

Greenbelt

Master Plan Review

Consultation Report

Phase 1 – Step A

Existing Conditions,
Issues and Opportunities

Prepared for the
National Capital Commission

By SENES Consultants Limited
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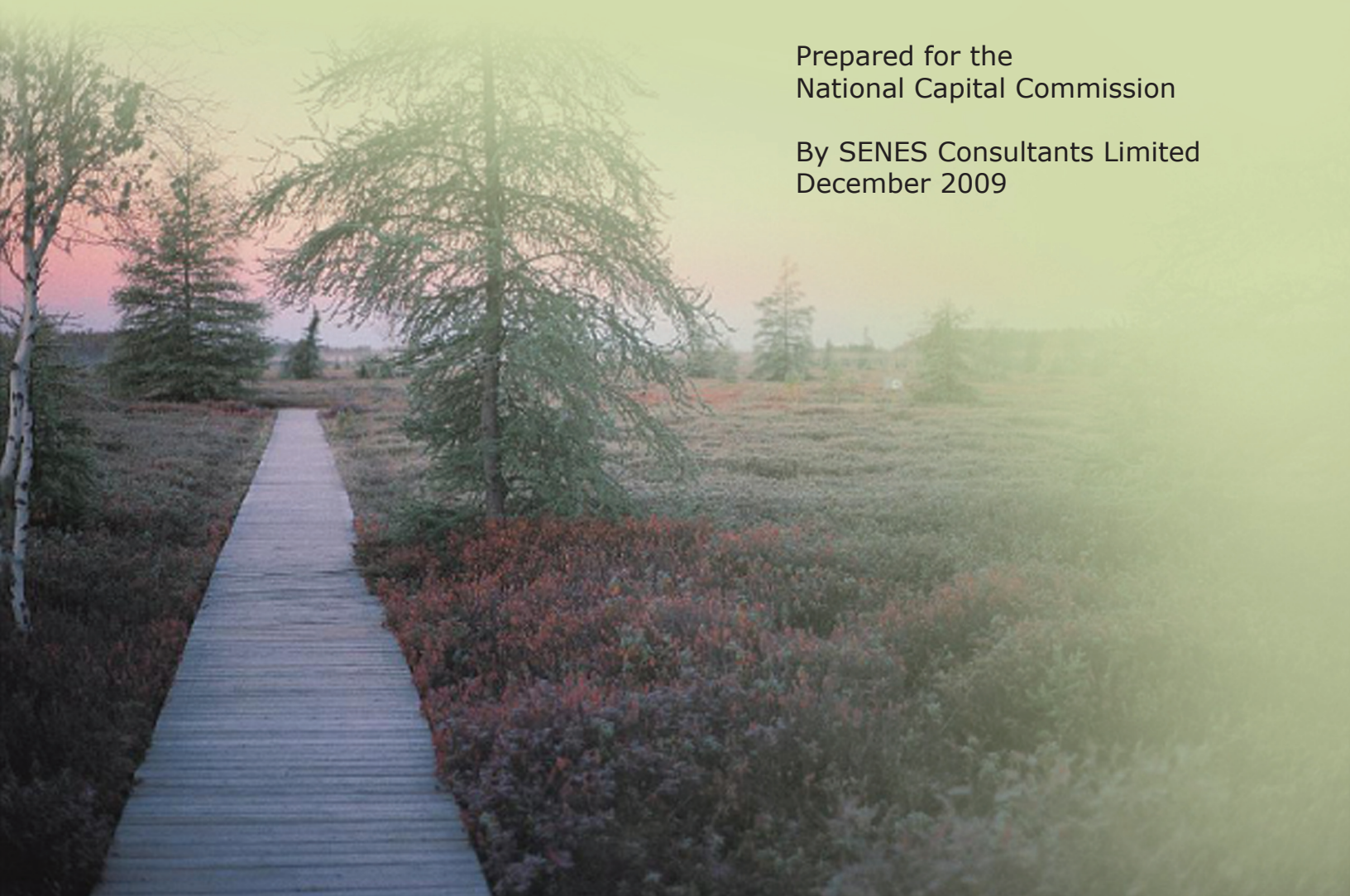


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1 INTRODUCTION

The Greenbelt performs a broad range of roles and uses which touch on the interests of many different members of our community and Nation such as natural environment, agriculture, environmental sustainability, urban planning and development, recreation, and location of federal institutions and commercial facilities. The Greenbelt represents a place to live, work and play as experienced by residents, employees, and recreational enthusiasts within and beyond the Greenbelt. It plays a pivotal role in shaping and contributing to the character of the National Capital. Decisions made about the future of the Greenbelt, through the revised Master Plan, directly affect livelihoods and the day-to day living of residents of Ottawa and beyond. The consultation program supporting the Greenbelt Master Plan Review is designed to provide opportunities to ensure that these views and those of the local and national communities are well represented in establishing the current state of the Greenbelt's assets and health and in defining and implementing a future for the Greenbelt.

This report documents the methodology, results and analysis of consultation undertaken in support of completion of Step A - Existing Conditions, Issues and Opportunities for the Greenbelt Master Plan Review. The Report spans all consultation events beginning with the Project launch in September 2008 through to completion of the Existing Conditions, Issues and Opportunities Report for the Greenbelt in December 2009, including meetings with stakeholders, interest groups, and the general public. The results of this consultation will inform subsequent steps of the Review process, the next being the creation of a vision for the Greenbelt through an expert stakeholder and public consultation process that occurred through the fall of 2009 and winter of 2010.

The purpose of this important first step of work for the Greenbelt Master Plan (GMP) revision is:

1. to update the data and knowledge of all aspects of the Greenbelt's existing conditions;
2. to identify events and relevant trends that have had an impact on the Greenbelt since the last Master Plan was developed in the mid 1990's;
3. to identify upcoming projects, policies and trends that have the potential for future influence upon the Greenbelt's structure, performance and integrity.

The Existing Conditions step of the Review is intended to provide a comprehensive baseline of data for updating the policy directions of the Master Plan, including the upcoming refinement of the long-term vision for the Greenbelt, its land use concepts, principles and objectives, and the sector plans.

1.1 Background

SENES Consultants Limited was retained by the National Capital Commission (NCC) in August 2008 to complete a three year review of the Greenbelt Master Plan approved in 1996. This first Master Plan provides strategic and on-the-ground guidance for long-term management of the approximately 21,500 hectares, or 215 square kilometres of lands that comprise the National Capital Greenbelt. The Greenbelt is located within the heart of the City of Ottawa and the National Capital Region, as illustrated in Figure 1.1.

The Greenbelt is a crescent-shaped band of publicly owned land including farms, forests, wetlands, and federal campuses supporting research and defence initiatives. Approximately 30% of the Greenbelt is comprised of agricultural lands in close proximity to the urban centre of Ottawa and its satellite communities. Half of the Greenbelt consists of a system of significant features that provide ecological functions that are important to the long-term health of the National Capital Region (NCR) and beyond. These lands and their associated views also provide numerous scenic gateways into the Nation's Capital, an abundance of passive recreational opportunities, and represent a network of rural landscapes of which Canadians can be proud.

1.2 Review Process

The Review of the Greenbelt Master Plan will assess the current state of Greenbelt roles and functions, capture the impacts of changes that have occurred since the 1996 approval of the existing Greenbelt Master Plan, and will look forward to set a 50 year vision to what the Greenbelt should look like in approximately 2060, and ideally to forecast the Greenbelt's future contributions to the National Capital in 2100. Upon definition of the long term vision, options for Greenbelt land use concepts will be

considered, followed by a determination of how the chosen land use plan will be implemented in the more detailed sector plans. Approval of the final updated Greenbelt Master Plan is anticipated in late 2011. The five steps required to fulfill the review process are scheduled to occur through the fall of 2008 to the fall of 2011, as follows:

A. Existing Conditions

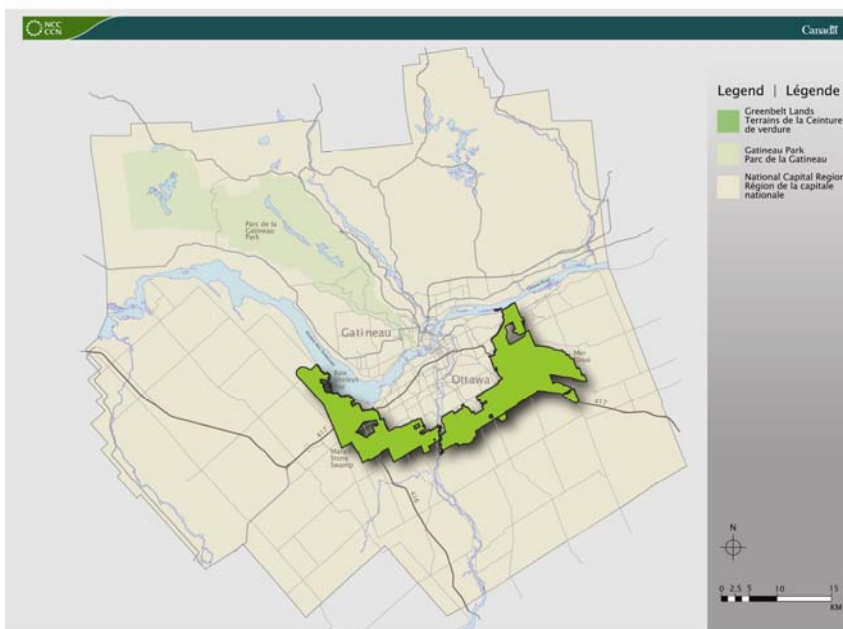
Research & Evaluation to establish the current state of the Greenbelt;

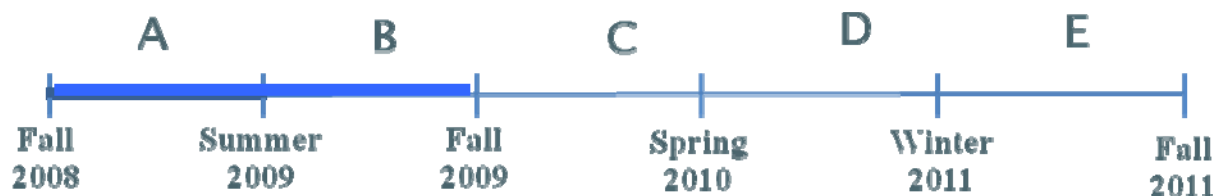
B. The Vision to create a 50-year vision;

C. Land Use Concept Plan(s), Guiding Principles and Strategic Objectives that provide options to translate the refined vision to reality;

D. Sector Plans to provide detailed guidance for each sector; and

E. The Final Revised Master Plan, approved by the National Capital Commission Board of Directors and communicated to stakeholders by the fall of 2011.





Each of these steps involves stakeholder and public consultation through varied means to provide opportunities for input and feedback from those with an interest in the Greenbelt. The consultation structure includes conduct of activities at a local scale through thematic workshops and discussions, open houses and presentations, and updated information and requests for feedback through the NCC website on an ongoing basis. At a national scale, consultation includes hosting a national workshop/forum to obtain expert and stakeholder input to define the Greenbelt vision, online discussion with organizations, experts and the public at key points during the review, as well as support from the NCC website information and online consultation.

1.3 Overview of Project Consultation

Public consultation forms a strong foundation for all plan development by the NCC. This will also be the case for the review of the Greenbelt Master Plan, with significant effort employed as part of this study's initiation and to inform a comprehensive collection of the Greenbelt's existing conditions. The overall objective of communications throughout the review between the project team and Greenbelt stakeholders and the interested public is to ensure delivery of a well managed, transparent and integrated review process. This will include encouragement of open and transparent dialogue, provision of current and accurate information throughout the study through a series of media, response to concerns as they arise and acknowledgement and incorporation of input received into the study results.

The remainder of this report documents the consultation process and results obtained through the Step A - Existing conditions, issues and opportunities assessment of the Greenbelt Master Plan review.

2. STEP A - CONSULTATION

This section describes the purpose and approach employed for the Step A - consultations.

2.1 Overview of Step A - Consultation Objectives

Step A - Existing Conditions focuses on gathering all information relevant to the Greenbelt to help build a detailed understanding of Greenbelt assets, health, uses, roles, issues and opportunities. This information will be used to inform and build upon as the Study progresses through to the visioning and land use concept stages, as well as to provide the foundation required for meaningful dialogue as trends and issues emerge. At this stage in the process, the focus of consultations is to:

- Stimulate public and stakeholder interest in the Greenbelt;
- Communicate the essence of the Greenbelt to the region and to Canadians;
- Introduce the Greenbelt Master Plan Review process;
- Obtain accurate and current information and statistics on functions and facilities within the Greenbelt;
- Obtain information on proposed policies, issues, concerns, or projects that may have either a direct or indirect impact on the Greenbelt;
- Understand and document the issues of Greenbelt stakeholders including agricultural, residential and commercial Greenbelt tenants as well as the greater public ; and
- Report on these in a concise and meaningful manner.

Consultations at this stage of the process focussed on a series of individual meetings with stakeholder groups to build a rapport as the Study moves forward as well as significant efforts to reach out to the public both in person through public information sessions and through online consultation. The public consultation process also included the creation of a public advisory committee. The free flow of ideas was encouraged with the result of obtaining a range of views and opinions that are helpful to informing all steps of the Review. Those pertinent to Step A (Existing Conditions) and those that can inform Step 2 (The Vision) are captured in this report. Geographic and site specific comments provided through this round of consultations will be brought forward in later Consultation Reports, as appropriate to guide development of a revised Greenbelt land use concept and sector plans.

2.2 Consultation Methodology

The stakeholder consultation sessions completed through late 2008 to mid 2009 for evaluation of the Greenbelt Master Plan and Greenbelt existing conditions are summarized below in Table 1. This table outlines the meeting purpose or task description, informant participation, timing and developed materials for conduct of the stakeholder feedback session.

Table 1. Chronology of Consultation Events and Materials for Step A – Existing Conditions *

[illegible]

Event	Event Details	Date	Supporting Materials
Committee (PAC)			Terms of Reference Presentation Exercise Greenbelt Tour Meeting Minutes
Consultation Greenbelt Coalition	First Meeting with Members of the Greenbelt Coalition	May 20, 2009	Presentation Exercise Meeting Notes
Project Update	Steering Committee Meeting #2	May 26, 2009	Presentation Draft public consultation materials
Public Consultation – General Public	Information and public input sessions in east, central and west segments of the Greenbelt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Exchange Plaza; • Billings Bridge Shopping Centre; • Rideau Centre; • Bayshore Shopping Centre; and • St. Laurent Shopping Centre. 	June 11-13, 2009 Questionnaire available through June 2009 (also available on website)	Public Consultation Plan – including timing, location, advertisements, invitations, maps, display boards, questions for discussion, attendance sheets, feedback forms

* Results from the meetings are summarized in Section 5 and the appendixes

3. STEP A - TARGETED CONSULTATION PROCESS

Targeted consultations were undertaken with four distinct groups; Internal Stakeholders, comprised of staff at the National Capital Commission; External Stakeholders comprised of individuals from groups and agencies with various expertise and experience with Greenbelt issues; Agricultural Tenants who make their livelihood farming the Greenbelt; and the Public Advisory Committee assembled by the Study Team to represent a broad range of interests pertinent to Greenbelt roles and functions. Targeted consultations were undertaken through late 2008 to mid 2009 for evaluation of the 1996 Greenbelt Master Plan (GMP) and conditions existing in the Greenbelt today.

This consultation step elicited strong participation, open feedback and expression of keen interest in ongoing engagement throughout the review process.

Details on consultations undertaken with each of these groups are provided below.

3.1 Internal Stakeholders (NCC)

Through the nine meetings held with internal NCC staff with responsibility for plan development and interpretation, Greenbelt land management and lease and facility administration, discussions covered a comprehensive range of issues and opportunities for current GMP policies, their effectiveness and ease of implementation. NCC staff were asked about the successes and challenges of managing the Greenbelt, to discuss the role of the Greenbelt in the Capital, status of policy implementation, and to identify supporting data sources. As well, these experts in Plan use and administration identified past and upcoming challenges for the Greenbelt. The meetings consisted of facilitated feedback sessions to explore effectiveness of Greenbelt policies, ease of use, past successes challenges and future opportunities and issues to address supplemented by Greenbelt tours of key features.

The consulted Internal Stakeholder groups are listed in the above Table 1.

3.2 External Stakeholders

The grouping of external stakeholders includes all agencies with a policy or land holding interest within the Greenbelt. This includes federal, provincial and municipal agencies. A member list for External Stakeholders is provided in Appendix 1.

A number of federal departments manage their own facilities within the Greenbelt, such as the Department of National Defence (Leitrim, Connaught Range), Industry Canada (Communications Research Centre), Natural Resources Canada (CANMET and the Geotechnical Research Facility), RCMP training lands and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Animal Disease Research Institute. As well, Public Works and Government Services Canada has an interest in Greenbelt lands through their mandate to provide office accommodation for federal facilities within the National Capital Region (NCR).

In addition to direct land interests, federal governments also have an interest from a policy perspective. Similarly, Provincial agencies, City of Ottawa departments and other agencies round out the grouping of

external stakeholder interests through their mandates in resource management, land use and provision of public services and utilities.

While most of these groups do not use the GMP often, they are aware of the fundamental premises of the Greenbelt and of the policies that most affect them.

Meetings with external stakeholders followed the same general approach as for internal stakeholders, but tailored somewhat to dovetail with subject area expertise. Following an introductory presentation, participants were asked for their opinions on the 1996 Greenbelt Master Plan (i.e. usability, detail), confirmation of their facilities and interests in the Greenbelt, what is new from a facility, policy, and operational perspective since the 1996 Plan was prepared, and for their thoughts on future trends and directions affecting the Greenbelt.

3.3 Agricultural Tenants

Project staff met with Greenbelt agricultural tenants on Saturday, March 28th, 2009. Following a presentation, a workshop was undertaken to discuss existing conditions within the Greenbelt, including a discussion of the positive aspect of farming in the Greenbelt as well as the challenges. Current trends in agriculture were also discussed. Feedback obtained from agricultural tenants served to also inform preparation of the Greenbelt Farm Management Plan that will detail a specific agricultural vision, guiding principles, objectives and strategies. The results of this work will in turn assist in revising cultivated landscape directions and agricultural policies within the GMP and in articulation of the Greenbelt vision for 2060.

3.4 Public Advisory Committee

Membership of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) consists of approximately 25 individuals representing interest groups with broad representation from the areas of cycling, environment, transit, allotment garden, dog owner advocacy, community associations, heritage, agriculture, urban and rural communities, and Greenbelt advocacy. A range of views and comments were received from the PAC that reflect the multi interest nature of the Committee.

Project staff met with the PAC on a Saturday, April 4, 2009 to introduce the review process and to obtain member knowledge of Greenbelt. The PAC were asked to comment on the greatest assets of the Greenbelt, threats to its long-term integrity, the balance and extent of roles fulfilled by the Greenbelt, and emerging trends that may influence the future of the Greenbelt. Assets identified included the mere existence of the Greenbelt, as well as its environmental values. Concerns discussed include urban pressures and impacts, desire for a collaborative and comprehensive study process, promotion and tourism opportunities and maintenance of long-term Greenbelt health. Members of the PAC participated in a three hour bus tour of the Greenbelt at the conclusion of the meeting.

