

Sandy Martin

July 25, 2022

To

The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of National Defense

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

Re: DND testing and training facility at Hartlen Point, Nova Scotia

Dear Ms. Anand and Mr. Guilbeault,

I am writing to implore you to reconsider and intervene in the location selection process for a Weapons System Testing and Training Facility at Hartlen Point, Nova Scotia .

Hartlen Point is situated on the south eastern entrance to the Halifax Harbour. It is a well-loved, well-used, complex and important ecosystem. It is also rated the number one birding location in Nova Scotia and rates in the top 15 best birding locations in Canada. To help you understand why this location is so preferred by birders, I have included 3 screenshots of e-Bird (an international bird identification App) showing the species that were identified at Hartlen Point from July 10 to July 13, 2022. Of the 56 species identified over a three-day period, only 13 species were **NOT** listed as protected under the Migratory Bird Convention Act of Canada. This fact alone should be enough to deter DND from selecting this location. It should also be enough for ECC to disallow the destruction of this ecosystem.

In addition to serving as a sanctuary for migrating birds, Hartlen Point is also home to Monarch butterflies and the myriad species of flora and fauna. Most of these species form the foundation of our teetering “house of cards” that is our struggling planet. The wetland on this property draws down carbon from the atmosphere, sequestering greenhouse gases, while the forested areas also drawn down and sequester carbon and act as powerful air conditioners for the surrounding communities. A much-needed function as our world heats up. And all these services are provided for free.

Destroying this ecosystem will destroy a rich and diverse bird population that will reverberate throughout all of North America. Destroying this ecosystem will also create a greenhouse gas chimney that will add to the already overloaded stock of emissions in the atmosphere, and will certainly NOT produce a “net-zero” facility! To suggest that this is possible is to ignore the very essence of the crisis we are in.

I understand that in these times of political unrest and uncertainty, it is necessary to ensure that our national defense system is up to the task to defend Canada’s sovereignty and protect all Canadians and Canadian interests from threats. However, we find ourselves facing the greatest threat to our existence in living history; not from outside enemy forces, but through our complete disregard for Earth’s natural systems and order. The Department

of National Defense and the Department of the Environment and Climate Change MUST step up to the plate and help reduce the factors contributing to this global crisis, not add to them. And as Ministers of these two departments, you are also aware that your departments are bound by the Migratory Bird Convention (Treaty) Act, the Environmental Protection Act and their associated Regulations. It is your responsibility to ensure that these Acts are upheld with the safety and wellbeing of all Canadians and “Our Relations”¹ at the forefront of your decisions and not for the benefit of the chosen few.

Once again, I implore you to look for an alternative location for this facility. One that would have less impact on the health and well-being of the environment and the surrounding communities. “Business as usual” is no longer an option.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
Sandy Martin

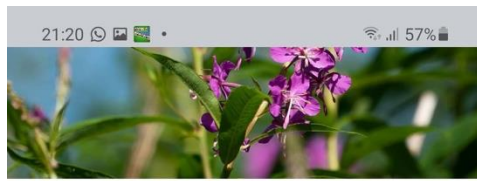
Retired educator
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
(presently living in The Netherlands)

Cc:

Hon. Tim Houston, Premier Nova Scotia
Hon. Tim Halman (NS Minister of Environment and Climate Change / MLA Dartmouth East)
Hon. Tory Rushton (NS Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables)
Hon. Barbara Adams (NS MLA Eastern Passage)
Darren Fisher (MP for Dartmouth-Cole Harbour)
Darrell Samson (MP for Sackville-Preston-Chezzetcook)
Lorne Oram (DND Project Manager for the Hartlen Point build)
Protect Hartlen Point Facebook group
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/protecthartlenpoint>)

¹ A Mi'kmaw phrase referring to all plant, animal and human life that emphasises the complex interconnectivity of existence on this planet.

