## PETITION TO THE NOVA SCOTIA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:

We are calling on the government of Nova Scotia to designate as protected Owls Head Provincial Park and all of the provincial parks, nature reserves, and wilderness areas awaiting designation.

Approximately half of what Nova Scotians consider provincial parks are not formally protected. Of our 206 provincial parks, approximately 100 are still awaiting designation. Between undesignated provincial parks, nature reserves, and wilderness areas, there are nearly 200 properties in need of formal protection. In light of the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, we must formally protect these important ecosystems without delay.

Since the large majority of Nova Scotia's coastline is privately owned, citizens understand that it's important to preserve both coastal access and coastal ecosystems. Owls Head Provincial Park is a biodiverse coastal headland on the Eastern Shore and an integral component of our protected areas network. It has a history of promised protections dating back to the 1970s. Owls Head Provincial Park has a "globally rare" coastal Broom Crowberry plant ecosystem. It also contains significant wetlands, a wildlife corridor, and habitat for over 85 species of birds, including endangered barn swallows and piping plovers.

In March 2019, the Nova Scotia government secretly removed Owls Head Provincial Park from Our Parks and Protected Areas Plan. Even though that plan was a result of years of public consultations, the delisting took place behind closed doors with ZERO public consultation or notice. The government also secretly entered into a Letter of Offer to sell this site, which had been identified as a Tier 1 (top priority) conservation property. The public only became aware of the secret delisting and offer to sell Owls Head Provincial Park as a result of a whistleblower, freedom of information requests, and investigative journalist Michael Gorman. Nova Scotians are rightfully concerned about the park, the process, and the precedent.

We, the undersigned, call on the government of Nova Scotia to formally protect Owls Head Provincial Park and all of the remaining properties awaiting designation, without delay.

Print name	Date signed	Address	Signature

## HERE IS THE PETITION TO SAVE OWLS HEAD PROVINCIAL PARK:

WE ASK THAT YOU PRINT IT, GET 12 SIGNATURES, AND HAND-DELIVER OR MAIL TO:

SYDNEE L MCKAY,

70 LAKEHILL DRIVE,

GAETZ BROOK, NS B0J 2L0

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE

**IN SOLIDARITY**