The Terms of Reference and membership list for the PAC is provided in Appendix 2.

3.5 Greenbelt Coalition

The project team also met separately with the Greenbelt Coalition on May 20, 2009, members of which are represented on the PAC. The Greenbelt coalition was formed in the fall of 2008 to provide a strong community-based voice throughout the review of the Greenbelt Master Plan. This group is comprised of approximately 15 environmental, agricultural, recreational and community organizations, including representatives from the City of Ottawa's community advisory committees for environment, forests and greenspace and agricultural and rural affairs. The May meeting consisted of a presentation and discussion regarding the priority and importance of Greenbelt ecological and agricultural roles and integrity and stresses on the Greenbelt.

3.6 Responses to the City of Ottawa's White Paper

In June 2008, the City of Ottawa prepared and released a White Paper outlining the City's understanding of the costs and benefits of the Greenbelt as well as arguments in favour and against developing parts of the Greenbelt. The City has shared the White Paper and the responses they received with the NCC. The release of the White Paper solicited comments from the public in response to several questions including:

- Are the Greenbelt's economic and environmental costs justified by its benefits?
- Should we consider developing limited areas of the Greenbelt as an alternative to building on farm land further away from the city centre?
- If portions of the Greenbelt were developed should that development provide something unique?

Well over 50 responses were received from the City in response to the Greenbelt White Paper. Among responses received via email on the subject, about three quarters opposed any development within the Greenbelt, while a quarter suggested that some development on Greenbelt lands was preferable. Reasons stated for protecting the Greenbelt included reference to its function and value as accessible greenspace, a carbon sink and as a home to ecological functions important to the region. Others suggested that marginal agricultural or ecological lands could be used for development in order to improve the efficiency of infrastructure service delivery and to lessen average distances between jobs and homes. Many of those in favour of developing portions of the Greenbelt saw portions of the Greenbelt as unused space that could be put to a better function. However, a significant majority of the responses to the City of Ottawa's white paper emphasized the need to protect the full extent of the Greenbelt against development for the benefit of future generations. Some responses, both in favour of and opposed to development in the Greenbelt, suggested that the Greenbelt should be expanded in areas where environmentally sensitive areas exist nearby.

4. STEP A - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

This section outlines the public consultation process undertaken during Step A of the Greenbelt Master Plan review.

4.1 Online Consultation

An initial online web questionnaire to obtain public perspectives on Greenbelt use, importance of its various roles and features, familiarity with the Greenbelt, received 404 answers between mid-December 2008 and beginning of March 13, 2009. The questionnaire was promoted through NCC's website and its e-mail database of over 1500 citizens and interest groups.

The website revolves around the following key themes:

- The Greenbelt and how it is managed affects all people who live in Ottawa and the National Capital Region.
- Encouraging the public and other levels of government to participate in planning the future of the Greenbelt;
- The Greenbelt is a national asset, created and maintained for the pride of all Canadians.

It responds to the following questions:

- What is the Greenbelt and why is it important?
- What is the Master Plan and what does it do?
- What is the 2008 update of the master Plan and what will it do?
- How do I participate?

4.2 Consultation Sessions in Shopping Centres

The NCC met citizens in five shopping malls in east, central and west locations within the Capital in order to engage public members early in the review process, to introduce and raise awareness of the Greenbelt and to gather their comments on the existing conditions of the Greenbelt through a questionnaire. People could also share their comments through a web questionnaire. A total of 304 comment sheets were filled during the malls meetings and online. The events were promoted in The Ottawa Citizen, Le Droit, La Revue de Gatineau and EMC NEWS. An e-mail was also sent to over 1700 citizens and interest groups through NCC's database.

The schedule of events was as follows:

Thursday, June 11, 2009

World Exchange Plaza, 11 am to 2 pm

Billings Bridge Shopping Centre, 3 pm to 7 pm

Friday, June 12, 2009

Rideau Centre, 11 am to 2 pm

Bayshore Shopping Centre, 3 pm to 9 pm

Saturday, June 13, 2009

St. Laurent Shopping Centre, 9:30 am to 9 pm

Participants were requested to complete comment sheets were prepared to share their understanding of Greenbelt assets, perceived stresses on the Greenbelt's long-term health, appropriate roles for these lands, any specific observations on its existing conditions and health or other comments relevant for consideration in the review. Information boards at the information sessions and on the website to assist in completing the questionnaire described the NCC's planning framework, the review process, current Greenbelt roles and maps and photos of the Greenbelt's natural areas, existing land designations and facilities and recreational features.

4.3 Media Coverage

A media advisory, *NCC announces the process for the review of the Greenbelt Master Plan*, inviting the media to a briefing session about the process for the review of the Greenbelt Master Plan was sent by the NCC on Wednesday, December 10, 2008. Following the media advisory, CKTF-FM Gatineau produced a short clip about the briefing session (December 12, 2008).

The briefing session took place on December 12, 2008 at the Lord Elgin Hotel, located at 100 Elgin Street. The event was attended by about ten journalists. A news release, *NCC announces process for review of Greenbelt Master Plan*, about the launch of the Greenbelt Master Plan review was sent to the media during the event.

Following the event, the media coverage was:

Newspapers:

- Révision du plan directeur des terres protégées qui entourent Ottawa (Le Droit – December 12, 2008)
- NCC hires consultants to spearhead Greenbelt review (Ottawa Citizen – December 13, 2008)
- Ceinture de verdure de la CCN : trois ans pour réviser le plan directeur (Le Droit – December 13, 2008)
- La Ceinture de verdure sous la loupe (Radio-Canada – Web Site – December 12, 2008)
- NCC looks for public view of Greenbelt vision (Ottawa Sun – December 30, 2008)

Radio:

- A short clip about the launch of the Greenbelt Master Plan review on CJRC-FM (December 12, 2008)
- An eight minute interview with Ms. Marie Lemay on CBOF-FM (*Le monde selon Mathieu* – December 12, 2008).
- A short clip about the launch of the Greenbelt Master Plan review on CFRA (December 12, 2008)

There were also two newspaper articles that were published by the NOW EMC between January 1, 2009 and June 10, 2009.

They were:

- NCC begins review of Greenbelt Master Plan (January 12, 2009)
- First meeting held for Greenbelt review (May 15, 2009)

To get the public involved in the first public consultations of the review process of the Greenbelt Master Plan, the NCC issued a media advisory inviting the public and the media to attend the first round of public consultations that took place on June 11, 12 and 13, 2009.

The media advisory to inform and engage citizens in the process, *Have your say about the Greenbelt's future*, was issued by the NCC on June 10, 2009 and produced the following media coverage:

- NCC asks for Greenbelt views (Ottawa Sun – June 11, 2009)
- Téléjournal Radio-Canada Outaouais (Television – June 11, 2009)

Press material and coverage can be found in Appendix 10.

5. STEP A - CONSULTATION RESULTS

The nature of the consultation strategy for Step A of the project was intentionally encouraging an open forum for free-flowing thought and exchange of ideas directly with the Project Team. As a result, comments received ranged from statements of fact to broad comments and expressions of opinions and occasionally, direct questions. Topics ranged from Greenbelt policy and management to Plan layout or site-specific issues.

The following section documents the results of the consultation program thus far and summarizes the comments and challenges raised as relevant to this stage of the Review process. A summary of comments from meetings with the Public Advisory Committee, Agricultural Tenants, and the Greenbelt Coalition are provided below, as well as a consolidated summary of all comments received from the public consultation program for Step A - Existing Conditions, Issues and Opportunities. A summary of the comments received from targeted consultations with Internal and External Stakeholders is provided in Appendix 3, while the full sets of minutes from meetings with the Public Advisory Committee, the Greenbelt Agricultural Tenants and the Greenbelt Coalition are provided in Appendices 4, 5 and 6, respectively.

Appendix 7 provides the results from the first on-line consultations, Appendix 8 provides the summary of comments received from the consultation sessions in shopping centres, and Appendix 9 provides the comments from the second set of on-line consultations. Media coverage earned on the Greenbelt through 2008 and 2009 are presented in Appendix 10.

5.1 Internal and External Consultations

Overall, the majority of stakeholders provided feedback within their specific area of interest regarding Greenbelt policy, management procedures, asset health, specific past and future site experiences or application of the GMP specific designations or sites. Many also identified potential challenges and opportunities from the perspective of the Greenbelt as an entity of diverse roles and landscapes.

Over the course of the targeted consultations with both internal and external stakeholders, a number of themes relevant to the update of the Greenbelt Master Plan were discussed. Overall, the 1996 Greenbelt Master Plan was well received by many stakeholders. However, stakeholders also identified challenges that have emerged since 1996 as well as potential solutions that could be integrated into an updated Greenbelt Master Plan. These concerns included establishing a role and purpose for the Greenbelt that is both holistic and clear. Other discussion topics included built facilities in the Greenbelt, viewsheds, public education, building enduring partnerships, ecological protection, as well as Greenbelt agriculture and forestry. The full range of Internal and External Stakeholder comments are summarised by theme in Section 5.6 and in Appendix 3.

5.2 Agricultural Tenants

The main concerns of agricultural tenants were operational, including comments on maintenance and management of Greenbelt farm residences and infrastructure, much of which will be addressed in the upcoming Farm Management Plan. Farmers recognized that the existing short-term leasing arrangements (5 years) do not encourage tenant long term planning and investment. Despite this, Greenbelt farmers are proud of their chosen livelihood and feel that the Capital should take advantage on the fact that the Greenbelt is protected as a showcase for farming. Economic downturns, a lack of available arable land, and perceived high rents are thought to be threats to agricultural competitiveness. Trespassing, nuisance wildlife (deer, geese, coyotes), drainage, traffic and vehicle speed, soil conservation, and stream bank erosion were also identified as ongoing issues by Greenbelt farm operators.

Greenbelt farmers were concerned that agricultural land was not valued by municipal government or urban residents, citing examples such as recent farmland losses to municipal infrastructure projects. Greenbelt farmers are looking for a demonstrated long-term commitment to Greenbelt farming by the NCC and the City of Ottawa through removal of barriers to local markets, reduced pressure on farmland to provide urban infrastructure, and facilitation of the local sale of produce grown throughout City and NCC owned lands (e.g. at Park and Rides). An overall coordinating body would be required to oversee this. All attendees expressed the desire to form a network for Greenbelt farmers to facilitate sharing of information, farm equipment as well as the purchase of feed and farm supplies. The network would be able to co-operatively find new venues for the sale of Greenbelt food produce in the Capital.

While Greenbelt farmers felt that economics will ultimately dictate the types of farms that will be viable over the long term, they were generally responsive to exploring new opportunities for local farming (e.g. solar power generation on marginal agricultural lands) with proven, economically viable technology. Tourism and additional Greenbelt visits could be encouraged by “Rural Rambles” linking farms and B&B’s by continuous horse trails and recreational pathways. Other discussed opportunities included year-round equestrian facilities, agro-tourism, and education projects.

5.3 Public Advisory Committee

Overall, members of the Public Advisory Committee expressed strong support and commitment to the designed GMP review process. The range of comments focused upon maintenance of long-term Greenbelt integrity and health, the importance of collaborative stakeholder involvement and the need for strong, comprehensive data on the Greenbelt’s current health and the need for ongoing monitoring of progress into the future. The group discussion then moved to exploring the Greenbelt’s roles, existing conditions, opportunities and challenges.

Roles identified for the Greenbelt included educating youth about sustainability, an increased national profile, adding more destinations and experiences to make tourism viable, and an increase in allotment gardens to fulfill the need for and appreciation of sustainable living by adults and youth alike.

Threats noted included land use designations that permit development in the Greenbelt (e.g. Buildable Site Area). These designations are seen as inconsistent with recent public consultation that support Greenbelt protection. Other threats included under-appreciation of the values and uniqueness of the

Greenbelt, the assumption that the Greenbelt is “empty”, and lack of NCC funding for Plan implementation.

Trends identified that may influence the Greenbelt were; changing demographics contributing to a lack of Greenbelt awareness (aging population and new Canadians); peak oil; feeding oneself close to home; mass transit and active transportation; living near work and conveniences; transportation corridors that sever ecological continuity; creating more opportunities to tap into the environmental and cultural academic community, and political influence in planning.

The PAC favoured exploring as many possibilities for the Greenbelt as possible, and cautioned against trying to balance Greenbelt roles as what happens when the appropriate balance shifts? Other opinions expressed at the meeting were that global warming will dramatically change the way we live in the next 10-20 years, and that development pressures will be huge; making the right choices to address these issues is critical. They felt we need to build upon the Greenbelt land bank, particularly agricultural land, stop widening roads through the Greenbelt, and consider additional recreational experiences. The PAC provided further on the Review process, supporting openness and transparency and information sharing. They looked for consideration of legislation to protect the Greenbelt, and expressed an interest in quantifying current Greenbelt assets and roles (e.g. percentage land uses) and what might impact these before we decide on a vision.

5.4 General Public

Much of what mentioned through the targeted consultations was reiterated by the public. While a few respondents suggested considering limited strategic urban growth in the Greenbelt, the overwhelming majority of comments suggested protecting the Greenbelt from all development. Additional recurring opinions expressed by the public that were not emphasized through the targeted consultations include:

- Do not permit development in the Greenbelt.
- Protect the Green’s Creek Conservation Area.
- Enhance tourism opportunities.
- Recognize the role of the Greenbelt in psychological health and stress reduction.
- Protect the Greenbelt for future generations.

The public generally supports increased use of public transit in the Greenbelt but only along existing corridors or future light rail corridors. They recognized the importance of Greenbelt agricultural and environmental lands to long-term sustainability and encouraged the protection of watersheds and identified additional opportunities for events. The public suggested that they may be willing accept user fees and increased taxes in turn for the ongoing protection and enhancement of the Greenbelt.

The top three favourite Greenbelt places identified were Green’s Creek, Mer Bleue, and Stony Swamp, while the top three favourite Greenbelt activities were walking and hiking, cycling, and cross-country skiing.

5.5 Greenbelt Coalition

As the Greenbelt Project Team met with members of the Greenbelt Coalition, a wide-ranging discussion resulted. The diverse input from the Greenbelt Coalition was compatible with the diverse membership who represent several environmental and advocacy organizations. Discussions included topics such as limiting the development of Greenbelt lands and insulating the Greenbelt from urban pressures occurring in rapidly urbanizing communities outside the Greenbelt, preventing the loss of natural areas within the Greenbelt, improving the National Capital Commission's transparency and the integration of environmental features into the Greenbelt's agricultural lands. One key area of interest for members of the coalition was the perceived need to improve the educational and interpretive functions of the Greenbelt to ensure that the public know about the Greenbelt's assets, roles and functions. Full documentation of discussed topics is available in Appendix 6.

5.6 Comments heard and opinions expressed in Step A

The following sections provide a detailed summary by theme of the input obtained through the Step A - internal and external stakeholder consultation sessions, with feedback from the public groups, questionnaires and events incorporated as well.

5.6.1 Overall Comments

Viewing the Greenbelt as an entity, stakeholders suggest the following:

- **Protect the Greenbelt.** The greatest asset of the Greenbelt is that it exists. Capitalize on the fact that Greenbelt lands are already protected. Consider protective legislation or designating the Greenbelt as a national park. The Greenbelt is not just a legacy of the past, but a living heritage for the future. The Greenbelt maintains the property value of our entire area. It should not be viewed as a means to contain development; it has its own identity.
- **Quantify and communicate Greenbelt values** to instil a greater respect for the Greenbelt.
- **Keep the Greenbelt in public ownership.** Fund the Greenbelt through taxes if required.
- **Establish a no net loss policy for Greenbelt lands.** This policy is important particularly for agricultural and environmental lands. A ratio 2:1 compensation policy or greater could also be considered.
- **Add more land to the Greenbelt.** More land will be needed in the future. Create a second Greenbelt surrounding Kanata, Barrhaven.
- **Recognize that the Greenbelt is part of our survival kit.** Protect the Greenbelt and you protect agriculture and ecological health. The Greenbelt contributes considerably to our psychological health.
- **Permit strategic urban expansion in the Greenbelt.** Strategic urban expansion in the Greenbelt was viewed as a means to implement "Smart Growth" principles of urban development.
- **The Greenbelt is well recognized by the public.** Less than 5% of respondents to a public on-line questionnaire available on the NCC's website indicated that they were not familiar with the Greenbelt, while the balance of respondents reported being very or somewhat familiar.
- **Top 5 most important Greenbelt areas, functions and threats** were natural areas, walking and cycling trails, conservation areas, forests, and air quality and climate change. Choices included

economic contributions, farm experiences and produce stands, recreation facilities, institutional areas, cultural and built heritage, infrastructure, urban growth, natural areas, walking and cycling trails, conservation areas, forests, and air quality and climate change benefits.

- **Provide a holistic view for the future of the Greenbelt.** Clearly articulate a concise vision for the future Greenbelt.
- **Turn the Greenbelt into a sustainability showcase for the nation.** This would be achieved by requiring that all new buildings be “green” buildings, considering alternative energy where appropriate, demonstration sites for forestry, sustainable agriculture, and environmental stewardship practices
- **Revisit the ‘belt’ in Greenbelt.** Address if the Greenbelt needs to be continuous as implied by its name, or if other models could be considered.

5.6.2 Plan Updates

Suggestions for scope of the Plan update include:

- **Reflect new policies, planning decisions, legislation, designations, mandates, technologies, and partners.** Much has occurred since 1996 that needs to be reflected in the Plan (e.g. pathway plans, *Species at Risk Act*, City of Ottawa Transit Plan, World Heritage Site designation of Rideau Canal, new roles and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities, City of Ottawa amalgamation, NCC Environmental Strategy, stewardship partners, Greenbelt Master Plan amendments). The Plan should strive to be consistent with the spirit and intent of new directions in policy and legislation even if this policy and legislation does not apply to the NCC.
- **Review the role and purpose of the Greenbelt.** The roles and purpose of the entire Greenbelt need to be reviewed in light of current sustainability trends, anticipated development pressures, the national mandate for the Greenbelt, and examine the compatibility of existing and Greenbelt uses with this role.
- **Balance greater strategic direction with operational direction.** Provide direction for the consideration of proposals for Greenbelt projects (e.g. alternative energy and recreation). Greenbelt policies should generally be more objective and provide specific direction (i.e. where infrastructure can go and where it cannot) but still provide room for flexibility.
- **Simplify.** Simplify the Plan throughout by making it more concise and objective, harmonizing and reducing the number of land use designations and pathway types, and by reducing the number of Sector Plans.
- **Address development pressures on the Greenbelt.** Address pressures imposed by development within, at, and beyond Greenbelt boundaries by servicing (e.g. road infrastructure and widening, utilities, Park and Rides).
- **Illustrate changes to the Greenbelt landscape since 1996.**

5.6.3 Built Environment

Considerations for the Greenbelt’s built environment include:

- **Consolidate and intensify uses.** Consolidate federal campuses with complimentary functions on one site. Intensify within existing built up areas to avoid loss of Greenbelt lands.

