

The Paris Galt Moraine is an essential water recharge area in the Upper Grand River watershed. The local moraines currently provide drinking water for nearly 200,000 people, and will need to support the expected 1 million new residents in the region by 2041.

This proposed Private Members Bill would establish a Paris Galt Moraine Conservation Act in line with the goals of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act. You may remember that the Oak Ridges Moraine Act was initiated and passed by a Progressive Conservative-led government in 2001.

The goal is to protect the land and water located within the environmentally sensitive Paris Galt Moraine, with a particular emphasis on maintaining the quality and quantity of its water.

Establishing the conservation act is an opportunity to address water management concerns in a fiscally responsible manner now before the situation becomes dire. Waiting means massive investments in infrastructure will be needed to provide water for the region.

The City of Guelph is the largest city in Canada to rely solely on groundwater, and the entire region is increasingly experiencing water use restrictions.

The area surrounding the Paris Galt Moraine includes good farmland, a fast-growing population, and a thriving centre for local business, each of which rely on local water sources. The moraine is essential for the well-being of citizens and the prosperity of local farmers.

We need a plan to ensure that water is available for present and future generations, and this Bill represents a first step.

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft of the Paris Galt Moraine Protection Act. I will be tabling the bill on December 5th. Your feedback is welcome and appreciated. I look forward to working with you on this important issue.