Member of Parliament for Pontiac-Kitigan Zibi

“It is essential to protect our green spaces for future generations. This bill not only aims to preserve the ecological integrity of the precious Gatineau Park; it also honors our connection to the land, which is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation. I support MP Sophie Chatel and Senator Rosa Galvez in this initiative, which aligns with the core values of our

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community. This bill reflects our collective responsibility to safeguard this unique environment for ourselves and for future generations.”

– Jean-Guy Whiteduck, Chief, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Band Council

“I congratulate Senator Galvez and MP Chatel for their leadership in environmental conservation. This bill will ensure that future generations enjoy Gatineau Park as we do today - by enshrining the park's boundaries in law, while ensuring that the protection of nature is the primary management objective.”

– John McDonnell, Executive Director, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - Ottawa Valley Chapter

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