- **Rationalize existing uses.** Address whether airports and hospitals should continue to remain within the Greenbelt. The Greenbelt should continue to provide federal employment lands, particularly those requiring security and relative isolation.
- **Require green buildings.** Include a requirement that sustainability practices be applied to any new buildings or development in the Greenbelt, and retrofit existing buildings where feasible.
- **Create more employment nodes in the Greenbelt.** Existing regional land availability is not of the quality employers seek.

5.6.4 Greenbelt Boundary

Greenbelt boundary considerations include:

- **Review Greenbelt boundaries.** Review the existing boundary in light of watersheds, add more land where required and when opportunities arise, and add buffers and transitional land uses where the Greenbelt abuts incompatible uses.
- **Enhance Greenbelt boundary management.** Address encroachment from residential areas into environmental and agricultural lands through stewardship initiatives, education, and signage.
- **Greenbelt Limits:** Consider regulatory protection of the limits, balancing this with flexibility for strategic additions, and unavoidable losses that may be desired over time.

5.6.5 Promotion

Overall, many stakeholders recommended enhanced promotion of the Greenbelt to increase local and national understanding and awareness of this asset:

- **Promote the Greenbelt.** Promote the Greenbelt through a range of means, consistent packaging and branding, occasional open houses in Greenbelt facilities, signage, boundary identification, guided tours for school children, demonstration sites, radio and television advertisements, special events like “Celebrate the Greenbelt” Day. Learn from municipalities across Canada.

5.6.6 Partners and Stewards

Continue building upon the partnerships established to date and as directed through GMP policy:

- **Work with partners and stewards to implement the Greenbelt vision.** Recognize the value in working with the City of Ottawa, the academic community, stewardship and community groups, and agricultural promotional groups to achieve Greenbelt goals.

5.6.7 Land Use

Considerations for future land use designation and management include:

- **Do not permit development of any kind in the Greenbelt.** Urban densification can be achieved outside of the Greenbelt. Paving over the Greenbelt will only increase traffic and drive down land values.
- **Consider limited urbanization.** Either adhere to Greenbelt principles and use it as envisioned or sell it. Consider if some urbanization, with the proceeds used to purchase environmentally significant lands elsewhere in the NCR, would result in a more efficient urban form. Consider

developing irregularly shaped parcels, small areas along public transportation routes, or the Greenbelt periphery, compact, mixed use neighbourhoods. Establish strategic growth areas to bolster economic growth in the Region (e.g. employment lands along the 417).

- **The Greenbelt Review is not a land rationalization exercise.** The Review should provide a function and value assessment for which recommendations for additions or deletions to the Greenbelt could be based. There should be a guiding principle of no net loss of any lands from the Greenbelt, considering a ratio of 2:1 or more of additional lands when losses are unavoidable.

5.6.8 Environment

Environmental considerations include both ecological and “green” aspects, such as:

- **Frame the Greenbelt as a natural system within a broader ecological context.** Identify linkages to natural systems beyond the NCR. Look beyond immediate boundaries to consider hydrological systems, watersheds, ecological linkages
- **Establish a “no let loss” of environmental lands policy.** If loss is unavoidable, then compensate with a comparable quality of land at a 2:1 or more ratio. If land is not available, consider financial compensation with revenues directed to Greenbelt projects/maintenance.
- **Protect headwater quality and quantity.** Integrate watershed planning concepts into Greenbelt environmental planning by protecting headwaters, hydrological functions, creeks and streams through setbacks and land assembly. Landscapes will become more arid as the effects of climate change and development are felt locally.
- **Recognize the role of the Greenbelt as a carbon sink.**
- **Establish policies to manage environmental stressors** (e.g. white tailed deer, Emerald Ash Borer, West Nile Virus, nuisance wildlife and rabies management).
- **Restore degraded ecosystems** Restore ecosystems with planting, hedgerows, creek and stream buffers and setbacks and prioritize these efforts, and identify ecological conditions required to maintain ecological health.
- **Improve natural areas management.** Remove all houses and debris (tires, used motor oil) from core natural areas and manage invasive species.

5.6.9 Agriculture

Recognize the current state, strengths and challenges of Greenbelt agriculture through considerations such as:

- **Establish a no let loss of agricultural land policy.**
- **Establish Greenbelt farms to secure local food production for the NCR.**
- **Establish a long term vision for agriculture.** Recognize the current economic conditions and trends impacting farm viability. In addition to traditional farming, Greenbelt farms could generate power (solar, wind, geothermal) and provide unique tourism and demonstration farming opportunities. Use signage and promotion to identify farms that provide a unique product
- **Improve conditions to attract long-term tenants and multi-generational farming.** Demonstrate a commitment to farming in the Greenbelt. Improve overall conditions for existing tenants to attract long-term farming tenants and increase the attraction of farming to future

generations through better asset and agricultural infrastructure management, longer leases, subsidies, balancing the desire to retain heritage farms and conduct stewardship with economic realities, reduced barriers to local sale of produce, and permitting more greenhouses and other compatible uses on marginal agricultural land.

- **Protect less productive agricultural land.** Use less productive agricultural land to support the agricultural community (e.g. allow greenhouses), allow naturalization of some areas, particularly watercourses or other ecological connections to establish habitat that benefit a range of wildlife species, or use as a buffer to agricultural land from adjacent land uses.
- **Identify ways to encourage crop diversity.** Row cropping (soybeans, corn) could be reduced in favour of garden vegetables and other produce for local sale if economic conditions made it viable.

5.6.10 Forestry

Forest management and promotion considerations include:

- **Manage Greenbelt plantation forests to improve health and diversity.** Re-create pre-settlement forests by routine thinning of Greenbelt plantations and use the revenue generated from the timber to offset Greenbelt management costs.
- **Create forestry interpretation/demonstration sites.** Demonstrate commercial forestry practices and results, horse logging, and invasive species in safe, accessible locations throughout Greenbelt forests.
- **Established permitted uses within forests.** Base the identification of permitted uses on an analysis of forest functions.

5.6.11 Buildings and Facilities

Relevant feedback included:

- **Do not permit more built facilities in the Greenbelt** (e.g. schools, churches, prison, day care).
- **Relax the maximum site coverage provision of the Buildable Site Area designation.** Some federal facilities are approaching the 35% site coverage restriction that applies to the Buildable Site Area land use designation and will need more flexibility to accommodate land use needs.
- **Review existing facilities for compatibility with Greenbelt roles and functions.** Establish if existing commercial facilities (e.g. airports, hospitals) and community recreational facilities are appropriate Greenbelt uses and if they should be permitted in the future.
- **Specify short and long-term goals for residences in the Greenbelt.** Consider retention, removal, use modification, or conversion to new uses supporting Greenbelt roles and functions.
- **Encourage Green Buildings.** Federal offices in the Greenbelt should develop and implement campus sustainability plans.

5.6.12 Health and Safety

Some stakeholders and public members suggested a need to:

- **Increase public health safety throughout the Greenbelt** considering such actions as installation of public phones at key trailheads, addressing potable water quality and quantity issues, increase facility management, communicate clearly if the public cannot access certain facilities and direct Greenbelt visits away from higher security facilities where the public cannot visit.

5.6.13 Cultural/Aesthetics

Greenbelt cultural landscape and aesthetic considerations include:

- **Protect views of Greenbelt landscapes.** Ensure that grade changes, vegetation growth, signage, and building heights do not impact views, and recognize the value of agricultural lands in providing views.
- **Protect cultural heritage throughout the Greenbelt.** Lime Kiln in Stony Swamp is currently threatened by the proposed Hope Side Road extension.
- **Review scenic routes.** Update information and analysis.
- **Install consistent, recognizable Greenbelt signage** with appropriate landscaping at major entry roads.
- **Address aesthetic impacts of structures and facilities** Mitigate the impact of existing utility structures (cell phone towers, lighting, utility towers) and facilities (e.g. Glen Cairn Biofilter) on views.
- **Develop a comprehensive lighting policy.** Work with the City to align lighting policies; balance objectives for reduced lighting in the Greenbelt with safety requirements.
- **Plant trees along road corridors.** Not only would this improve aesthetics, it provides shade, cleaner air, and prevents safety hazards of windblown snow.

5.6.14 Recreation and Experiences

Recreation and visitor experiences could be enhanced through:

- **Naturalize and create pathways on unused right-of way corridors.** Close unused road rights-of-way in the Greenbelt and convert to pathways. Naturalize abandoned rail corridors.
- **Create recreational opportunities that respond to visitor demographics.** Increase opportunities for rural tourism, all-season equestrian, more dog parks, overnight opportunities for cross-country skiers, legitimize mountain biking.
- **Minimize active recreation.** Greenbelt offers a complete range of passive recreational opportunities; leave the provision of facilities for active recreation to the municipality.
- **Enhance tourism opportunities.**
- **Address the role of sportsfields in the Greenbelt.** Some felt that the Greenbelt should be reserved for passive, unprogrammed recreation, while others felt that sportsfields could be considered if limited to expansion of existing facilities or if integrated into existing institutional areas.
- **Enhance trail planning and management.** Install consistent and informative trail signage. Enforce rules re. ATV and snowmobile use. Naturalize trails that don't lead anywhere. Take a balance approach to trail maintenance; maintain trails in a natural state where appropriate. Address human impacts on environmental areas. Integrate the Greenbelt pathway network with other pathways, particularly where new development abuts the Greenbelt. Hydro lines interrupt

skiing and hiking trails. Planned multi-use trails increase user conflicts and environmental impacts. Impose user fees for maintenance and conservation.

5.6.15 Transportation

Many stakeholders and public members commented upon their concerns with transportation corridor impacts upon the Greenbelt, noting the following:

- **Explore alternatives to using Greenbelt lands for road-widening, transportation corridors, and Park and Rides.** Road and infrastructure expansion are viewed as major impacts to Greenbelt lands. If they must occur, consider road widening over new corridors. Work with the City to maintain Greenbelt character and resources while still permitting infrastructure.
- **Enhance public transit, walking and cycling access to the Greenbelt.** Share parking with nearby facilities. Offer weekend shuttles from downtown locations.
- **Clearly establish the location of LRT stations and associated parking facilities in the Greenbelt.**

5.7 Summary

A commitment to protecting the Greenbelt from development was clear. However, while “development” was generally opposed, people recognized the need to find ways to protect Greenbelt resources while responding to the demand to create infrastructure in proximity to and sometimes within the Greenbelt to meet the needs of a growing population. Several people suggested that a comprehensive view of infrastructure requirements be undertaken and how best to locate them to achieve long-term limited impact on Greenbelt lands. People were open to ideas for conversion of existing uses. The consultations also revealed a need to build a long term vision for agriculture in the Greenbelt by recognizing the current economic conditions and trends impacting farm viability.

Opinions differed on some issues. For example, while there was some difference of opinion regarding the role of sportsfields in the Greenbelt, no explicit pressure was exerted to permit them. There were also differing opinions on whether certain uses currently within the Greenbelt are consistent with current stated Greenbelt roles and functions such as some commercial facilities. Some believed that strategic urban expansion could be permitted in the Greenbelt, while others were adamantly opposed to any development. Opinions were also mixed regarding how and if Greenbelt pathways should accommodate sometimes conflicting recreational pursuits.

Partnerships and more open communication with the City of Ottawa, and the broader public could be forged to proactively identify alternatives for infrastructure through the Greenbelt, and identify recreational opportunities. An enhanced leadership role for the NCC in promoting and delivering stewardship projects throughout the Greenbelt and facilitating communication and economic opportunities among the Greenbelt agricultural community was also identified.

6. NEXT STEPS

A broad range of input, from a consolidation of technical updates required to make the existing Greenbelt Master Plan current, to challenges to sustaining the long-term integrity of the Greenbelt given development pressures was received through the course of Step A - consultations. These same groups and individuals consulted in the first step of the review will be consulted in upcoming steps.

The Visioning step of the Review follows the Existing Conditions step. Formal consultation for the Visioning step started in the fall 2009 and will conclude in the winter 2010. Invitees include those engaged through the targeted consultations. The general public were invited to an evening event including a public forum where the experiences of select Greenbelts worldwide were shared and discussed, and will be followed by a series of public open houses and workshops in January 2010.

The input received through this step was considered in drafting the “Existing Conditions, Issues and Opportunities” Report, now also available, and will be considered throughout the entire revision process. For more information, please contact the NCC at info@ncc-ccn.ca, 613-239-5000 or visit the website at www.ncc-ccn.ca/greenbelt.

APPENDIX 1

Membership List

External Stakeholders

External Stakeholders

Agency/Facility
Canadian Food Inspection Agency Jim Morrow
Department of National Defence (DND) Justin Schmidt-Clever
Department of National Defence (DND) Paul St-Denis
Industry Canada (Communications Research Centre) Jill Weitzel
Industry Canada (Communications Research Centre) Cam McQueen
Natural Resources Canada (CANMET, Geomagnetic Lab) Kevin Montgomery
Natural Resources Canada (CANMET, Geomagnetic Lab) Diana Boland
Nortel Networks Lorraine Smale
Queensway-Carleton Hospital Peter Thompson
Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport Authority Ann Tremblay
Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport Authority Yvon Larouchelle
Parks Canada Heather Thomson
Parks Canada Adam Burpee
Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) Carolyn Walsh
Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Andrew Hope
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Michel Falardeau
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Ray Valaitas
Fisheries and Oceans Canada Georgina Williston
Fisheries and Oceans Canada Mark Ferguson
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Anda Rungis
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Joffre Cote
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Joy Sterritt
South Nation Conservation Authority Jennifer Boyer
Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority Kelly Wilson
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Don Maciver
Canadian Wildlife Service Pat MacGregor
Eastern Ontario Model Forest Mark Richardson
City of Ottawa, Planning & Growth Management (planning) Myles Mahon (main contact)
City of Ottawa, Infrastructure Services (utility) Linda Carkner
City of Ottawa, Planning & Growth Management (planning) Bruce Finlay
City of Ottawa, Planning & Growth Management (planning) Nelson Edwards
City of Ottawa, Real Estate Partnership & Development James Bowser
City of Ottawa, Planning & Growth Management (transportation) Vivi Chi
City of Ottawa, Transportation Mona Abouhenidy
City of Ottawa, Planning & Growth Management (transportation) Steven Boyle
City of Ottawa, Infrastructure Services (asset management) Alain Gonthier
City of Ottawa, Community Sustainability (planning) Judy Flavin
City of Ottawa, Community Sustainability (planning) Kevin Cover
City of Ottawa, Community Sustainability (economic development) Dave Powers
City of Ottawa, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services (planning) Kevin Jones
City of Ottawa, Infrastructure Services / Community Sustainability Stuart Lazear

APPENDIX 2

Terms of Reference and Membership List:

Public Advisory Committee

Public Advisory Committee (PAC) – Greenbelt Master Plan Review

Terms of Reference

FINAL

October, 2009

Mandate

To collaborate and foster a dialogue with the Greenbelt Master Plan (GMP) project team to provide input and feedback through the four main stages of the Master Plan Review – evaluation of existing conditions, development of an updated vision, exploration of land use concept options and development of sector plans. This advisory and information exchange forum will include representatives from a range of public groups with an interest in the Greenbelt an important component of the National Capital Region. The term of this group will extend from late March 2009 until approximately mid-2011, with end of term established upon approval of the updated Greenbelt Master Plan by the NCC Board of Directors, anticipated in the fall of 2011.

Membership*

PAC membership was sought in early 2009 through contact of approximately 60 organizations that have an interest in the Greenbelt as a result of their organization's use of the lands, proximity or interest in specific Greenbelt lands, uses and roles. The establishment of PAC members aims to represent the main areas of interest associated to the Greenbelt and its contribution to the Nation's Capital. These include: agriculture, recreational use, neighbouring community associations, environment, heritage, business, tourism and transportation. The list of PAC members, including GMP Review project team members, is attached as Appendix A.

* Participating organizations are generally represented through one member on the PAC.

Responsibilities

Information will be exchanged amongst the group, including relevant reports and products developed by the NCC and their consulting team for this review, SENES Consultants. PAC meetings will be scheduled at key points during the study to test and obtain specialized public feedback on results, proposals and concepts developed as the work progresses and to develop collaborative solutions to identified issues, where possible. In addition to in-person meetings, information will also be exchanged via e-mail, as the work proceeds.

The current membership is set at 33 members (see Appendix A). It is anticipated that additional associations or individuals may wish to contribute as the review progresses and could be integrated into the PAC. In order to maintain a member number that allows for adequate opportunity for everyone to participate, the PAC is organized into members and observers. The roles for these respective groups are described below:

The role of PAC working members includes:

- Sharing of information and expertise with the Committee;
- Providing input to the review on behalf of their organization in such areas as the existing conditions of the Greenbelt, the public consultation process, setting of a future 50 year vision, reviewing and commenting upon land use concepts, guiding principles and strategic objectives and on the priorities and projects identified for the sector plans;
- Reacting to ideas, identifying solutions and establishing consensus in an environment with possible conflicting priorities;
- Collecting and distributing information to their organization;
- Communicating to their organization how input of the PAC is used in the review process;
- Informing the GMP project team of issues and opportunities identified by their organization as they develop; and
- Arranging, to the extent possible, that their organization is represented at each PAC meeting.

Observers consist of those individuals who have requested to participate but are not part of the identified interest group membership. The roles of the PAC observers include:

- Attending PAC meetings to observe;
- Sharing information from the PAC to their organization; and
- Becoming informed of the review process, its findings and proposed update to the GMP.

The results of the discussions undertaken through the PAC will be summarized in the Public Consultation reports prepared at each of the Steps A to D – the existing conditions, vision, land use concept and sector plan stages.

Administration

The PAC will be co-chaired by the NCC and SENES project managers, Sylvie Lalonde and Cynthia Levesque. Meetings will be held in the two official languages. Public Affairs of the NCC will be responsible for meeting notification, agendas, distribution of materials and facilitation of meetings. Meeting notes will be prepared by the consultant and circulated for review and approval following each meeting.

Proposed Workplan Schedule

The PAC will meet to share and discuss information developed at each of the key stages of the GMP Review. This will result in at least one meeting in each of the four stages noted below. Additional discussions may be set between PAC meetings, as required, to allow for the opportunity for PAC members to provide further input for identified themes, opportunities and issues. Public consultations will generally follow the PAC meetings. Members not able to attend the PAC meetings will have the occasion to contribute to the study step through these public sessions.

