



September 7, 2020

Niagara River Ramsar Designation Binational Steering Committee
c/o Jocelyn Baker, Canadian Co-Chair

Subject: Niagara River Ramsar Designation Endorsement

Dear Ms. Baker:

We understand a nomination for the Niagara River to become a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) and the first transboundary Ramsar Site in the America's is being sought by Canadian partners in order to recognize the importance of the Niagara River's contribution to the global natural environment.

Friends of One Mile Creek (FOMC) endorse the designation of the Niagara River as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site).

The Niagara River has a long legacy of industrial waste and contamination. Canada has the opportunity to change the narrative of the Niagara River, as the United States did last year, through the designation of a Ramsar site, to a globally recognized area known for its rich biodiversity, health and prosperity. We understand this designation will open up greater opportunities for expanding tourism programming, promote increased public awareness of the River's importance to global biodiversity through research and development, and allow the Niagara River region to further foster cooperation and partnership between the United States and Canada to ensure conservation both within and around the Niagara River Corridor.

FOMC applauds the efforts that have been achieved to support the Ramsar Convention's mission of promoting the conservation and wise-use of wetlands as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, FOMC has always been an advocate for wetlands and their role in water quality and we appreciate the efforts that have been made to protect and enhance the biodiversity on both sides of the river and we know that this bi-national designation will be beneficial for the Niagara River and for all who visit and reside here. We wish this initiative every success and look forward to hearing the progress regarding the nomination of the Niagara River as a Ramsar site.

Sincerely,

Gerry Beneteau, Past President

Klara Young-Chin, Vice Chair

Friends of One Mile Creek

CC: Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Gary Zalepa, Regional Councillor, Niagara-on-the-Lake
David Adames, CEO, Niagara Parks