



# Report on Activities



**National Capital Commission Board of Directors**

**Public Meeting  
January 20, 2016**

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## Openness and Transparency of the NCC

- In meeting our new minister, the Honourable Mélanie Joly, we've discussed how we could advance the openness and transparency of the National Capital Commission even further.
- As a Board, we've discussed this and we'll be bringing forward a series of measures over the coming months.

## I. Make LeBreton Flats and the Chaudière and Albert islands a signature destination of national significance.

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### *Redevelopment of LeBreton Flats*

- December 15<sup>th</sup> was the closing date for proposals. We received two proposals; one from the RendezVous LeBreton Group, one from DCDLS Group.
- On January 26 and 27, at the Canadian War Museum, the public is invited to come and hear the presentations of both proponents, to make comments, to leave impressions and advice.
- There will be a special viewing for our First Nations' leaders on January 26 and on February 5<sup>th</sup> with the proponents.
- We will also be inviting elected officials and the media to a session with the proponents on January 26.
- We engaged with City officials early in 2014 to identify where we would collaborate and how we would work together on this project.
- We've provided the opportunity for the proponents to meet with the City of Ottawa officials as part of development of their proposals, including the chairs of the Planning and Transportation Committees of the Council.

### *Harmony Park*

- We have been working towards finalizing the site preparation and interpretation for Harmony Park, located at the southeast corner of the Booth Parkway intersection.
- Work is to be completed this summer.

## II. Offer public access and new connections for Canadians to discover the shorelines and waterways.

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### *Sir John A. Macdonald Waterfront Linear Park*

- A public consultation on the Sir John A. Macdonald Waterfront Linear Park is planned for March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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- We will be reporting more on our plans for this park and the corresponding park on the north side of the Ottawa River at the April board meeting.

#### *Richmond Landing and Bronson Pulp Mill Ruins*

- The first phase of the project will be underway this summer with certain elements to be completed for the 2017 celebrations.
- The landscape architecture masterplan is complete and will guide this phase of the development of these projects.

### **III. Modernize the NCC's planning framework and complete the Plan for Canada's Capital.**

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#### *Plan for Canada's Capital*

- In December, the NCC launched its online consultation for this signature plan that will shape the vision for the Nation's Capital from its sesquicentennial in 2017 to its bicentennial in 2067.
- The public has been asked to contribute to the 17 big ideas that will build an inspiring Capital through this 50 year period. We've been receiving hundreds of ideas from Canadians all across the country. Some are small but interesting ideas; others are giant, transformative ones.
- All the ideas are being gathered and will be brought back into the discussion in February prior to another round of consultations and the finalization of the plan later this year.

#### *Capital Illumination Plan*

- This plan is a significant deliverable for 2017 for us as a 150<sup>th</sup> initiative.
- On December 9, the NCC held a workshop with 35 stakeholders to confirm the vision of the plan, as well as the key sights and thematic experiences.

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#### **IV. Ensure the successful delivery of national commemorative projects.**

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##### *Canadian Building Trades Monument*

- The design competition for the Canadian Building Trades monument came to jury on December 10, here at the NCC, where four concepts were presented to the NCC's Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty, which was followed by an open house at the Bytown Museum.
- Canada's Building Trades Unions will announce the winning design in the coming weeks.

##### *National Holocaust Monument*

- The National Holocaust Monument project has advanced to construction tendering stage after integrating design changes and re-specifying the technical specifications of the project through the work of a construction management advisor.
- The tender will close early in February, and we expect work to begin this spring.

##### *Memorial to the Victims of Communism*

- On December 17, Minister Joly announced that Canadian Heritage would relaunch the project of the Memorial to the Victims of Communism and committed her department to launching a public consultation process regarding this memorial.
- The NCC has now received a letter from the Ministry of Canadian Heritage rescinding the request to use the site adjacent to the Supreme Court for the purpose of this monument, and returning to the original approved site at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories.

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#### **V. Be a value-added partner in Canada's Capital Region.**

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##### *Municipal Partnerships*

- In our meetings with our new Minister, we discussed how to better integrate the NCC's work with the local municipalities.
- We've had productive discussions with the Mayor of Ottawa and the Mayor of Gatineau about how to advance this partnership, and we're looking forward to announcing new measures to strengthen our mutual relationships before our next Board meeting.

##### *Private Sector Partnerships*

- We've also expanded our partnerships with the private sector. We're looking forward to opening the canal in the next few days with CIBC, our new official sponsor for the next two years.

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- We are also pleased to confirm the renewal of a five year sponsorship agreement with Alcatel-Lucent/Nokia for the Sunday Bike Days program.