April 2009 - Initial Meeting – Step A: Existing Conditions

- Initial meeting of the PAC
- Introduction of GMP Review process, preliminary findings of existing conditions, Greenbelt tour and identification of any data gaps noted within the existing conditions

September 2009 Meeting – Step B: Vision

- Update on review progress – existing conditions
- Workshop on identifying a vision for the Greenbelt 50 years from now

Winter/Spring 2010 Meeting(s) – Step C: Land Use Concept

- Proposed Vision
- Review Land Use Concept options, Guiding Principles, Strategic Objectives

Fall 2010 / Spring 2011 Meeting(s) – Step D: Sector Plans

- Recommended land use concept, principles and objectives
- Review Sector Plans



Appendix A: Public Advisory Committee Membership - Greenbelt Master Plan Review

	Group Represented	Area of Interest	Contact Name
Public Members			
1	Gloucester Allotment Gardens	Agriculture	George Bushell
2	Ottawa Rural Council	Agriculture	Mr. Sterling Knox
3	Farm Tenant	Agriculture	Peter Ruiter
4	Farm Tenant	Agriculture	Paul Henrie
5	Farm Tenant	Agriculture	Dawn Patterson
6	Farm Tenant/Just Food	Agriculture	Robin Turner
7	Citizens for Safe Cycling	Recreation/Transport	Zlatko Krstulich (ou Milan Skubnik)
8	La route verte	Recreation	Gaetan Provencher
9	Vélo-Service	Recreation	Maurice Marchand
10	Responsible Dog Owners of Canada	Recreation	Candice O'Connell
11	Crystal Bay Community Association	Residents: Shirleys Bay	Trudy Hall
12	Crystal Beach/Lakeview Community Association	Residents: Shirleys Bay	Ruth Tremblay/Rob Savrin
13	Riverside South Community Association	Residents: Southern Farm	Chris McLeod
14	Country Place Community Association	Residents: Southern Farm	Rocco Romeo
15	Glens Community Association	Residents: Pinhey Forest	Andrew McAlpine
16	Convent Glen Community Association	Residents: Eastern Farm	Louis Caron
17	Qualicum-Graham Park Community Association	Residents: Western Farm	Alison Buchanan
18	Westboro Beach Community Association	Residents	Mark Wirth/Ivan Leroux
19	Navan Community Association	Residents: East	Ray Vetter
20	Friends of Mer Bleue	Environment	Derek Grant
21	Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region	Environment	Sol Shuster
22	Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region	Environment	Nicole Desroches
23	Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region	Environment	Ann Coffey/Albert Dugal

24	Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region	Environment	Donna Dubreuil
25	Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region	Environment	Agnes Warda
26	Transport 2000	Transport	Klaus Beltzner
27	Héritage Ottawa	Cultural Heritage	Anwareen Farouk
PAC Observers			
28	City of Ottawa Councillor	City of Ottawa Councillor	Alex Cullen/Mari Wellman
29	Community Action for Reasonable Analyses and Decisions	CARAD Chair	Jane Brammer
GMP Review Project Team Members			
30	National Capital Commission	NCC Project Manager	Sylvie Lalonde
31	National Capital Commission	NCC Chief, Planning and Transportation	Pierre Dubé
32	National Capital Commission	NCC Public Consultation	Elisabeth Lacoursière
33	National Capital Commission	NCC Public Affairs Manager	Sandra Pecek
34	National Capital Commission	NCC Vice-President HRIM	Diane Dupuis
35	National Capital Commission	NCC Greenbelt Portfolio Manager	François Cyr
36	National Capital Commission	NCC Project Coordinator	Jean- François Morin
37	SENES Consultants	SENES Project Manager	Cynthia Levesque
38	SENES Consultants	SENES Project Coordinator	Deborah Irwin

APPENDIX 3

Comments Summary of Targeted Consultations with Internal and External Stakeholders

Comments Summary of Targeted Consultations with Internal and External Stakeholders

The following provides the comments received throughout Step A consultations organized by theme regardless of the group/individual making the comment. Detailed minutes from individual meetings are provided in other documents appended as part of this report.

It should be noted that the following summary does not capture all comments made. Many detailed, site specific comments, particularly with reference to facilities within the Greenbelt, were received that will be recorded in consultation reports prepared at the appropriate steps of the review process.

Overall

- The role and purpose of the Greenbelt needs to be revisited and clearly established; provide a more holistic view for the future.
- Protecting ecological health should be the overall goal, while emphasizing sustainability and viability. Use the Greenbelt as an environmental sustainability showcase.
- The Greenbelt should be afforded the highest level of protection and not be considered as open space where development can be negotiated.
- Quantify the services provided by the Greenbelt to the larger urban area (e.g. ecological, stormwater management, views, recreation).
- The Greenbelt should not be seen as a means to contain development.
- Is there a correct balance of land types within the Greenbelt that we should be striving for?
- Is the Greenbelt Review a land rationalization exercise?
- The Greenbelt should not be seen as a means to contain development.
- An implementation plan that supports Master Plan policies is required.
- The impacts of Greenbelt planning are felt locally, not nationally; give more consideration to the local community in the Review.
- Consider green buildings only in the Greenbelt (e.g. green design, maintenance, retrofits).
- Address whether the “belt” concept is still viable and appropriate.
- Require two-for-one compensation for lands removed from the Greenbelt.
- Some existing Greenbelt uses confuse the public about the role of the Greenbelt (e.g. Nortel, part of Marshes Golf Course); recognize that some of the facilities currently in the Greenbelt are anomalies resulting from a specific set of circumstances (e.g. Hornet’s Nest).
- The NCC should not be managing the Greenbelt alone and should consider partnering with other agencies/interest groups/ stewardship organizations.
- Include carbon credit trading in the economic assessment of the Greenbelt; taking the Airport out would reduce the carbon load.
- Consider creating legislation that will make the Greenbelt a National Park.

- Greenbelt lands were expropriated and purchased with taxpayers money; they should not be developed.
- Accommodate for projected population growth within Plan planning horizon throughout.
- Consider the overall compatibility of hospitals and airports in the Greenbelt.
- Increase the diversity of commercial uses (e.g. Saunders Farm, the 19th Tee, Dogs Sports Centre).
- Greenbelt lands are viewed and managed as a local asset; they are inconsistent with the NCC's national mandate.
- Consider placing restrictive covenants on Greenbelt lands sold for infrastructure to maintain planning influence until final completion of the works.
- Should we continue to pursue rural hamlets in the Greenbelt? Explore the role of the three rural hamlets in offering more services to Greenbelt visitors (e.g. food, bicycle rentals) or consider moving heritage buildings from other areas of the Greenbelt to hamlets.

Plan Updates

- The 1996 Plan is well received; it is easy to read, well laid out, and informative.
- Current policies in the 1996 Plan are sufficient to attain the vision articulated in the Plan.
- Create a succinct, defined vision for the Greenbelt.
- Clarify policies on infrastructure for new facilities and associated mitigation requirements.
- Map infrastructure easements in the new Plan (registered and unregistered).
- Reflect new policies, planning decisions, legislation, designations, roles and responsibilities (e.g. pathway plans *Species at Risk Act*, City of Ottawa Transit Plan, WHS designation of Rideau Canal, new roles and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities).
- Provide direction for the consideration of proposals for Greenbelt projects (e.g. alternative energy and recreation). Should for-profit facilities be considered?
- Address a protocol to respond to the sale of federal (non-NCC) buildings in the Greenbelt.
- A review is timely; Plan policies need to be updated to address pressures on the Greenbelt imposed by development at and beyond Greenbelt boundaries by servicing (road infrastructure and widening, Park and Rides).
- Maps must illustrate what is on the ground now using aerial photos.
- Update the Plan to reflect Greenbelt amendments passed since 1996.
- Illustrate how the Greenbelt landscape has changed since 1996.
- Management plans for individual Greenbelt components (e.g. agriculture, conservation areas, cultural heritage) should be directed through Master Plan policies; the GMP should then provide a consistent level of strategic guidance throughout. The Sector Area plans should provide an overall functional review.
- Clarify the current status of lands removed from the Greenbelt through the 1996 Plan.
- Balance greater strategic direction with operational direction.
- Develop a simple statement that articulates Greenbelt roles, functions, and values.
- Greenbelt policies should generally be more objective and provide specific direction (i.e. where infrastructure can go and where it cannot) but still provide room for flexibility.

- Refine the intent of the Rural Landscape designation.
- Simplify the Plan throughout (e.g. decrease detail regarding permitted land uses, reduce the number of land designations to potentially 4 based on function; natural, agricultural, recreational, and institutional.
- Identify if and where renewable energy facilities (wind, solar, biomass) could be located in the Greenbelt.

Built Environment

- Consolidate federal campuses with complimentary functions on one site.
- Address whether MCI Airport should continue to remain within the Greenbelt.
- Intensify within existing built up areas to avoid loss of additional Greenbelt lands.
- The Greenbelt should continue to provide federal employment lands, particularly those requiring security.
- Include a requirement that sustainability practices be applied to any new development.

Development Pressures

- Should institutional uses be limited within the Greenbelt?
- Consider intensifying in the Greenbelt and encourage people to live where they work.
- Park and Rides should not be permitted in the Greenbelt unless there are no other viable options.
- Less than 4% of the Greenbelt has a non-specified use
- Integrate the NCC's stormwater management policies (currently in preparation) to address pressures to use Greenbelt lands to accommodate stormwater management facilities for new development.

Greenbelt Boundary

- Enhance Greenbelt boundary management.
- Address encroachment from residential areas into natural lands (e.g. Bridlewood, Chapel Hill, Barrhaven, Longfields) and into Greenbelt agricultural areas in east (e.g. tree planting) through stewardship.
- Install interpretive signage and distribute brochures to residents backing on the Greenbelt to instill pride of ownership and respect.
- Consider adding more federal employment nodes in the Greenbelt.
- Consider adding more land into the Greenbelt as opportunities arise (e.g. include quarries after extraction licences expired and/or resource depleted).
- Consider moving the Greenbelt boundary to include more lands south of the Airport.
- The City and NCC should work together to get residents backing onto the Greenbelt to sign an agreement that they know where the Greenbelt boundary is and will not encroach on Greenbelt lands; the argument for protecting the Greenbelt is no longer esoteric and people generally understand that now.

- Work with the City to protect the Greenbelt from encroachment through the land use planning process and enforcement of the Zoning-By-law and Provincial Policy Statement.
- Consider watershed boundaries when reviewing Greenbelt boundaries.
- The boundaries and extent of the Greenbelt should remain flexible, but be protected by legislation.
- Consider requiring a buffer of transitional landscapes (e.g. community gardens) between developed and Greenbelt lands.

Promotion

- Consider a program of Greenbelt packaging/branding to foster a sense of pride and stewardship, and identify greenbelt boundaries.
- Promote urban fishing opportunities and recognize the importance to new Canadians.
- There are 700-800 entrances to the Greenbelt; they should be identified with consistent gateway signage.
- Have the Greenbelt included on road maps of Ottawa; brand it as a national asset.
- Organize programs similar to the City's Clean Sweeping the Capital and City Stream Watch to get people into the Greenbelt and appreciate its value.
- Promote through demonstration sites/innovation, local food production, energy conservation/renewable energy, organics composting, research, periodic open houses in Greenbelt farms, research facilities.

Viewsheds

- Ensure that new replacement buildings or facilities and alteration of grades due to infrastructure do not significantly impact views.
- Balancing the maintenance of agricultural heritage buildings with limited resources while enabling Greenbelt agricultural tenants to remain competitive is a challenge.
- Farms provide vast views of the Greenbelt landscape and play a huge role in creating viewsheds.
- Protect Greenbelt views through better vegetation management.
- Revisit scenic routes to the Greenbelt; existing routes based on 1970's study.

Greenbelt Partners and Stewards

- Current partners include the Ottawa Duck Club, Boy Scouts, Macoun Club, Ottawa Field Naturalists, CPAWS, and Ottawa Trail Association.
- Current NCC staffing resources and diversity of activities and issues hinder the delivery of good Greenbelt management, enforcement, and planning, community relations are good and lines of communication remain open.
- Develop pilot projects to help urban neighbours understand what to expect when living beside Greenbelt farms (i.e. noise, odours).
- The City and NCC should work together to achieve Greenbelt goals common to both organizations.

- Move agricultural leases away from short term (5 year) to long term (25 year) leases to encourage investment.
- It is difficult for the NCC to fulfil its role in Greenbelt stewardship as development progresses outside the Greenbelt.
- NCC may need to play a larger role in supporting agriculture in the Greenbelt (e.g. create market gardens).
- Work with universities to promote research and education activities within the Greenbelt.

Environment

- Establish a “no net loss” of environmental lands policy. If loss is unavoidable, then compensate with a comparable quality of land at a 2:1 or more ratio. If land is not available, consider financial compensation with revenues directed to Greenbelt projects/maintenance.
- Protection of headwater quality and quantity is a hugely overlooked Greenbelt value; landscapes will get drier as effects of climate change are felt locally.
- Frame the Greenbelt as a natural system within a broader ecological context.
- A review of ecological linkages will be critical; retain the ecological link south of the Airport by purchasing additional lands.
- Protect all creeks and streams; over 500 former watercourses in the Region are now municipal drains.
- The Federal Fisheries Act (1986) is under review. A policy change from “no net loss” to “net gain” is under consideration.
- Consider including islands in the Ottawa River and lands along the Ottawa River Parkway in the Greenbelt to enhance linkage functions.
- The NCC should adopt the principles of the Nutrient Management Act as a demonstration of their commitment to stewardship.
- Establish policies for environmental stressors (e.g. white tailed deer, Emerald Ash Borer, West Nile Virus, nuisance wildlife and rabies management).
- Require creek and stream buffers through setback requirements in agricultural leases.
- Strengthen the natural system section of the Plan through enhanced visuals, better identification of ecological linkages both within and beyond Greenbelt boundaries.
- Accommodate for the impacts of development and climate change on water conveyance through creeks and streams.
- Look beyond Greenbelt boundaries when considering what should be included (e.g. Albion Road wetland west of the Leitrim Wetland).
- Enlarge existing roadside culverts to facilitate wildlife crossings roads (e.g. Woodroffe and Merivale).
- Hedgerows can create ecological links, but also can be full of Manitoba maple, hamper the movement of farm machinery, and obstruct views.
- Create a subwatershed study for the Greenbelt.
- Embed a philosophy that degraded ecosystems and corridors be restored.

- Use the Greenbelt to showcase to private landowners what can be done to balance farming with healthy aquatic ecosystems.
- Provide an ecological/recreational rationale for the Greenbelt corridor surrounding Airport lands and include their value to lands beyond existing Greenbelt boundaries.
- Linkage south of Airport attracts birds that cause a safety issue for the Airport.
- Prioritize where to focus ecological restoration efforts.
- Identify ecological conditions required to maintain significant ecological features.
- Assess the carrying capacity of natural areas in urban environments.
- Remove “unofficial” trails running through natural areas.
- Reduce the impact of Hydro access roads on natural areas.
- Integrate water balance and watershed planning concepts into Greenbelt environmental planning.
- Include policies to guide appropriate waterway setbacks/riparian restoration while accommodating the needs of agricultural tile drainage.
- Consider blending all three environmental designations (i.e. Core Natural Area, Linkage, Buffers) into one designation.
- Update information on environmental areas as required.
- Remove all houses and debris (tires, used motor oil) from core natural areas.
- Improve public messaging that deadfall will be removed from paths and trails only in natural areas.
- Install public phones at key trailheads.
- Do not allow streetlights adjacent to core natural areas.

Agriculture

- Establish a no net loss of agricultural land policy.
- A long term vision for agriculture is required.
- Greenhouses extend the growing season, encouraging future generations of farmers; but consider them only on lands that are not agriculturally productive.
- Elevate the value of Greenbelt agricultural lands through profiling their role in providing local food security.
- Use the Greenbelt to showcase to private landowners what can be done to balance farming with healthy aquatic ecosystems.
- Permit sale of Greenbelt produce at Park and Rides and other City and NCC owned lands.
- Develop a vision for Greenbelt agriculture that can be used to attract new farm managers.
- What aspects of agriculture do we wish to profile? How do we balance heritage farms with the current economic reality and what is ultimately profiled?
- In the event of an emergency (e.g. earthquake) Greenbelt agricultural lands will sustain the NCR.
- Address any impacts of trend towards increased individual farm size, and decrease in overall number of farms (e.g. vacant farmhouses requiring lifecycle maintenance).
- Tile drainage systems require repair and maintenance.

- Create a “Model Farm” to demonstrate principles in the Environmental Farm Plan in a Greenbelt farm with a creek near the urban edge.
- Move agricultural leases away from short term (5 year) to long term (25 year) leases to encourage investment.
- Tenants are looking to a commitment to farming by NCC should partner with the City to facilitate and promote farmers markets throughout the Greenbelt to sell produce locally.
- Greenbelt Farm Advisory Committee could be a focus group throughout the Review process.
- Identify and promote via signage, “showcase” farms that are unique in some way (e.g. Riverglen Biodynamic Farm is certified organic, Orleans Fruit Farm (pick-your-own), Dolman Nut Farm).
- Less productive agricultural lands should be naturalized or converted to market gardens or other uses that support the agricultural community, not developed.
- Farmers are aligned with the “Go-Local” program.
- Include a list of agricultural permitted uses in the GMP.
- Consider ways to diversify produce to decrease exiting row crops (soybeans, corn).
- Explore having more Greenbelt farms open to the public.
- Consider longer term leases to encourage tenant investment in overall farm sustainability.
- The Master Plan should provide direction re. the overall management responsibility for farming assets (i.e. tenant/NCC) and then provide details in the Farm Management Plan.

Forestry

- Improve forest health by creating “cultural forests” that approximate pre-settlement forests by routine thinning of Greenbelt plantations (~1000 acres); use the revenue generated from the timber to offset Greenbelt management costs.
- Restore idle farmlands and plantation forests to natural habitat (e.g. grassland habitat) to benefit certain Species at Risk (e.g. Short Eared Owl); restoration efforts must be guided by science.
- Compile better forest information to support management policies.
- Create forestry interpretation / demonstration sites (e.g. commercial forestry practices and results, horse logging, invasive species management in Pine Grove Forest, deer browse impacts,) in safe, accessible sites throughout Greenbelt forests.
- Encourage forest succession and enhanced species diversity through more active forest management.
- Established permitted uses within forests (e.g. motorized vehicles?) based on an analysis of forest functions.

Built Heritage

- Do not permit more physical facilities in the Greenbelt (e.g. schools, churches, prison, day care).
- Many Greenbelt houses are slated for demolition (e.g. along Moodie Drive, Richmond Rd.).
- Is Burke’s Settlement a good fit in the context of the existing GMP? Consider other opportunities.
- Should community/institutions (e.g. Queensway Carleton Hospital, Nepean Sportsplex) be retained in the Greenbelt?

- Protect viewsheds through imposing height restrictions where buildings are permitted.
- Specify the short and long-term goals for residences in the Greenbelt; retention, removal, use modification, or conversion to new uses supporting the Greenbelt (e.g. tourism office).
- Federal offices in the Greenbelt should develop and implement campus sustainability plans.
- Some federal campuses are challenged by the 35% buildable area policy; some would like to build higher.
- Federal accommodations strategy focuses on locations accessible by public transit, and reinvesting in existing infrastructure to enhance sustainability.
- Buffers from federal and other facilities must be maintained to protect residents from disturbances (car alarms from Park and Rides, explosives from research facilities).
- Enhance NCC facilities and facility management in select areas (e.g. Toboggan Hill at P26).