e-Bird observations Hartlen Point, Nova Scotia from July 10 to July 13, 2022



1 comment

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3. Ring-necked Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
4. Mourning Dove <i>Zenaidura macroura</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
5. Killdeer <i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
6. Greater Yellowlegs <i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	5	13 Jul 2022
7. Willet <i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
8. Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	30	13 Jul 2022
9. Great Black-backed Gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	22	13 Jul 2022
10. Common Tern <i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
11. Northern Gannet <i>Morus bassanus</i>	4	13 Jul 2022
12. Double-crested Cormorant <i>Nannopterum auritum</i>	2	13 Jul 2022
13. Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	2	13 Jul 2022
14. Northern Harrier <i>Circus hudsonius</i>	2	13 Jul 2022
15. Blue Jay <i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
16. American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	7	13 Jul 2022
17. Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	7	13 Jul 2022
18. American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	5	13 Jul 2022
19. Cedar Waxwing <i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
20. Purple Finch <i>Haemorhous purpureus</i>	1	13 Jul 2022

21:20

57%

37.	Short-billed Dowitcher <i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	6	12 Jul 2022
38.	Downy Woodpecker <i>Dryobates pubescens</i>	1	12 Jul 2022
39.	Northern Flicker <i>Colaptes auratus</i>	1	12 Jul 2022
40.	Alder Flycatcher <i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	3	12 Jul 2022
41.	Blue-headed Vireo <i>Vireo solitarius</i>	1	12 Jul 2022
42.	Red-eyed Vireo <i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	4	12 Jul 2022
43.	Black-capped Chickadee <i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	10	12 Jul 2022
44.	Tree Swallow <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	14	12 Jul 2022
45.	Red-breasted Nuthatch <i>Sitta canadensis</i>	3	12 Jul 2022
46.	Gray Catbird <i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	3	12 Jul 2022
47.	Savannah Sparrow <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	4	12 Jul 2022
48.	Swamp Sparrow <i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	2	12 Jul 2022
49.	Northern Parula <i>Setophaga americana</i>	1	12 Jul 2022
50.	Magnolia Warbler <i>Setophaga magnolia</i>	1	12 Jul 2022
51.	Palm Warbler <i>Setophaga palmarum</i>	2	12 Jul 2022
52.	Yellow-rumped Warbler <i>Setophaga coronata</i>	2	12 Jul 2022
53.	Black-throated Green Warbler	2	12 Jul 2022

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21. American Goldfinch <i>Spinus tristis</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
22. Song Sparrow <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	11	13 Jul 2022
23. Common Grackle <i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	1	13 Jul 2022

24. Black-and-white Warbler <i>Mniotilta varia</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
25. Common Yellowthroat <i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	5	13 Jul 2022
26. American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	1	13 Jul 2022
27. Yellow Warbler <i>Setophaga petechia</i>	2	13 Jul 2022
28. Common Eider <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	16	12 Jul 2022
29. Least Sandpiper <i>Calidris minutilla</i>	2	12 Jul 2022
30. Ring-billed Gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	4	12 Jul 2022
gull sp. <i>Laridae</i> sp.	15	12 Jul 2022
Great/Double-crested Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> /Nannopterum auritum	3	12 Jul 2022
31. Common Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	2	12 Jul 2022
32. European Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	50	12 Jul 2022
33. Red-winged Blackbird <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	3	12 Jul 2022
34. Green-winged Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	18	12 Jul 2022
35. Ruffed Grouse <i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	1	12 Jul 2022
36. Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	12 Jul 2022

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54. Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	1	10 Jul 2022
55. Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	1	10 Jul 2022
56. Canada Goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	40	10 Jul 2022
57. Semipalmated Plover <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	2	10 Jul 2022
58. Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	1	10 Jul 2022
shorebird sp. <i>Charadriiformes</i> sp.	20	10 Jul 2022
swallow sp. <i>Hirundinidae</i> sp.	20	10 Jul 2022