#### *Mackenzie Avenue Cycling Lanes*

- The Mackenzie Avenue cycling lanes project consists in opening up Mackenzie Avenue to the public and cyclists after 15 years of closure following the terrorist attacks of 9/11.
- The City Council and the NCC Board both approved the project in November. We're now in the final steps of finalizing the MOU between the Embassy, the City and the NCC, which establishes the overall cost sharing agreement.
- The City of Ottawa will act as the contract authority, and plans are to issue the tender by late February in order to begin construction in May, and to be completed by the end of this year.

#### *Wildlife and Natural Resources Management*

- The NCC's expertise was once again of service last December when a moose was found in a residential area in Orléans and was safely moved to outside the urban area.
- This success story highlighted the excellent work of the NCC's conservation officers in reducing human/wildlife conflicts.

#### *Trillium Multi-use Pathway*

- On December 18, I, along with Mayor Watson, inaugurated the second phase of the Trillium Multi-use pathway between Young Street and Carling Avenue.
- This new pathway section, which sits on land provided by the NCC and improved by the City of Ottawa, will offer pedestrians and cyclists a direct link from the Ottawa River Pathway to the existing pathways just south of Carling.
- We look forward to working with the City on the planning of the third phase of the pathway in the coming years.

#### *Capital Urbanism Lab Events*

- On December 3, we presented "Archeology in the Capital Region, Discovering Our Past", which provided an excellent overview of archeological work in the region.
- On December 10, we held a path-breaking workshop "Breaking Barriers to Accessibility" which discussed how to make the core of the Capital more accessible.
- We also participated in the federal government's conference for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to showcase our best practices at integrating universal accessibility in our projects and planning.

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- On January 14, we also invited the public to take part in a discussion on the role of citizen participation in urban design and architectural critique through social media and other electronic platforms.

#### *Community Relations*

- In recent months, NCC has met with Island Park Community Association, Lowertown Community Association, the ByWard Market BIA and Heritage Ottawa to discuss various issues and matters.
- I've met with many of our new members of parliament from the region and elsewhere in Canada. Yesterday, on January 19, I had the opportunity to address arriving members of parliament through Carleton University's initiative for parliamentary and diplomatic engagement.

#### *Victoria Island*

- Over the years, the NCC has established positive relationships with indigenous communities through consultations, regular engagement and partnerships.
- An Ottawa-area woman has been camping and holding a vigil on part of the eastern end of Victoria Island to raise awareness for the need for a national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls since May 23, 2015.
- We are increasingly concerned for her health and safety and that of others who visit the Island with the onset of winter, falling trees and the method by which the tents and shelters erected onsite are heated.
- We have also noted that a number of trees have been cut which threaten the natural environment on Victoria Island.

#### *Gatineau Park – Ski and Snowshoe Season*

- The cross-country ski and snowshoe season is well underway in Gatineau Park and we're seeing the growth and sale of our season passes for both activities.
- As part of our shelter improvement program, a new shelter was built to replace the old Renaud shelter. This new model, based on passive solar design, increases the capacity of the site.
- We've also launched a snow bike pilot project on December 31<sup>st</sup>, with just over 10 kilometers of trails shared between snowshoe and snow bike users.

#### *Rideau Canal Wall Repairs*

- We are partnering with Parks Canada on a project to repair a section of the canal wall on Queen Elizabeth Drive.

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- The NCC is contributing a portion of funding to rehabilitate the posts and railings and the pathway work. The work will continue over the winter to be completed in spring.

#### *Tin House Court Project*

- The NCC is working to redevelop the Tin House Court and the adjacent Sussex block.
- We've successfully negotiated agreements with our residential and commercial tenants on this block, and will finalize the agreements in order to facilitate construction beginning in February.
- This work will be largely completed for 2017.

### **VI. Demonstrate corporate excellence such that the NCC is recognized as an exemplary Federal Crown corporation.**

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#### *Agriculture leases and Barn Rehabilitation Strategy*

- Following our call for proposals for our agricultural properties, all 7 leases have been signed, reducing our vacancy rate from 9% to 6% in the agricultural lands.
- With regard to our barn rehabilitation strategy, we have secured a memorandum of understanding with Algonquin College in Perth. Experts in barns restoration and maintenance will help deliver our barn strategy over the next 10 to 15 years.

#### *Rideau Hall Cafeteria and Monck Wing Rehabilitation*

- This project is on schedule and under budget as part of a multi-project implementation. Work on all 8 projects in the area is now substantially complete, with only minor deficiencies remaining.

#### *Official Residences*

##### *24 Sussex Drive*

- We are in the process of developing the briefing for the decision makers on this file, and we'll look forward to having more to say at further meetings.
- We will be taking into account threat levels and security; the livability and functionality of the residents; the environmental sustainability of a new structure, and the heritage preservation and symbolic character of the property.

#### *Stornoway*

- The Interim Leader of the Opposition moved into Stornoway on November 25, 2015.

#### *The Farm*

- Preparations are underway at the Farm to welcome the new Speaker of the House of Commons shortly.