Health and Safety

- Address the leachate issue at the Ridge Road Landfill retention pond.
- Salt spring near Borthwick Creek affects well water quality (salt and methane)
- Address on-site pesticide storage at former MNR Forestry Station in Pine Grove.
- Watt's Creek STP needs to be decommissioned, but currently safe to the public (fenced).
- Some farmhouses have water quality and quantity issues.
- Greenbelt visits should be directed away from federal facilities in the Greenbelt requiring tight security.
- Birds and white-tailed deer at the Airport.
- Consider moving the Greenbelt boundary to include more lands south of the Airport.

Cultural/Aesthetics

- Planned relocation of Navan Road Park N Ride off the escarpment onto Class 2 agricultural land will destroy the current view of agricultural lands.
- Lime Kiln in Stony Swamp threatened by Hope Side Road extension.
- Consider archaeological resources in the Greenbelt.
- Reduce volume of commercial signage in certain locations (e.g. exit from Queensway onto March Rd.)
- River Rd. could become a scenic rural driveway.
- Install consistent, recognizable Greenbelt signage with appropriate landscaping at major entry roads.
- Address aesthetic impacts of certain structures and facilities (e.g. Glen Cairn Biofilter).
- Work with the City to align lighting policies; balance objectives for reduced lighting in the Greenbelt with safety requirements

Recreation and Experiences

- Pursue closure of unused road right-of-ways and use some for recreation and naturalize others (e.g. Shirley's Bay) and naturalization of abandoned rail corridors (e.g. through Mer Bleue).

- Many trail linkages from the 1996 Plan are underway.
- Address human impacts on environmental areas.
- Give people things to do in the Greenbelt that respond to visitor demographics.
- Greenbelt offers a complete range of passive recreational opportunities; minimize active activities.
- Determine if sportsfields could be located in the Greenbelt in some areas (e.g. existing institutional areas) or only consider additional to existing ones.
- Integrate recreational pathways in new development abutting the Greenbelt with Greenbelt pathways.
- Consider the impact on Greenbelt access of the potential closing of some underused/poorly maintained municipal roads (e.g. Dolman and Ridge Road).
- Enhance enforcement re. ATV and snowmobile use in Greenbelt natural areas.
- Consider opportunities for additional dog parks (e.g. west of Moodie).
- Increase opportunities for rural tourism.
- Trail signage should be consistent, trails should lead somewhere, have wayfinding signage along trails with distances to points of interest.
- Consider providing overnight opportunities for cross-country skiers.

Transportation

- Road and infrastructure expansions are a major impact to Greenbelt lands, but the City and NCC can work together to maintain Greenbelt character while still permitting infrastructure.
- Proposed road corridor impacts to the Greenbelt include the proposed extension to Hope Side Road, Innes Walkley transportation corridor through the eastern Greenbelt, the Limebank Road/River Road expansion, the Longfields Road extension through farm fields, Prince of Wales Road widening, the new Interprovincial Bridge.
- Enhance public transit, walking and cycling access to the Greenbelt and share parking facilities with nearby facilities.
- Park and Ride impacts include one proposed at Chapel Hill, and the planned relocation of Navan Road Park N Ride off the escarpment onto Class 2 agricultural land and obstructing current viewshed.
- Widening of Woodroffe Ave. will place pressure on houses at Victory Hill.
- Transfer unopened road allowances from City to NCC ownership. Clearly establish the location of LRT stations and associated parking facilities in the Greenbelt.

APPENDIX 4

Meeting Minutes Public Advisory Committee

GREENBELT MASTER PLAN REVIEW

PHASE 1 – STEP A: EXISTING CONDITIONS

FIRST CONSULTATION WITH THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

MEETING NOTES

Date and Location: April 4, 2009, NCC Headquarters, 40 Elgin Street, Ottawa ON, Room 324
9:30 am - 12:00 pm (Bus tour of the Greenbelt followed from 12:20-3:45)

Project Team

Sylvie Lalonde, Project Manager (NCC)

Sandra Pecek, Public Affairs (NCC)

Elisabeth Lacoursière, Public Affairs (NCC)

Diane Dupuis, Public Affairs (NCC)

François Cyr, Greenbelt Manager (NCC)

Cynthia Levesque, Project Manager (SENES Consultants) **Deborah Irwin**, Project Coordinator (SENES Consultants)

PAC Members

Attendees:

Albert Dugal, on behalf of Ann Coffey, Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region.

Andrew McAlpine, Glens Community Association.

Anwareen Farouk, Heritage Ottawa.

Dawn Patterson, agriculture and operator of a horse farm.

Derek Grant, Friends of Mer Bleue.

Donna Dubreil, Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region.

Gaeten Provencher, La Route Verte.

George Bushell, Gloucester Allotment Gardens Association.

Ivan Leroux, Westboro Beach Community Association.

Klaus Beltzner, Transport 2000.

Louis Caron, Convent Glen Community Association.

Mark Wirth, Westboro Beach Community Association.

Nicole Desroches, Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region.

Paul Henrie, agriculture and operator of a fruit farm.

Peter Ruiter, agriculture and dairy farmer.

Ray Vetter, Friends of Mer Bleue and Navan Community Association.

Rob Savrin, Crystal Beach/Lakeview Community Association.

Sol Shuster, Chair of the Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region.
Sterling Knox, Rural Council of Ottawa-Carleton.
Zlatko Krstulich, Citizens for Safe Cycling

Observers:

Alex Cullen, City of Ottawa Councillor, Bay ward and a PAC observer.
Mari Wellman, Office of Councillor Cullen.

Regrets:

Agnes Warda, Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region
Alison Buchanan, Qualicum-Graham Park Community Association
Ann Coffey, Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region
Candice O'Connell, Responsible Dog Owners of Canada
Chris McLeod, Riverside South Community Association
Maurice Marchand, Vélo-Service
Rocco Romeo, Country Place Community Association
Trudy Hall, Crystal Bay Community Association

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sandra welcomed everyone to the initial meeting of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC). The Project Team and PAC members each introduced themselves and noted their interest in the Greenbelt Master Plan Review.

2. Terms of Reference for the Public Advisory Committee

Sandra provided a brief description of the mandate of the PAC, as articulated within the Terms of Reference. Comments received on the draft Terms of Reference for the PAC are currently being reviewed. PAC members were encouraged to send in additional comments to Elisabeth.

Sylvie explained the study progress to date that has included meetings with other stakeholders such as the federal facility owners/managers within the Greenbelt, agricultural tenants, City of Ottawa staff, provincial agencies and commercial tenants. A public consultation report that documents this consultation process will be completed at the end of this study step.

Sandra then opened the floor to questions. The following outlines the questions and comments raised by PAC members with the responses provided by the project team.

PAC Membership: *Why does the PAC not have representation from tourism or business?*

Representatives from these interests were invited, but did not respond. The project team acknowledged that other means may need to be sought to engage this sector.

Process: *Will the general public be permitted to attend PAC meetings? Will the minutes from stakeholder meetings be available to everyone, striking out the confidential information?*

The NCC will follow-up to explore sharing of the minutes.

PAC members asked if developers are consulted separately, outside of the normal consultation process. Partners and stakeholders, such as the federal agencies, agricultural tenants, the hospitals, etc. are consulted individually, because they have specific and different uses of the Greenbelt. The project team noted that groups are historically used to working separately, however efforts will be made to accommodate these suggestions.

The suggestion was offered to consider engaging a professional facilitator to manage the workshops. People feel secure working with a process facilitator/leader.

Greenbelt Boundary: *Is there a legal definition of the Greenbelt boundary?* There is no legal boundary, however, the NCC has many legislative tools within its regulations to manage and protect the area. The Greenbelt boundary is recognized as NILM lands (National Interest Land Mass) which provides a boundary. NILM lands are a key element in the achievement of the NCC's mandate and are essential to the long-term task of ensuring that the Capital region is physically coherent, effective in terms of its functioning and symbolically meaningful to Canadians. The NILM concept – which remains in place today – was developed in conjunction with (and in 1988 was approved by) the Treasury Board. We may consider additional legislation to protect the Greenbelt.

Members indicated that the City of Ottawa's Official Plan also provides a boundary. The NCC holds a trademark on the name 'Greenbelt'.

Greenbelt Additions: *Can we revisit adding lands to the Greenbelt?*

Yes, addition of lands to the Greenbelt is a part of this review.

Technical Advisory Committee: *Is there a TAC for the Greenbelt Master Plan Review?* A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is usually established to review technical issues as part of environmental assessments.

A formal TAC has not been set for the Greenbelt Master Plan (GMP) review, however, an approximately equivalent range of expertise is informing the study through the range of NCC experts and the SENES consulting team. We have considered that experts may be sought from outside this group for specific theme issues that arise as well. A document on the governance structure will be prepared to clarify each decisional body's role.

Confidentiality: *PAC members should be made aware if information provided to them, or discussed at PAC meetings, is confidential or not.*

The project team promised to advise the PAC of any confidentiality issues.

3. Overview of the Greenbelt, scope and process of the Greenbelt Master Plan Review and preliminary highlights of existing conditions evaluation.

Sylvie Lalonde and Cynthia Levesque delivered a joint Powerpoint presentation entitled, “*The Future of the National Capital Greenbelt - Review of the Greenbelt Master Plan*”. Copies of the presentation were distributed to PAC members at the meeting.

Sylvie presented the first half of the presentation leading up to a discussion of existing conditions. She provided an overview of the Greenbelt, purpose and mandate of the Greenbelt Master Plan, the current review process and highlights of the 2007 GMP evaluation undertaken by Fleishman Hillard.

Cynthia summarized the preliminary results that have been compiled through the evaluation of the existing conditions in the Greenbelt. She noted a number of changes that have occurred since the last Plan in 1996. She noted that respondents to the public survey hosted on the NCC website between December 2008 and March 2009 overwhelmingly supported maintaining the Greenbelt in its current state or enhancing its natural environment, recreational and agricultural features and roles. Upcoming trends include the Emerald Ash Borer which has the potential to affect up to 30 percent of Greenbelt forests; to date, removal of the food source has been identified as the only control to this invasive species. She also noted that many road widenings have occurred on Greenbelt lands since the 1996 Plan, with future plans to expand the road and transit networks.

4. Coffee Break

In the interest of time, a decision was made at this point in the meeting to forego the original plan for comments and questions, break out sessions and plenaries, and replace it with an open group discussion, guided by the following key questions:

5. Group Discussion

The group proceeded to discuss the following:

Question 1: What do you consider to be the Greenbelt’s greatest assets? What are the main threats to the long-term integrity of the Greenbelt?

Asset: The Greenbelt Itself -The Greenbelt’s greatest asset is that it is there, and that we have an opportunity to do something great with it.

Threat: Urbanization - The greatest long-term threat is urbanization. It is an easy target for institutions to set up shop. The focus should be turned away from threats and more towards the Greenbelt as a national treasure and tremendous opportunity.

Threat: Dissection of Greenbelt into Functions - Consider the Greenbelt as a whole, not as individual functioning pieces. The whole thing is a historic and cultural asset; there should be signs saying this.

Threat: The Greenbelt as a federal land bank - One of the stated purposes of the Greenbelt, “to meet government facility needs”, is a questionable concept. It implies that the Greenbelt is a land bank for the feds. The Greenbelt and federal facilities don’t go together; a barn on agricultural lands is compatible, but a high tech park is not. Facilities that are currently there should not be torn down, but don’t put any more up.

Threat: The City of Ottawa’s Official Plan Review – The NCC has informed the City of Ottawa that they do not support the proposed Hope Side Road extension, and will not participate in the Environmental Assessment. Airport lands within the Greenbelt will be considered through this review.

Threat: Moratorium on Federal Environmental Assessments. Environmental Assessments have been suspended

Asset: The Greenbelt Itself - Another PAC member reiterated that the Greenbelt’s greatest asset is that it exists. It could become the Central Park of the National’s Capital. Maintaining long-term integrity is its greatest challenge; a paradigm shift is needed in the worst way to get away from the notion of development there. The current recession may show that growth is not the be all and end all for humans. We need to change the way we think, or the Greenbelt will be gone.

Threat: Transit - Transit is the biggest threat to the Greenbelt. The next Plan should show a hierarchy of transit modes - walking, cycling, then transit - for the next 10 years. The pathway over the Queensway near Kanata was closed for 3 years due to Queensway construction, and was an obstruction to pedestrian movement. The presentation showed slides for cars and transit, but we need to add slides for cycling. Cycling needs a greater profile going forward.

It is 2009, and we’re still talking about widening and expanding roads; we’re not thinking outside the box. Commuters often have to drive through the Greenbelt.

Asset: The Land - The land is the Greenbelt’s greatest asset. There is lots of talk around Mer Bleue, but little about agriculture. Treed land can become farmland, but once it’s a house or a highway, it will never be farmland. The Greenbelt’s greatest asset is farmland, and its proximity to the local consumer.

Threats: Lack of emphasis placed on farms -If farmers are successful, they are considered as land managers. What the public don’t realize is that some years are profitable, but others aren’t. There is a lot of support to protect the airport lands, but only a few want to protect farmland. Consumers want to purchase the product straight from the farm.

Threat: Poor understanding of Greenbelt values - The biggest threat is not being aware of all of its values. We need to better reflect environmental, recreational, and aboriginal values, prepare a list of

areas with built or landscape features, and identify what on the landscape reflect these values. The potential exists to meet everyone's needs. Once the competing national and local values are identified and made visible to all, it will no longer be a threat. We need to know the true value of all Greenbelt assets. For example, part of the Medeola woods has a spectacular mature red maple/ beech/hemlock forest. We need to know the full extent of the value of all assets, not just the ones we commonly hear about.

Asset: Urban Nature - Having this much natural area within an urban environment is an asset.

Threat: Buildable Site Areas - The biggest threat is the notion of buildable site areas. Continuing to identify buildable site area in the Greenbelt will foster this inherent conflict. These interest groups need to be integrated for the Review.

Asset: It's Environmental Value

Threat: Uninformed Youth - Youth are very important; the Greenbelt should be promoted to them so that they will know to enjoy it for years to come. We don't have to try to justify it, we don't need a specific use for everything; just let it be. The overall continuity of the Greenbelt must be protected.

Threat: Uniqueness not recognized - The Master Plan needs the inherent principle that every piece of the Greenbelt is so different and so unique; we don't want to exclude things down the road that may be important.

Threat: Assumption that the Greenbelt is "empty". It's not empty! It's time for an honest and extensive catalogue of what is in the Greenbelt. Catalogue the values, don't just mention them at a high level. We must understand the values associated with all of the lands.

Question 2. Does the Greenbelt have the right balance of roles? Are there any that do not fit with the current Greenbelt vision? Are there any missing?

Role: Education - Education is a huge part of balancing roles. We can smell car fumes but not manure. There is tremendous educational value attached to working farms. The educational role that the Greenbelt provides should be emphasized.

Role: Is a balance between roles required? There is a danger in establishing a balance of roles; what happens if you try to change the balance? The Greenbelt should embrace as many possibilities as you can. Also, the NCC is charged with ownership of the Greenbelt and must be given the capability to manage it. Opportunities will not be possible if they are not funded adequately. NCC funding is torn between Gatineau Park, the Tulip Festival, etc. When they downsized, they did too good a job. Plans need supporting policy to say that the feds will financially support the Plan.

Clear roles and visions must be established first before the balance of roles are considered.

Role: Tourism - There are two groups here today; older and younger people. We need more young people involved as they will guide the future. The national aspect is missing from our discussion; tourism is needed to showcase the lands. Greenbelt destinations supported by national designations would make tourism viable. Tourists are now looking for an experience, not an explanation. The Greenbelt can deliver this.

Process: Share Information - Members were encouraged to visit the Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region website at www.greenbeltcoalition.ca. The Greenbelt Coalition consists of representatives from 15 member organizations, and has developed a preliminary vision, objectives, and a position paper for the Greenbelt.

The PAC requested that they be directed to relevant websites and provided assistance navigating through them. Information could be provided on the Greenbelt website, through a separate site for the PAC, and members advised where to go to find information. The internet is great for discussion forums. PAC members should be linked with members of other consultation groups through the internet. Articles have been written on parts of the Greenbelt, such as Mer Bleue, Stony Swamp, Green's Creek, and Shirley's Bay. It was suggested to create a FTP site where information would be accessible to PAC members.

Process: Quantify Land Uses - We should have a discussion to quantify the current land uses; each with associated percentages. First quantify what land there is (i.e. percentage treed), then determine if there are any policies and projects identified in the current Plan, and activities occurring outside the Plan (i.e. by the City of Ottawa) that might impact upon those percentages. We need to quantify, with data, where we are, what we believe will occur, and recommend how we should be going forward. Others agreed with this process. We can't go forward until we enunciate current assets and roles.

Role: Community Gardens - Community gardens have been lost from NCC lands over the years. In 1981, the NCC had many; now the City of Ottawa provides some. The Gloucester Allotment Gardens are the only ones left of the original ones. Community gardens grow food locally for the local community; like agriculture, it provides an example of sustainable living to adults and children. We need to know where we are with community gardens, then decide where we should go.

Question 3: What emerging trends might influence the future of the Greenbelt? How could they be addressed?

Demographics: The population is aging; those that value the Greenbelt have lived here for a while. There is a huge transient population in Ottawa; it will take these people 20 years to learn the value of the Greenbelt. More needs to be done to address this, children need indoctrination to use it, and recognize its appeal and value. If not, when they're voters, they won't extend pressure to retain it. The audience must appeal to is changing; we must move with it in a dynamic way, while recognizing both the community

and national significance of the Greenbelt. The Greenbelt is not just an artefact; it is something we must value.

Sustainable Living Movement: Feeding yourself close to home is a current trend. We need to discover *real* smart growth. This should influence future trends, with more and more people talking about it. People are getting away from cars; the City is going back to mass transit and active transportation. There is a move towards a more balanced environment in our cities, to live near shopping and work. There is a trend towards Buy Local Grow Local. The NCC could promote this.

Peak Oil: The current financial meltdown is nothing compared to impacts anticipated from peak oil.

Transportation Corridors: Greenbelt integrity is lost in some segments due to transportation corridors. We shouldn't have tunnels for people, geese, and wildlife through the Greenbelt. The challenge is to find other ways.

Political influence: Political influence is a trend. The provinces of Quebec and Ontario are both influencing the location of the interprovincial bridge crossings.

Youth/Academic Engagement: There should be an appreciation that the ecological and cultural heritage of the Greenbelt work together. More young people are becoming engaged in heritage conservation. We need more opportunities to tap into the ecological and cultural academic community. The Greenbelt is not just a legacy of the past, but a living heritage for the future.

Global Warming: The way we live in the next 10-20 years will change dramatically, and will have an impact on the Greenbelt. Development pressures will be huge. The Capital grew quickly in the 50s and 60s; there was a perception that we had lots of land. Making choices will be the real test; will we allocate land to vegetables or dairy? Our lifestyles will have to change; we will still need imports and transportation, but we will have to become more self reliant.

The Big Interruption: The consensus internationally is that this is the time of the Big Interruption; there will be major environmental and economic changes presenting many challenges and opportunities.

NCC as Stewards: The NCC used to do a great job of stewardship and education. We need to collect information and educate. The NCC needs to reconsider this role.

Increase Greenbelt Lands: Some cities are increasing greenbelt lands. We need to bank agricultural land that we'll need in the future, to address the dramatic disruption in our lifestyles that is coming.

