

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

Gatineau Park, Thursday, June 12, 2025 – The Honourable Rosa Galvez, Independent Senator from Quebec, this week introduced Bill S-229 in the Senate to establish Gatineau Park in federal legislation.

The Bill is the result of a close collaboration between Senator Rosa Galvez and Sophie Chatel, Member of Parliament for Pontiac–Kitigan Zibi, and seeks, among other objectives, to protect the ecological integrity of Gatineau Park while formally dedicating it to the people of Canada for their well-being and enjoyment.

Gatineau Park is a key contributor to both environmental protection and the regional economy. Each year, the park welcomes 2.6 million visitors, generates \$184 million in economic activity, and supports nearly 5,000 jobs.

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.

The Bill is essentially the same as Bill S-289, *An Act to amend the National Capital Act (Gatineau Park)*, originally tabled in October 2024, with two key updates: (1) it removes the proposed provision granting the NCC the authority to negotiate rights of first refusal with private landowners, as the NCC already holds this power; and (2) it updates the language related to usage fees to ensure that access to the park remains affordable for all.

The Bill ensures that the park's boundaries cannot be reduced without a legislative amendment and strengthens the framework for consultation and collaboration between the NCC, the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation, and surrounding municipalities. Additionally, it authorizes the NCC to adopt regulations governing park activities and to set usage fees, without exceeding the cost of providing the services.

The Bill was developed following consultations with the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg community, environmental organizations, the National Capital Commission (NCC), residents' associations, neighbouring municipalities, and both federal and provincial representatives from the region.

Quote

"As the country mobilizes around projects of national interest, the time has come to grant Gatineau Park the same legislative protections afforded to national parks. An ecological jewel at the heart of the National Capital Region, the park plays a crucial role in biodiversity, climate, and the well-being of residents. It is time

News Release



to ensure its preservation for future generations, in respect of Indigenous rights and our commitments to nature.”

– Honourable Rosa Galvez, Independent Senator for Quebec

“Gatineau Park is one of the great natural treasures of the Outaouais, a place for hiking, running, skiing, biking, and swimming in every season. It is at the heart of our regional identity. This bill is about protecting that legacy. It is time to act, so that future generations can continue to enjoy this space and help protect the biodiversity it sustains.”

– 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 honours 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 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

Related Links:

- Learn more about [Senator Rosa Galvez](#)
- Learn more about [Member of Parliament Sophie Chatel](#)
- Follow Senator Rosa Galvez on [LinkedIn](#), [Bluesky](#), [X](#) or [Facebook](#)
- Follow Member of Parliament Sophie Chatel on [X](#) or [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)

For more information please contact:

Stéphane Laviolette
Political Strategic Advisor and Office Manager
Office of the Hon. Senator Rosa Galvez
(613) 614-1753 stephane.laviolette@sen.parl.gc.ca

Soukaina Fidou
Executive Assistant
Office of MP Sophie Chatel
(819) 441-7099 soukaina.fidou.357@parl.gc.ca