



**GARRY OAK MEADOW
PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

December 8, 2024

Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Re: Harewood Plains Needs Protection

Dear Randene,

On behalf of the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society Board of Directors, I would like to express that your attention is urgently needed at the Harewood Plains site in the Nanaimo area. The Garry oak meadows and coastal Douglas-fir stands at this location create rare habitat conditions that support multiple endangered species.

The unique seasonal flow of water and vernal pools are crucial ecological features for the Bog bird's-foot trefoil (*Hosackia pinnata*) and 3 other species that are on the BC Red-List of endangered species. Harewood Plains is host to the largest remaining population of Bog bird's-foot trefoil in BC, and its loss would represent a severe blow to the species' potential for recovery. Research increasingly links deforestation and species extinctions to negative impacts on human well-being.

We are hopeful for your support in collaborating with Snuneymuxw First Nation, residents of the community, regional environmental non-profits, the City of Nanaimo, and the Regional District of Nanaimo to acquire this land for conservation and to enable the protection of this crucial habitat of endangered species.

These rare conditions cannot simply be replaced or recreated. We are hopeful for your support to ensure these lands are protected in perpetuity as vital habitat to enable endangered species recovery, including Garry oak ecosystems of which less than 10% of the original range remains.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Senechal MUFL
Board President - Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS)
Saanich, BC