Heritage Funding: There is gaining support for heritage funding. Our focus should be on building awareness and gaining public support. We need to get the local community more engaged and invested. However, there could be a lot of competing interests for public attention for awareness exercises in upcoming years.

Land Preservation & Funding: Policy changes have occurred at the Ontario Land Trust in recent years. It could be a way to protect good agricultural land. We have to fight for the money to fund retaining these lands in the long term. A strategy for obtaining funds is needed. Revenue for land trusts can be raised by taxation. People put value on things they know they've been asked to pay for. There is a law in Quebec that requires agricultural land be protected.

6. Lunch

7. Bus Tour of Greenbelt Lands

Sylvie Lalonde, Francois Cyr and Cynthia Levesque provided highlights on Greenbelt features and pressures encountered along the bus tour that began ~12:20 p.m. at Green's Creek and terminated at the Nepean Equestrian Farm on Corkstown Road at ~3:35, with a return to NCC headquarters at ~3:45 p.m. A route map and itinerary for Greenbelt features observed through the tour were provided. A slight modification to the itinerary occurred with replacement of the VIA Rail Station / Agriculture Canada-CFIA research farms stop with a stop at a Greenbelt farm nearby. A member of the PAC, Dawn Patterson offered the group to visit her Greenbelt equestrian farm on Woodroffe Avenue.

Sylvie summarized the next steps for the PAC. Any comments, questions or feedback in the meantime can be sent to E. Lacoursière by e-mail.

8. Concluding Remarks

Concluding remarks from participants regarding today's discussions and bus tour of the National's Capital Greenbelt were noted:

Infrastructure Impacts

The members shared their concerns of urban development resulting in new roads/transitways and other infrastructure within the Greenbelt. The impact of agricultural land loss, visual changes, lighting was discussed. Cumulative impacts were noted; Highway 174, Blackburn Hamlet Bypass, Innes-Walkely-Hunt Club Extension, Limebank Road, Prince of Wales, Highway 417. Consider a mediation / conflict resolution process for working through where future infrastructure bundles should go.

Anderson and Renaud Roads

George explained that there are 60 community garden plots west of the Anderson and Renaud Road intersection. These, along with the 200 near Blackburn Hamlet comprise a total of 260 garden plots within the Greenbelt, down from approximately 700 in the 70's and 80's. He noted that the reduction in number is due to the loss of interest by individuals as they grew older with younger people not taking their place. However, there has been a renewed interest in community gardening in the last couple of years with the result that the Gloucester Allotment Garden Association now has a waiting list, and was able to open 15 new gardens in 2009 and plans to open another 12 new plots in 2010.

Potential solar panels at Woodroffe and West Hunt Club

Some members acknowledged that they could see solar panels within the Buildable Site Area (BSA) on buildings and parking facilities, but not if the panels are proposed for use in a way that will impact upon the prime (Class 2) agricultural lands here. This site was noted as the second largest BSA, after the airport, within the Greenbelt.

Log Farm

The observed maintenance of these facilities was acknowledged as being well done. It was also observed that the roadway and parking lot for the Log Farm are a permeable gravel surface, rather than paved; a positive feature that allows infiltration.

Shirley's Bay

The description of the ecological features here raised the comment that it would be desirable to have increased access to the Ottawa River at Shirley's Bay, particularly through the Connaught Range. It was acknowledged that this access is difficult for the general public, as controlled permission is provided to selected groups by DND, provided that defence training sessions are not underway at the proposed time of access. The balancing of accessibility with DND operational needs should be considered through this GMP review.

Entrepreneurship of Sites

Consider an approach for unsolicited proposals that can address entrepreneurial development of tourism destinations to build upon the existing ones just viewed (the Ottawa Campground, Nepean Equestrian Centre, Log Farm). Criteria for acceptable plans could include respect of environmental integrity and businesses which do not directly compete with nearby operations. This could be a way of obtaining creative business ideas that would increase the number of tourist destinations within the Greenbelt. They could also meet the Greenbelt objectives to provide for public education and interpretation opportunities. It was noted that the Greenbelt is a lot of land to be made more appealing for visitors. At present, there are too few destinations that are too small and too limited in appeal to the greater public. Maybe more sugar bushes can be established.

Pressures

It was noted that the Greenbelt is currently the subject to a lot of pressures, and will continue to be pressured. It is also likely that the NCC cannot say "No" to everything. The long list of requests for Greenbelt lands need to be reviewed to identify those that maintain and uphold the Greenbelt vision, principles, and objectives. For those that likely need to happen, how can the Greenbelt be compensated when there are losses? Focussing on accomplishments needed for the Greenbelt to fulfill its national role, such as enhanced tourism destinations, can assist in deflecting the pressures of using Greenbelt lands to meet local community infrastructure needs. Consider finding creative ways to address these pressures, while meeting community infrastructure needs and the City's need for an increased tax base and reduction of infrastructure costs.

Please note that not all comments are recorded in the order in which they were presented. Some comments have been moved to present the extent of the discussion according to subject themes. The context has been retained in all cases.

9. Next Steps / Action Items

The following key items for follow-up were raised during the group discussion:

9.1 *Project Governance and PAC Membership:*

- a) *Business Representation:* The seven business organizations invited to participate in the PAC will continue to be circulated on PAC communications, including invitation to future PAC meetings and discussions. Cynthia will explore identification of a business representative through the City of Ottawa business development group.
- b) *Meeting Structure:* The project team will remain mindful of openness and transparency in the establishment of consultation sessions throughout the Greenbelt Master Plan review, structuring discussions to bring varied stakeholders together, as feasible.
- c) *Project Governance:* A formal Technical Advisory Committee is not envisioned beyond the current technical experts within the National Capital Commission and SENES project team. Additional technical advice will be sought, if needed, from stakeholders or other subject matter experts should specific issues arise. The governance structure for decision-making throughout the Greenbelt Master Plan Review process is illustrated in Figure 1 attached to these meeting notes.

9.2 *Preparation and Sharing of Meeting Notes:*

- a) It is acknowledged that the project team should clarify that each of the stakeholder meetings that are held throughout the GMP review process will be captured within meeting notes that summarize the exchange of information and ideas. The above described discussion under agenda item #2 (terms of reference) notes that meeting “minutes”, generally verbatim or slightly paraphrased records of meeting discussions, will be produced when this is not the case. The summarized meeting notes will be included in the public consultation reports prepared at each of the study steps of existing conditions evaluation, vision development, land use concept preparation and sector plan development. These reports will be available publicly.

9.3 *Status of Airport Lands*

- a) Information is currently being sought on the status of the airport lands; these lands along with all other Greenbelt lands will be discussed with stakeholders during the GMP review. The NCC and the City have agreed that the City’s Official Plan and the Greenbelt Master Plan will become aligned, with the alignment of land use designations to be accomplished through conclusion of the next OP review process (~2013) that follows approval of the GMP (expected in late 2011). Should members have specific questions regarding current Official Plan policies under consideration, questions may be submitted to Myles Mahon, Planner with

the City of Ottawa (613-580-2424, extension 27817). The City's revised Official Plan and Infrastructure Master Plan will be considered through their public Committee meeting on May 11, 2009.

9.4 *Changes to Greenbelt Lands*

- a) Research for past divestiture of Greenbelt lands, particularly for Leitrim will be undertaken. As noted above, the potential for changes to Greenbelt lands, opportunities for additions and identification of lands that do not fit, if any, will be explored through this review.

9.5 *Maintain Regular and Ongoing Communications throughout the Review (i.e. between meetings):*

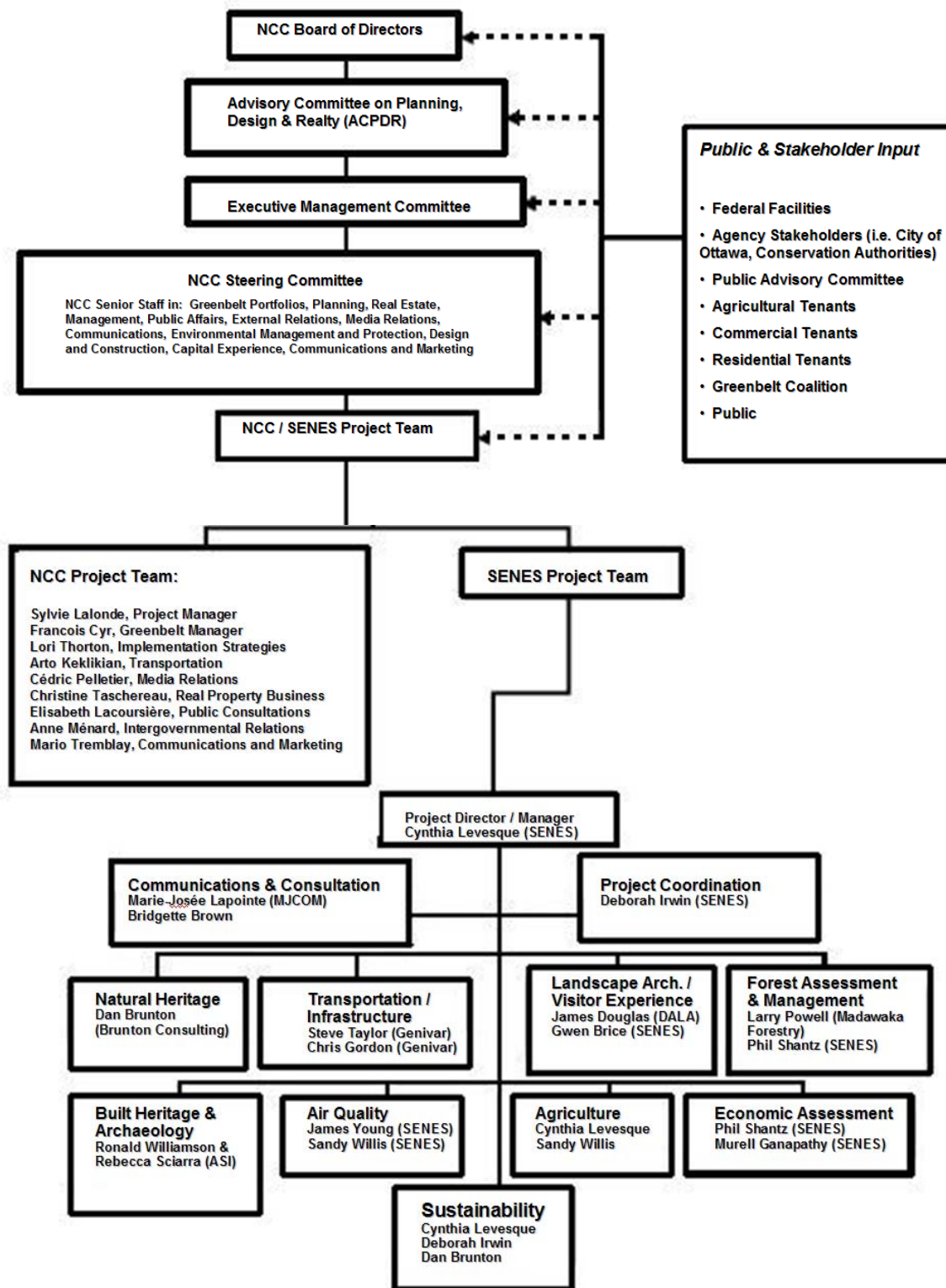
- a) *Ongoing Communication* - It is agreed that continued interaction will be helpful to participants and will improve input to the review. Available internet tools are being explored to allow Greenbelt stakeholders to keep informed and exchange ideas. The project team will advise PAC members of the approach to be taken in the near future.
- b) *Sharing of Reports and Data* – The inventory of reports being referenced for the Greenbelt's existing conditions assessment will be posted on the FTP site currently being established by the NCC. This site will also post the electronic versions of these reports, for those that are available, as well as other documents relevant to the GMP review as they become available. The PAC meeting notes and copy of the presentation discussed through the April 4th meeting, and subsequent meetings, will also be posted here. Documents that exist in hard copy only (generally older reports) will be available through the NCC library on the second floor at 40 Elgin Street.
- c) *Request for PAC meeting before summer* – It is anticipated that the project team will not have significant new materials to discuss before the summer of 2009. The next PAC meeting will focus on sharing the results of the Greenbelt existing conditions assessment that will in turn serve to inform refinement of the Greenbelt vision. This meeting is anticipated as a face-to-face meeting in the fall with ongoing electronic communications to be established as described above.

9.6 *Compile a History of the Greenbelt*

- a) The project team was requested to consider compiling a history of the Greenbelt, particularly of activities since 1996. This research is being compiled by the project team at present, for consideration as part of the existing conditions report.

Figure 1

Greenbelt Master Plan Review Project Governance Structure



APPENDIX 5

Meeting Minutes Agricultural Tenants

GREENBELT MASTER PLAN REVIEW

PHASE 1 – STEP A: EXISTING CONDITIONS

FIRST CONSULTATION WITH AGRICULTURAL TENANTS

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Date and Location: Saturday March 28, 2009, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Top Generation Club, 4373 Generation Court

Project Staff Present: Sylvie Lalonde, Project Manager (NCC)
Cynthia Levesque, Project Manager, SENES Consultants Ltd. (SC)
Deborah Irwin, Project Coordinator, SENES Consultants Ltd. (SC)
Eva Katic, Portfolio Officer, Greenbelt (NCC)
Johanna Currie, Portfolio Officer, Greenbelt (NCC)
Michel Talbot, Leasing (NCC)
Wayne Caldwell and Katie Temple, Guests, University of Guelph

Agricultural Tenants

Present: Lorry Lennox
Kenny Lennox
Stephen Lennox
Linda Larocque
Robert Clark
Dawn Patterson
Greg Foster
Ivor Mallows
Orville Shaw
Diane and Tim Groniger
Linnéa Rowlatt
Amber Power
David Power
Greta Kryger
Paul Henrie
Peter Ruiter
Christopher Deeble
Eliane Michele Crematy

N.B Please note that comments are not necessarily recorded in the order in which they were presented. Some comments have been moved to group the discussions according to subject topics and to follow, where feasible, the meeting agenda. The context has been retained in all cases.

1. Welcome

Sylvie Lalonde opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and expressing appreciation to everyone for their attendance today, on behalf of the project team.

2. Overview of the Greenbelt Master Plan Review Process

Sylvie Lalonde provided an overview of the Greenbelt, the Master Plan and the current review process. Cynthia Levesque provided highlights on the preliminary results of the Greenbelt's existing conditions and outlined the study next steps.

3. Work Groups – Discussions - Existing Conditions of the Greenbelt Farms

Participants broke into three workgroups to discuss the questions as outlined below.

Results from Work Group Discussions

Question 1: Describe your experiences in working Greenbelt lands.

Greenbelt as a Location:

- Some tenants remarked that the Greenbelt location work well for them in that it is close to markets where they can sell their products and their personal needs, as tenants, have generally been met.
- The farmers described some negative impacts of their location related to high traffic volumes and speeds, creating difficulty in moving livestock from across roads. There have also been robberies reported.

Property Management:

- Attendees expressed concern about a decline in the quality of the property management the NCC provides its tenants. They noted that there was a perceived lack of communication and coordination between the property managers, leasing agents and lessees. One key concern was that the property managers work to better communicate tenant concerns to the NCC, when appropriate. Others expressed concern that the NCC needed more human resources to manage leased Greenbelt land effectively.
- Some tenants asked that the NCC place more emphasis placed on maintaining capital assets, given that tenants believed that they were being asked to be responsible for too large a share of the maintenance costs. Overall, attendees suggested that the NCC could work to better plan, coordinate and carry-out capital asset investment to ensure maximum value for its investments. Barns were a particular concern as the structures have become more damaged over time. Delineating who is responsible for maintenance is important, according to several attendees.

Particular concerns included the maintenance of fences and ditches. Tenants asked how responsibilities were split between greenbelt tenants or the NCC.

- It was recommended that the NCC staff work to be more responsive to lessees and to ensure that the NCC's lease responsibilities are attended to quickly, especially when the management firm does not respond to tenant concerns. Tenants asked that responsibilities held by the tenant, the property management firm and the NCC be clearly outlined. Moreover, meeting participants suggested that a follow-up inspection be performed after repairs and works are undertaken to ensure the quality of the work.
- Other agricultural tenants were concerned that some tile drains are damaged beyond repair, though maintenance of the tile drains is considered to be the tenant's responsibility. In some cases, the tile drains were seen to not move enough water volume, limiting the types of crops that could be planted.
- It was noted that the property manager does routinely check well drinking water.

Rules & Rent:

- Some tenants thought that their capital investment in their properties had been well recognized by the NCC as leases were renegotiated and renewed. Others tenants wished for a more transparent and fair process to determine when a lowering of lease rents is appropriate as a recognition of participatory investments in maintenance.
- Concerns were expressed about the complexity of regulation related to Greenbelt land leases and the land management of Greenbelt lands. Of particular note, many activities require NCC permission. The tenants also believed that the rents charged for their land was too high.

Insurance:

- Lessees are unsure if obtaining property/crop insurance is their responsibility. Some recommended that a delineation of this responsibility be included in the lease, including a process for management of awarded claims, as they occur.

Manure:

- Leaseholders recommend that the NCC look at permitting the removal of manure from fields as a possible opportunity.

Fencing / Encroachment:

- Key encroachment concerns include hot air balloon landings, cross country skiers, hikers and four-wheelers, where these groups are seen to trespass on Greenbelt lease farmland. Signage was recommended by some tenants to better limit encroachment activities.
- Tenants expressed an interest in work with the NCC to ensure that the movement and grazing of cattle does not conflict with the NCC's forest management in promoting undergrowth regeneration.

Question 2. What works well to support your farm operation? What would make your farm easier to run?

Property Management:

- Several farmers noted that they are aware of good management practices and do their best to implement them. Ensuring that property managers are also familiar with the management practices and needs of agricultural tenants is helpful.
- A suggestion to initiate and/or formalize a cost-sharing agreement between the NCC and tenants to ensure that even larger, more expensive assets are maintained was made. Longer term leases were seen to be more conducive to tenant investment in the Greenbelt's farming facility assets. Providing better access to maintenance advice was also highlighted as a way to ensure that old buildings are maintained more effectively and would make farming in the Greenbelt easier.

Land in the Greenbelt:

- Farmers generally described Greenbelt land base as tile-drained, flat, productive and good agricultural land.

Farm Tenant Network / Resource Sharing:

- It was found that the Farm Tenant Association was not well known. Tenants would like a contact list, with e-mails, of all Greenbelt farm tenants to be able to establish a network for sharing information, sharing knowledge and equipment, supporting each other
- Assistance was also sought to determine the rules regarding farm gate sales

Question 3. What are some of the challenges that you see to long-term viability on your farm? On Greenbelt or local area farms overall? If there are differences, explain why.

Leases and Incentives to Invest:

- Existing short term leases were not seen to encourage long term planning and investment. If tenants invest in the assets, it is suggested that this action be acknowledge by a decrease in rent. Tenant expressed a strong desire for management consistency in terms of asset maintenance practices, as well as the incentives paid to promote investments in asset maintenance.

