



## **NIAGARA FALLS NATURE CLUB**

P.O. BOX 901, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO, L2E 6V8.

March 2, 2021

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

RE: Ontario's Proposed Highway 413 and Holland Marsh Highway

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

The Province of Ontario plans to build two new highways without conducting a full environmental assessment.

Although these highways would cost billions of taxpayers' dollars, they are not needed. There are better alternatives such as putting some of that money towards GO and other transit. Highway 407, very near-by, is underutilized. Highway 413 would only reduce commute time by minutes.

These proposed new highways would lead to significant residential sprawl, more car dependency and take us further from the goal of compact and complete communities.

These highways would pave over prime agricultural lands and numerous natural areas. Highway 413 would impact at least 85 stream crossings and damage or destroy up to 75 wetlands, 28 of which have been designated as PSWs. These streams and wetlands are home to and support many plant and animal species. The salt runoff would further damage the ecology of the area.

The Holland Marsh Highway or Bradford Bypass would be built through the Holland Marsh, a significant wetland area, agricultural area and wildlife habitat.

As the Ontario government plans to begin some work before completing its environmental assessment, fish and migratory bird habitat will not have been identified.

Fish habitat would be disturbed or degraded, including habitat for the Redside Dace, a federal species at risk. These highways would have negative effects on migratory birds.

E-bird reports list many migratory birds along these routes including birds that are species at risk.

A federal EA is urgently needed before there is any work begun on these projects.

Please use the powers of your office to see that these highways are not built without a full environmental assessment being completed.

Sincerely,

Joyce Sankey, Conservation Director  
Niagara Falls Nature Club

C: Tony Baldinelli, MP  
Wayne Gates MPP