

From: Eva Leon  
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026, 2:20 PM  
To: [mark.carney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mark.carney@parl.gc.ca);  
Subject: No Alto HSR through Frontenac Arch Biosphere

Dear Prime Minister,

My name is Eva Leon and I am the chair of Chaffey's Area Lakes Association. CALA is a non-profit, volunteer organization that serves the Rideau Lakes so that future generations will inherit a healthy and thriving lake environment. Our purpose is to enhance and maintain our lakes and rivers in the best possible state as wildlife sanctuaries and recreational venues. We are dedicated to education and advocacy in our communities.

I am writing on behalf of the more than 100 members of CALA who live in the communities of Newboro, Elgin, Chaffey's Lock, Morton, Jones Falls, and Seeley's Bay. Our members have asked me to impress upon you the importance of ensuring that these communities remain outside the proposed route of the ALTO High Speed Rail Network.

The Township of Rideau Lakes lies within the UNESCO-designated Frontenac Arch Biosphere. This extraordinary region is the only place on Earth where five forest regions—the Great Lakes, Boreal, Carolinian, Atlantic Coast, and Appalachian—meet and intermingle. As a result, it supports an exceptional diversity of wildlife, including over 400 bird species and more than 50 reptile and amphibian species. Several species at risk depend on this area for refuge, including the cerulean warbler, the least bittern, the gray ratsnake, the Blanding's turtle, and the Jefferson salamander. The ecological importance of this landscape cannot be overstated.

The Frontenac Arch also serves as an ancient "granite bridge" linking the Canadian Shield to the Adirondack Mountains, functioning as a vital migratory and climate-resilience corridor for wildlife. In Haudenosaunee tradition, the Arch is known as the spinal column of Mother Nature. Habitat fragmentation caused by major infrastructure—such as highways or high-speed rail—would significantly disrupt this connectivity, even with the best mitigation measures in place. The widely known journey of "Alice the moose," who traveled more than 570 kilometres from Adirondack Park to Algonquin Park along the A2A corridor, illustrates just how critical these natural pathways are.

Beyond its ecological significance, the Rideau Lakes region is also a cherished recreational destination. Its clean, abundant lakes support boating, water sports, and fishing throughout the year. Charleston Lake and Opinicon Lake have had bass spawning sanctuaries in place since 2022. Encouraging statistical data from 2024 and 2025 suggests that the program has been highly successful, and approval is now being sought to expand the sanctuary approach to thirteen additional lakes.

While fishing may have initially drawn American visitors to the area, it is the region's unspoiled natural beauty and spacious landscapes that have inspired many families to build seasonal homes here—properties that have been passed down through generations.

A reliable and environmentally responsible rail network is certainly a goal worth supporting. However, it would be a profound mistake to achieve this at the cost of irreplaceable habitat, threatened species, and fragile ecosystems. No economic benefit can compensate for the permanent loss of such a unique and vital natural landscape.

For these reasons, I urge you to ensure that the Rideau Lakes region and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere remain untouched by the proposed ALTO High Speed Rail route.

Yours sincerely,

Eva Leon  
Chair, Chaffey's Area Lakes Association



From: Prime Minister | Premier Ministre <[PM@pm.gc.ca](mailto:PM@pm.gc.ca)>

Date: April 2, 2026 at 4:26:11 PM EDT

To: Eva Leon

Cc: Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons <[TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca](mailto:TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca)>

Subject: RE: Office of the Prime Minister/Cabinet du premier ministre

Dear Ms. Leon:

On behalf of the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, I acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated March 16, 2026.

Thank you for sharing this information with Prime Minister Carney. Please be assured that the remarks you offer in your communication have been carefully read.

At the federal level, I am sharing your correspondence with the Minister of Transport and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, the Honourable Steven MacKinnon, for his information and consideration.

Once again, thank you for writing on behalf of the Chaffey's Area Lakes Association.

J. Genge

Executive Correspondence Officer / Agente de la correspondance

Executive Correspondence Services / Services de la correspondance de la haute direction