Farmland Losses:

- Farmers were concerned that Greenbelt farms were perceived by others as vacant land that is available for development. Urban pressure to expand and build infrastructure or build on Greenbelt land is causing significant Greenbelt losses. Tenants stressed that those who reside in urban areas should seek to better understand the value of agricultural land.

Question 4. What are your observations regarding the health of the lands on your farm and in the surrounding area?

Farm Health Indicators:

- There is some crop damage due to deer. The presence of geese and coyotes are also issues.
- Farm productivity remains generally high.
- The soil is washed away near the tile drains and there is visible soil slumping in some farm locations.
- Environmental concerns include the contamination and erosion of watercourses, air pollution from vehicles and dumping
- Users of recreational paths nearby to farms are causing some problems.
- Some farmers have been investing on maintaining their facilities to ensure continued productivity.
- Plans are being development to stop the bank erosion and plant vegetation to naturalize the stream slopes.

Question 5. Are there changes needed to improve farm productivity and viability in the Greenbelt? If yes, please explain.

Drainage / Trees:

- Some tenants said that land drainage could be updated and improved.
- Other concerns included keeping trees away from fence rows and tile drains, as trees and roots were seen to affect building structures.

4. Round Table Introductions and Selection of Representatives for the Public Advisory Committee

Participants introduced themselves, describing their farm and interest in the Greenbelt. In response to a request for representatives to the Public Advisory Committee for the Greenbelt Master Plan review process, Mr. Peter Ruiter, Mr. Paul Henrie and Ms. Dawn Patterson volunteered to participate in this committee on behalf of the Greenbelt agricultural tenants.

5. What Should the Future of Farming in the Greenbelt Look Like?

Participants continued within three work groups to discuss the potential future for agriculture within the Greenbelt, generally following the questions below.

Results from Round Table Discussions

Question 1: What do you see as the future for Ontario farms? For operations in the Greenbelt? For your lands? What will Greenbelt farms look like in 50 years?

Farm Consolidation:

- Farms will continue to consolidate as the prices of farm inputs, like fertilizer, continue to rise. There seems to be a trend for agriculture towards large dairy farms, chicken farms, and hobby farms with horses for private use. Tenants noted that the establishment of large farm corporations would result in a loss of heritage. Some tenants are concerned that there will be no small farms in the future, while the total number in the Greenbelt will also decline. Others believe that external factors (i.e. higher costs of energy etc.) will reduce the size of farms.

Future Greenbelt Concerns and Hopes:

- Farm tenants are concerned that in the future the Greenbelt will be developed for housing and infrastructure. They also underlined continuing concerns about the possibility of regional Ring Road. Ideally, one participant noted that they hoped that there would be fewer farming restrictions, while another hoped that farmers could become key Greenbelt ambassadors to the public. The tenants generally thought that the farmers should be better protected by the NCC and the City of Ottawa.

Question 2: Does this future include the potential for increased production of varied food crops for marketing to local residents? How might this be accomplished?

Produce Sales and Promotion:

- There could be farmers markets throughout the Greenbelt to sell produce locally. Farmers currently must purchase a licence from the City of Ottawa for roadside sales. Tenants generally think that government restrictions are limiting produce selling opportunities and that the NCC should work with the City of Ottawa to reduce restrictions. Resource, knowledge and policy support from the NCC is suggested to ensure farm operations remain viable.
- Opportunities include participation in local farmers markets and City Park & Rides, a program that provides consumers with a Buy Local Guide, or better advertisement of fresh produce available in the Greenbelt itself (that can be seen from roads passing through the Greenbelt). Tenants also perceive the NCC as promoting on-farm sale of produce. They generally believe that providing access will result in added burden to farmers (which should be reduced by lowering rents), although with the benefit of providing access to the public and educating them about the value of agriculture.
- A few tenants described those who stop in to buy produce, dropping in to and from work at the farm gate.

- Those farms with greater crop variety described more stability of income; should one crop fail in a given year there are other crops to compensate.
- Another tenant noted that their farm has become certified organic over the time that they have been there

Land Management

- Some tenants believe the NCC should not permit the loss of agricultural land through road widening, especially where development would affect prime agricultural lands as defined by soil capability classes. Generally, it is suggested that farms surrounded by an undeveloped buffer between farm operations and adjacent uses benefit from increased productivity.
- Some agricultural tenants believe that biosolids should be permitted on non-food crops arguing that the issue should be considered at an individual farm level rather than general prohibition.
- There is a perception that expansion and building on NCC farms is not possible.

Long Term Leases:

- Tenants believe that the NCC should consider a 25 year lease for all tenants to start. Recognize that not everyone will be able to entertain such a long-term commitment, but it could form a strong basis for long term farm asset viability and health. It was noted that a 25 year lease can still be changed/re-negotiated should situations for the farm, tenant, or NCC, change during that period.

Farm Tenant Eligibility Criteria:

- Participants noted that the NCC should prioritize farm business plans that include producing local food, organic foods, food systems linked to the ecosystem or that encourage youth. The situation of not having a food terminal in Ottawa was noted – food for Ottawa area is shipped from Montreal or Toronto.

Question 3. Other than food crops, what type of market and product focus should the Greenbelt lands target, keeping in mind the soils and climate?

Diversity of Garden Vegetables:

- Farmers could produce garden vegetables (corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, strawberries, pumpkins, turnips, cabbage). While greenhouses can artificially lengthen the growing season, one Greenbelt farmer grew fabulous greenhouse geraniums for Loblaws, but could not compete with southern markets, as greenhouse maintenance costs (e.g. the oil heating, lighting) drove unit costs up. Similarly, a market gardener in Edwards intended to supply corn to Loblaws, but couldn't compete. Sheep and goat farming could cater to the multicultural community of new Canadians. Farms should consider producing a variety of products to help buffer annual variability in production. Market gardens are a good choice.

Ethanol, alternative energy:

- Opportunities identified included alternative energy generation. Iogen in Ottawa produces ethanol and could be a potential partner of the NCC. Solar power could be a good use for marginal agricultural lands. Recent protests against wind farming in Vankleek Hill were noted. Wind/solar power generation in the Greenbelt would be a viable option 10 to 15 years from now when the technology is available and economic feasibility is proven. Tenants believe what happens on agricultural lands in the Greenbelt is likely to be driven by economics, but that agricultural lands should not be perceived as a better potential location for alternative energy than conservation lands.

Tourism / Greenbelt Farms as Showcase:

- Participants noted farms are unique to some international tourists and that as Canadians, we do not recognize their uniqueness. We could encourage “rural ramble” tours, better link agricultural trails, and provide opportunities for B&B (Bed and Bales) and/or tea houses.
- Tenants argued that the NCC needs to break down barriers in decision making to allow for Greenbelt farm improvements. The Greenbelt should be the showcase for farming in Canada; it is appropriate given that this is the Nation’s Capital. We need to capitalize on the fact that Greenbelt farms are protected.

Build an equestrian arena:

- A few noted that they would like to have the NCC support establishment of a coverall Arena. Equestrian farms need year-round capability to provide riding opportunities. Some type of arrangement could perhaps be negotiated to design an Arena that fits in with the visual attractiveness that is desired to maintain the Greenbelt’s cultural heritage. It is acknowledged that tenants have a shared responsibility to maintain our cultural heritage. The demand for year-round riding is noted to be there – community would support this type of expansion to Greenbelt equestrian farms.

Education and Youth:

- Introducing youth to farming, perhaps also new Canadians, could be considered for a Greenbelt farm focus. Small plots of land could be assigned to individuals as part of the training, walk people through how to produce various food types.

Support for Farm Gate Sales:

- Selling at the farm gate is noted as a lot of work. Knowledge and resource supports in this area could also be helpful to work through how to sell at the farm gate, what is allowable for sale, how to manage kitchen produced foods (heritage farm apple pies). The NCC, agent and network of other Greenbelt farmers could provide this knowledge support.

Resource Sharing:

- One tenant would like to share manure nutrients with others because they cannot use all of the manure produced on their own farm. Sharing of equipment, knowledge for problem resolution were described as significant opportunities.

Question 4: What would you need if you considered changing your farm operation towards the future description discussed in your group?

Funding and Lease Adjustments:

- The NCC could consider facilitation and funding of diversified uses of Greenbelt farms (e.g. wind farms, solar power generation). They need to provide 25 year leases, not 5 years leases, so that farmers have adequate time to offset larger operating costs and required capital investments.

Resources:

- A need was expressed for: more buildings, expansion of facilities, more land; improved landscaping; windmills; improved Hydro service; more local farmers markets for local produce (with checks to ensure the products are local); agro-tourism (dairy calves are a hit with tourists); school groups to see animals and learn about farming; ensure potential liabilities associated with agro-tourism are addressed; improved drainage; improved existing produce stands; wildlife; and, above all, a hardworking group to get this all going.

Flexibility:

- Tenants noted that the NCC needs to keep an open mind and more flexibility regarding permitted uses on agricultural lands. The NCC and tenants need to think outside the box regarding new opportunities. Meeting attendees were frustrated by the many approvals that required from the NCC, City, etc. (e.g. signage regulations include language, setback from roads, laneways, type and location of signage).

Farm Energy Retrofits:

- The discussion on energy also led to the suggestion to take advantage of mass purchasing power for establishing energy efficient, alternative energy sources, within Greenbelt homes. A conversion to geothermal heating (and cooling) could be considered with likely rather quick payback periods given the significant operating cost of an average oil furnace in comparison to geothermal. Costs of ~\$18K for a geothermal system were noted (capital cost) compared to the current \$4K per year for heating oil (operating).
- Consider an equipment sharing co-operative program among Greenbelt farmers.

6. Meeting Wrap-up

Cynthia summarized next steps for the GMP review and future contact with the Greenbelt tenants. Public meetings for this first stage, the existing conditions evaluation, will be held in mid to late May at locations that are east, central and west within or close to the Greenbelt. Greenbelt farmers are encouraged to attend these discussions as well, if possible. It was agreed that another meeting with the agricultural tenants will be set in November or January for the land use concept stage consideration of options. Consideration will also be given to maintain communications in the meantime and throughout the Greenbelt Master Plan Review process. A copy of the presentation from today will be made available on an FTP site of the NCC and minutes will be e-mailed or mailed to all tenants within approximately 4-6 weeks. Comments are welcome from farmers at any time to the attention of Cynthia Levesque (613-820-7500 or clevesque@senes.ca) or Sylvie Lalonde (613-239-5512 or Sylvie.Lalonde@ncc-ccn.ca).

APPENDIX 6

Meeting Minutes Greenbelt Coalition

GREENBELT MASTER PLAN REVIEW

PHASE 1 – STEP A: EXISTING CONDITIONS

CONSULTATION WITH GREENBELT COALITION

SUMMARY OF MINUTES

Date and Location: Colonel By Room at City of Ottawa's City Hall Building
Wednesday, May 20, 2009 – 7pm

Project Staff Present: Sylvie Lalonde, Project Manager (NCC)
Cynthia Levesque, Project Manager, SENES Consultants Ltd. (SC)
Deborah Irwin, Project Coordinator, SENES Consultants Ltd. (SC)
Christopher Meek, Student Planning Agent (NCC)

A dozen members of the Greenbelt Coalition were also present although not named in this report.

The Greenbelt coalition, made up of a diverse group of stakeholders including environmental activists, naturalists, community leaders, representatives from the agricultural community, botanists and wildlife enthusiasts, was created during the Fall of 2008 in response to the NCC's ongoing review and update of the 1996 Greenbelt Master Plan. Members of the Greenbelt Coalition raised several concerns related to development within the Greenbelt, public education and what protections and reassurance a newly updated Greenbelt Master Plans could offer.

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4. Welcome

Sylvie Lalonde opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and expressing appreciation to everyone for their attendance today, on behalf of the project team.

5. Overview of the Greenbelt Master Plan Review Process

Sylvie Lalonde provided an overview of the Greenbelt, the Master Plan and the current review

process. Cynthia Levesque provided highlights on the preliminary results of the Greenbelt's existing conditions and outlined the study next steps.

6. *Discussions - Existing Conditions and Input for the Greenbelt Master Plan Review*

Following the brief overview presentation, a discussion was initiated to discuss concerns and input from members of the Greenbelt Coalition.

The following denotes the issues and questions raised by the Greenbelt Coalition following a brief presentation on the Greenbelt Master Plan update.

Development in the Greenbelt

- Alongside the Airport Master Plan update, there is concern that the City and the Airport Authority will be allowed to build commercial uses and/or business parks on federally-owned lands within the Greenbelt (airport leased Transport Canada lands outside of operational airport areas).
- Questions were raised as to how the NCC would be able to reduce the likelihood of incidental development on Greenbelt lands needed to complement growth located off Greenbelt lands. The example raised was a Storm Water Management facility built within the Greenbelt as a result of residential development off Greenbelt lands.

Development adjacent to the Greenbelt

- How does the Greenbelt Master Plan manage development just outside of the Greenbelt lands, and how are these land-uses buffered so that they do not damage the integrity of the Greenbelt. How can we use buffers, like those used to protect floodplains and riparian zones, and apply those to the Greenbelt? Coalition members noted that there are important connections needed to be protected from Greenbelt lands to areas of natural significance outside of the Greenbelt.

Preventing Loss of Natural Systems

- Concerns were raised regarding how the NCC would limit loss of Greenbelt lands. What rules are in place to protect natural systems? How can the NCC policies help to extract ourselves and remove our (human) influence from these natural systems?
- How does the Master Plan manage invasive species? Recent infestations of invasive species include white tail deer; wild turkeys, geese, rabbits and wild garlic were mentioned.

Public Education

- The issue of the need to improve the education of citizens within and outside of the National Capital Region about the value of the Greenbelt was a serious concern. It was deemed important to focus on informing visitors to the Greenbelt about its purpose, its importance, its function as well as its underlying cultural role and history. Education could play a role in reducing the number of visitors who act in ignorance if they do not know, especially with respect to resolving wildlife/human conflicts. Educative resources could include both active and passive programming and could include a focus on biodiversity. One member spoke out that the average people need to know what the value of the Greenbelt is to the broader region.
- The process of public education should also be improved, by better educating the public about the Greenbelt Master Plan update process itself in order to bring more people into the fold. The

Ottawa Citizen, Radio-Canada (TV and Radio), Ottawa Local TV stations were mentioned as possible outlets for information.

- Regarding maps of the Greenbelt, coalition members underlined the need for better publically accessible mapping of Greenbelt recreational resources with a special emphasis on pathway and trail maps. These utilities could be beneficial both on the internet as well as in self-contained, paper hard copies. Better mapping could be integrated as a way to improve public education programming about the Greenbelt. Perhaps, the production of a Greenbelt Atlas could be beneficial.
- One coalition member raised the question about whether a political component would be included in the Greenbelt Master Plan Update, especially because the Greenbelt needs the support of political will to be implemented successfully

Organizational Transparency

- The coalition also requested that more transparency be allowed so that the coalition and the general public would be made aware of what studies were being performed as part of the Greenbelt Master Plan update. They also asked to be allowed to read the information contained within these studies, once they are completed. This would potentially enable opportunities for collaborative efforts, and public comment before a complete draft update is completed.
- The coalition also requested that transcripts or meeting minutes be made available from meetings with various federal departments who have a stake in the Greenbelt Master Plan Update. At the least, they requested a list of the department and agency representatives who were consulted as the Greenbelt Master Plan Update be prepared.

Greenbelt Agricultural Lands

- Members of the coalition also expressed interest in finding ways better integrate agricultural areas into nearby natural areas of the Greenbelt. One idea was to better use hedgerows and buffers around waterways as linkage spaces.
- In response to the brief presentation on the natural systems and natural value of the Greenbelt, a question was raised about how the Greenbelt Master Plan was going to defend the agricultural value of the Greenbelt.

Other Issues

- Questions were also raised about what role and purpose the National Workshop would play in the Greenbelt Master Plan Update and whether or not it would be effective.
- The coalition also requested a glossary of terms that further defined what is meant by words such as ecological value, environment etc... that were deemed have different definitions based on differing organizational perspectives.

4. Meeting Wrap-up

Cynthia summarized next steps for the GMP review and future contact with the Greenbelt Coalition. Comments are welcome at any time to the attention of Cynthia Levesque (613-820-7500 or clevesque@senes.ca) or Sylvie Lalonde (613-239-5512 or Sylvie.Lalonde@ncc-ccn.ca).

APPENDIX 7

Summary of On-line Consultations 1

Summary of the on line consultation 1

A questionnaire on NCC's website asking what people knew and thought of the Greenbelt received 404 answers between mid-December 12, 2008 and beginning of March 2009. The vast majority of respondents use the Greenbelt for recreational activities on a regular basis. They are deeply attached to its preservation and oppose activities that would cause perturbation of its natural environment, while supporting more educative and recreational services.

Respondents very familiar and somewhat familiar with the Greenbelt, its places and role in the Nation's Capital are almost half and half. Better signage and maps, better transit access, more use of media and advertisement and more events and activities are all suggestions made to improve knowledge of the Greenbelt.

More than 80% of respondents find the visual aesthetics of the landscapes to be important; only 3% don't. Air quality and climate change benefits are important to 94% of respondents. Many think the Greenbelt provides very valuable environmental services and that preserving it provides an important economic contribution. 18% support urban growth in the Greenbelt while 57% are opposed and 24% are indifferent. Institutional and Business Areas and Campuses, such as Macdonald-Cartier Airport, Nortel, Agriculture Canada research and operations of the Department of National Defence seem to let people indifferent (almost half the respondents) or are thought unimportant (over a third of answers). 60% consider keeping examples of our cultural and built heritage to be important while 35% are neutral. 20% think roads in the Greenbelt are important while 38% are indifferent and 42% think they aren't.

The 404 respondents mention over 40 favorite areas; Greens Creek, Mer Bleue and Stony Swamp being the most popular. Among the 20 activities that are the most cherished; walking/hiking/trekking/running, cycling, cross-country skiing and observing nature score highest. The variety of activities is impressive: orienteering, fishing, picnicking are just a few examples.

Changes noticed in the Greenbelt during the last decade are mostly with regards to development: sometimes found positive (bridge at Victory Hill), negative but needed (gas pipeline) or negative and non-necessary (sale and development of green space). Most changes noticed relate to pathways that are more numerous and more used; natural areas that are more visited (such as Mer Bleue), being degraded (such as shoreline degradation) and more lush greenery; more off-leash zones for domestic animals are more used but there remain conflicts.

Many comments address how to improve the Greenbelt and areas of interest. The vast majority of comments on land use express reasons for not further developing the Greenbelt. Some people propose criteria for the development, usually around smart growth and other sustainability concepts. Some respondents suggest areas to be developed, with no trend towards any specific places. Transportation solutions are also brought forward.

Recreation is a key interest of respondents with comments about access, pathways and dogs, while suggestions for off-path activities and facilities are made. Various educational activities or improvements to existing ones are suggested. Respondents share their interest for the state of the Greenbelt, its size, the value and benefits of its conservation and how to do it and studies that could be done.

Some express their support for agricultural activities inside the Greenbelt and how it could be more sustainable. Some comments address safety and decision-making processes.

