



June 2, 2016

VIA Email: Catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca; Melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister McKenna and Minister Joly,

On behalf of the Old Ottawa East Community Association and the Glebe Community Association, we would like to express our appreciation for your work and the recent installation of the Rideau Canal paddling access points and docks at Patterson Creek in the Glebe and at the foot of Clegg Street on the Old Ottawa East side. These new access points are a wonderful improvement for local residents which better animate the Canal in its central Ottawa portion.

Over the docks' initial weeks we've seen considerable use by all sorts of paddlers and many others have simply wandered out on to the dock to enjoy the brand new perspectives. Being on the water or the docks rather than standing behind the guard railing is a far more engaged way to experience the Rideau Canal.

Congratulations and thank you to Parks Canada staff who developed a superior and safe design for the docks, which are more substantial than we had originally envisaged. By way of minor feedback for use in any other new docks, surfaces a little lower would facilitate easier kayak entry. We will provide additional feedback to Parks Canada in the fall to assist in their evaluation of the dock pilot project.

We enjoyed how Minister McKenna officially opened the Patterson installation and led the canoe and kayak flotilla to the parliamentary end of the Canal. It was a fun, active, participatory and engaging event - a delight to share with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

Best wishes,



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cc: Mr. Jim Watson, Mayor, City of Ottawa

Mr. David Chernushenko, Councillor, Ward 17 (Capital)