In sum, the Greenbelt is being used and valued by respondents who practice a wide variety of recreational activities and are concerned by its conservation.

APPENDIX 8

Summary of Shopping Centre Consultations

Feedback Highlights Heard by Staff at the June 2009 Shopping Mall Consultation and Information Sessions – Greenbelt Master Plan Review

Event	Reach	Consultation Discussion Highlights
<p>World Exchange Plaza 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday June 11, 2009</p> <p>Facilitators: Sylvie, Elisabeth, Eva, Jason, Arto, Cynthia</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In total the group spoke to ~ 90 people • 24 completed questionnaires collected • Mostly lunchtime crowd of professionals; mix of knowledge of the Greenbelt – some live nearby, visited for years to those who do not know of it at all • A few people noted that they had come by specifically to see us, as a result of the newspaper or radio advertisements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a potential to sell these lands? I would like to see it kept as is • NCC doing a great job! I want to know what is happening with Lansdowne Park. • Do not sell Greenbelt lands for development – protect it from future growth in residential, commercial • Enjoy living in Ottawa because of the natural and recreational opportunities provided by the Greenbelt; I use it for recreation • need additional signage on recreational paths • Love the Greenbelt – no time for the questionnaire • do not sell the lands; make the facilities greener • I will take the questionnaire away to complete plus materials – I want to know more • It would be a great idea to have a community farm where individuals could go to practice and learn farming such as beekeeping, sheep, etc.; I do not have the capital to buy my own farm to try this out but would jump at the opportunity to join us to work on a farm a few hours a week to learn, after work, on weekends; I understand there is a community farm such as this set up in Toronto • Would not wish to see the Greenbelt developed! • I like having a Greenbelt here; I board a horse near the airport in the Greenbelt; riding here gives me the opportunity to see lots of wildlife • I used to visit the Greenbelt a lot; not so much now but like the contributions that the Greenbelt's natural environment provides to our health • I live backing onto Stony Swamp; am interested in connecting with the community association that is on the PAC (card provided for follow-up) • I am interested in the Greenbelt and will try to participate in the review • Consider the history of this Greenbelt and that of others to inform the future plan; people should remember that this Greenbelt was designed for institutional use – I do not think that most people know this • It is great to find out about this resource – is there public access? this will then be a great place to visit in the summer!

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My main concern is that no development be allowed to occur in the Greenbelt; I live in Blackburn Hamlet • The Greenbelt is one of the most wonderful things in Ottawa! • I think that people don't know about the Greenbelt because the NCC is not clear on what the Greenbelt is; for example, lands zoned as natural but the NCC entertains development on these lands (such as the proposed inter-provincial bridge, Park & Rides, etc.); NCC should be consistent and principled in making land use decisions. Does the NCC really know how important the Greenbelt is and could be? Examples of recreation, <i>legacy</i> as a model for other municipalities and countries! (Ottawa resident) • I drive through the Greenbelt daily yet I never know where it begins or ends; the NCC should be proud of having the Greenbelt, like they are in Great Britain; The NCC should have signs, large WELCOME TO or YOU ARE IN CANADA's Greenbelt signs; The Greenbelt is a resource for residents but many people still do not know about it; Bring the <i>Green</i> back to the Greenbelt; take steps to conserve natural areas. Farming this close to a city should be promoted as local farming – Greenbelt Farm Markets – should let people know they can buy local Greenbelt produce (resident of Southeast, Greely area) • Stop considering Lower Duck as a potential location for the inter-provincial bridge crossing; why consider this? The area is natural environment, most important zone in the Greenbelt. Does this mean other natural areas are open for development? The Greenbelt is a concept similar to Central Park in New York City. Developers and City of Ottawa argue that the Greenbelt should be developed because of its proximity to downtown. Would anyone consider developing Central Park? the NCC should promote the Greenbelt as a legacy that current generations can use and that is preserved for future generations; pathways should have a designated lane for bikes; the Greenbelt provides many residents with an opportunity to experience nature close to home
<p>Billings Bridge 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 11, 2009</p>	<p>In total ~ 125 people, 45 completed questionnaires Mix of residents, from students to retirees, including a few who</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On two occasions residents remarked that we should be working on developing a second Greenbelt, where the existing urban boundary currently is • Many residents aware of recreational uses in the Greenbelt, many surprised to learn the Ottawa Airport and leased properties were part of it, too • Quite a few comments about urban sprawl. Many residents had read about City of Ottawa City Council who voted to extend the urban boundary, as well as the new portion of land

	<p>came specifically for the consultation. Very busy site, attracting many shoppers. A few people did not know about the Greenbelt</p>	<p>approved for development between Kanata and Stittsville.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents thankful to have a greenbelt and natural areas in a large urban centre, which provides “breathing space” from urban sprawl. • One resident wants to see the farm land protected. It is an important function in our city. • Two people wanted to see more communal farming / urban gardening / market gardens operate on the farm land in the greenbelt rather than corn / soy beans. Really work on food security and allowing the farm space to feed the city. • One lady remarked that if there should be development in the Greenbelt to allow it on the farm fields. • One knowledgeable couple urged that when transportation linkages need to be developed through greenspace in the greenbelt that it should be by means of tunnelling underground and preserving the greenspace above ground. • One senior citizen very interested in making the parts of the greenbelt visible to tourists, commuters and residents be “florally” appealing, by using many wildflowers • All NCC trails should be stroller and wheelchair accessible.
<p>Rideau Centre 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, June 12, 2009</p>	<p>In total ~ 90 people, 45 questionnaires Some people came specifically for the event, and had specific issues; A few people attended to discuss the Interprovincial bridge crossing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don’t develop in the Greenbelt • Optics of the timing of the review is poor; should not do this while the Interprovincial Bridge is being debated • Greenbelt natural environment functions should be described within a larger geographical context • Will Bill Teron’s proposal for development in the Greenbelt be considered through the review?
<p>Bayshore Shopping Centre 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, June 12, 2009 And</p>	<p>In total ~ 150 people, 60 questionnaires Great combination of education (outreach) about 5 people who came specifically for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 residents came specifically to inquire about potential development on the “buildable” site around the Queensway Carleton Hospital, including the lands around the tennis courts off Richmond Road and Shouldice berry farm. • What do the locations labelled as “buildable sites” mean? • Many comments that the NCC should not allow urban development on NCC land. • One comment that there is some distrust surrounding the NCC: “they seem to continually be

<p>6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, June 12, 2009</p>	<p>the consultation</p>	<p>selling land for development.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion over City of Ottawa roles and NCC roles – especially who manages greenbelt lands, and who sets urban boundaries and allows urban development approvals. • Love / hate relationship with dog walkers at Bruce Pit. • Can we hunt and fish in the Greenbelt? <p>• Spoke with 3 people who attended in response to an e-mail from Qualicum/Graham Park Community Association received the day prior. Referred to the potential development of a Welcoming Centre proposed near the tennis courts off Richmond Road (as identified in the 1996 Greenbelt Master Plan), as well as a proposed transit shelter and potential impacts to the Shouldice berry farm north of Robertson Road.</p>
<p>St. Laurent Shopping Centre 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 13, 2009</p> <p>2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday, June 13, 2009</p>	<p>In total ~ 100 people, 65 questionnaires Fewer visitors than other events, most probably due to the fact that it was a nice sunny Saturday morning</p> <p>Some very knowledgeable individuals who came specifically for the event; Some individuals unaware of the Greenbelt, but now interested.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two residents unaware that the “Greenbelt” was an entity. Aware of farmland and forests near their houses, but not aware that it formed a greater whole. • Everyone that Jean-François spoke with mentioned that we should protect the Greenbelt from development because it provides needed greenspace in Ottawa. Someone even mentioned that we should expand the Greenbelt, and create some kind of a ring that would cross into Quebec. • Some seniors told us that they use to visit the Greenbelt at a younger age and brought their children. Today their children are the ones enjoying it – preserve it for future generations. • Let’s make it bigger. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the recreational uses of the Greenbelt • Why are dogs not permitted in Gatineau Park in the winter? • Can I purchase Greenbelt land? • Could parcels of land currently in the Greenbelt be traded with land outside of the Greenbelt? • The NCC should visibly promote the Greenbelt more (e.g. at Eco Fair sponsored by Biosphere every August at Confederation Park). • Continue orienteering events in Greens Creek area that used to occur with high school students many years ago. • Some people confusing recent media discussion re: urban boundaries and growth in Ottawa with Greenbelt MP Review;

APPENDIX 9

Summary of On-line Consultations 2

Summary of On-Line Consultations #2

The Greenbelt is important to 95% of respondents. Of the many landscapes and recreational activities, those considered most important are walking trails (256 people), cycling trails (235 people) and cross-country skiing (193 people).

Respondents were asked:

The current mandate for the Greenbelt involves a number of roles to support and showcase the Nation's Capital. Which of the following roles do you see as most important for the Greenbelt to increase, to decrease, or perhaps maintain?

Choices offered were:

- Provide locations for federal facilities
- Support and sustain productive forests
- Support and sustain productive farms
- Preserve natural ecosystems
- Provide range of natural settings in urban area

Of the previous, according to respondents, the most important role to increase is to preserve natural ecosystems (73%) followed by sustaining and supporting productive forests (61%). The most important role to decrease is to provide locations for federal facilities (42.5%)

Respondents were asked: What do you see as the main pressures on the Greenbelt's long term viability? Respondents could offer as many choices they wanted. Choices offered are presented in order of popularity below:

Housing (72.7%)
Roads (64.1%)
Water/Land Pollution (43.4%)
Transit (41.1%)
Urban Infrastructure (i.e. water / sewer) (38.5%)
Human Use (31.3%)
Federal Operations (26.3%)
Institutions (25.3%)
Climate Change (23.7%)
Poor Air Quality (22.4%)
Recreation (20.7%)
Invasive Species (19.1%)
Changing Water Conditions (16.4%)
Agriculture (10.2%)
Other (9.2%)

When asked for further comments, most respondents asked for preservation of the Greenbelt, with support for recreational activities, agriculture and forestry.

APPENDIX 10

Media Coverage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NCCN-08-12-09-MA

December 10, 2008

NCC ANNOUNCES THE PROCESS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE GREENBELT MASTER PLAN

MEDIA BRIEFING – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

Canada's Capital Region – The National Capital Commission (NCC) invites media representatives to a briefing session regarding the process for the review of the Greenbelt Master Plan on Friday, December 12, 2008.

The Greenbelt Master Plan is the NCC's main guide in planning and decision-making around land-use for this unique federal greenspace in Canada's Capital Region. The existing Plan, completed in 1996, requires updating to reflect current realities such as population growth, revised municipal boundaries and regional economic diversification. A Review is particularly pressing because of the Master Plan's critical role as a reference tool for the NCC, its tenants and various partners.

Date: Friday, December 12, 2008
Time: 10 am to 11 am
Location: Lord Elgin Hotel, Québec Room
100 Elgin Street in Ottawa

For further information, members of the public can contact the NCC at **613-239-5555**, **1 800 704-8227** or visit our website at **www.canadascapital.gc.ca**. TTY (text telephone for the hearing impaired) is available at: 613-239-5090 or toll-free 1 866 661-3530.

- 30 -

Media Information:

Jean Wolff
NCC Media Relations
613-239-5703 (office)
613-797-0279 (cellular)

Cédric Pelletier
NCC Media Relations
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613-852-2804 (cellular)

POUR DIFFUSION IMMÉDIATE
NCCN-08-12-09-MA

Le 10 décembre 2008

LA CCN ANNONCE LE PROCESSUS DE RÉVISION DU PLAN DIRECTEUR DE LA CEINTURE DE VERDURE

BREFFAGE AUX MÉDIAS – VENDREDI LE 12 DÉCEMBRE

Région de la capitale du Canada – La Commission de la capitale nationale (CCN) invite les représentants des médias à une session d'information sur le processus de révision du Plan directeur de la Ceinture de verdure, vendredi prochain le 12 décembre 2008.

Le Plan directeur de la Ceinture de verdure est le principal guide de la CCN dans la planification et l'utilisation des terrains fédéraux de cet espace unique de la capitale. Le Plan directeur de la Ceinture de verdure actuel date de 1996. Depuis cette date, la croissance de la population s'est accélérée, les cartes municipales ont changé et l'économie de la région se diversifie. Pour toutes ces raisons, le temps est venu de le réviser puisqu'il est l'outil de référence, tant pour la CCN que pour ses nombreux partenaires.

Date : Le vendredi 12 décembre 2008
Heure : 10 h à 11 h
Endroit : Hôtel Lord Elgin, salle Québec
100, rue Elgin, à Ottawa

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec la CCN au **613-239-5555, 1 800 704-8227** ou visiter le site Web au **www.capitaleducanada.gc.ca**. ATS (appareil de télécommunication pour personnes sourdes) est aussi disponible en composant le 613-239-5090 ou le 1 866 661-3530.

- 30 -

<u>Renseignements :</u>	Jean Wolff	Cédric Pelletier
	Relations avec les médias – CCN	Relations avec les médias – CCN
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	613-797-0279 (cellulaire)	613-852-2804 (cellulaire)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NCCN-08-12-11-PR

December 12, 2008
DRAFT 11

NCC ANNOUNCES PROCESS FOR REVIEW OF GREENBELT MASTER PLAN

Public consultation at the heart of the process

Canada's Capital Region – The National Capital Commission (NCC) is pleased to announce the details of the process to review the Greenbelt Master Plan and to invite the public to have their say at consultations provided throughout the process.

“As we promised a few months ago, our goal is to engage in a transparent and inclusive process that will create a noble vision which can in turn be translated into a bold yet practical plan,” said Marie Lemay, Chief Executive Officer of the NCC. “The active invitation to the public to speak first and early, constitutes a different and exciting feature of these consultations.”

SENEC Consultants Ltd has been retained to assist in the Master Plan review which will also rely heavily on the active participation of Canadians at large, residents and visitors to the capital, as well as various federal, provincial and municipal partners. To further underscore the need for broad public input at the early stages of the Greenbelt Master Plan Review, a Public Advisory Committee will be struck in early 2009.

The Greenbelt Master Plan is the NCC's main guide in planning and decision-making around land-use for this unique federal green space in Canada's Capital Region. The existing Plan, completed in 1996, requires updating to reflect current realities such as accelerated population growth, revised municipal boundaries and regional economic diversification. A Review is particularly pressing because of the Master Plan's critical role as a reference tool for the NCC, its tenants and various partners, including the City of Ottawa, federal and provincial agencies, as well as for many researchers, users and various interest groups.

The revision will be done in two phases. Phase I will run from now through to the summer of 2010 and will focus on developing a comprehensive assessment, a vision statement and a land-use concept. Phase II will span from the spring of 2010 through to the fall of 2011 and will help to specify work needed in each area, including the development of policy statements, designations of land use, recommendations on the National Interest Land Mass (NILM), and requirements for guidelines and design. Once these are established, the final draft of the Master Plan can proceed.

The review process places particular emphasis on consulting the public in the very early stages. Other partners and stakeholders to be consulted include the Public Advisory Committee, affected municipal, provincial and federal bodies and various interest groups. This extensive consultation will complement and inform activities of the NCC's existing groups of experts including NCC staff, its Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Real Estate (ACPDR) and the NCC Board.

The public is invited to visit our website, www.canadascapital.gc.ca, which describes the objectives of the review of the Greenbelt Master Plan, the process and schedule, the current status of the consultations and the many opportunities to send comments and suggestions.

At this initial stage of the review, a detailed report on the state of the Greenbelt will be compiled for discussion topics such as forest areas, natural heritage, agriculture, cultural and built heritage, infrastructure, recreational areas, air quality, climate change and issues of economic and sustainable development. To contribute to the preparation of this report on the current state of the Greenbelt, we invite the public to share their experiences and their knowledge of the Greenbelt. To participate in this survey, you can access the questionnaire by the following link: www.canadascapital.gc.ca.

For more information on the National Capital Region's Greenbelt, members of the public may contact the NCC at **613-239-5555**, **1 800 704-8227** or visit the website at **www.canadascapital.gc.ca**. TTY (text telephone for the hearing impaired) is available at: 613-239-5090 or toll-free 1 866 661-3530.

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Le 12 décembre 2008

Ébauche 11

LA CCN ANNONCE LE PROCESSUS DE RÉVISION DU PLAN DIRECTEUR DE LA CEINTURE DE VERDURE

La consultation publique au cœur de la démarche

Région de la capitale du Canada – La Commission de la capitale nationale (CCN) est heureuse d'annoncer les détails du processus de révision du Plan directeur de la Ceinture de verdure et invite le public à prendre la parole lors des consultations prévues tout au long du processus.

« Comme nous nous y sommes engagés il y a quelques mois, l'objectif que nous poursuivons est d'entamer un processus inclusif et transparent, qui nous mènera vers une vision d'envergure qui permettra de produire un plan à la fois audacieux et pratique », déclare Madame Marie Lemay, Première dirigeante de la CCN. « Le fait d'inviter le public à se prononcer tôt et en premier, constitue une caractéristique unique et saisissante de ces consultations ».

La révision du Plan directeur, bénéficiera de l'aide de la firme d'experts-conseils «SENES Consultants Ltd.», et fera appel à la participation active des Canadiens et Canadiennes, résidents et visiteurs de la capitale, des partenaires fédéraux, provinciaux et municipaux de même que des membres d'un Comité consultatif public qui sera mis sur pied au cours de l'hiver 2009.

Le Plan directeur de la Ceinture de verdure est le principal guide de la CCN dans la planification et l'utilisation des terrains fédéraux de cet espace unique de la capitale. Le Plan directeur de la Ceinture de verdure actuel date de 1996. Depuis cette date, la croissance de la population s'est accélérée, les cartes municipales ont changé et l'économie de la région se diversifie. Pour toutes ces raisons, le temps est venu de le réviser puisqu'il est l'outil de référence, tant pour la CCN que pour ses partenaires et ses locataires, dont la Ville d'Ottawa, les nombreuses agences fédérales et provinciales, de même que pour bon nombre de chercheurs, d'utilisateurs et divers groupes d'intérêt.

La révision se fera en deux phases : la phase I commence tout de suite et s'étendra jusqu'à l'été 2010, elle portera sur l'élaboration d'un bilan exhaustif, d'un énoncé de vision et du concept d'aménagement. La phase II se déroulera du printemps 2010 à

l'automne 2011, et servira à détailler le travail par secteur, incluant l'élaboration d'énoncés de politiques, de désignations d'utilisation du sol, de recommandations concernant la Masse des terrains d'intérêt national (MTIN), de lignes directrices et de design. Une fois cette étape complétée, la rédaction du Plan directeur final sera faite.

Une emphase particulière sera mise pour consulter le public très tôt. Nos divers partenaires, dont le Comité consultatif public, les ministères fédéraux et provinciaux et autres intervenants publics, la Ville d'Ottawa seront également consultés. Cela s'ajoutera aux expertises diverses de la CCN offertes par son personnel, le Comité consultatif de l'urbanisme, du design et de l'immobilier et le Conseil d'administration de la CCN.

Le public est invité à visiter notre site Web au www.capitaleducanada.gc.ca qui décrit les objectifs de la révision du Plan directeur de la Ceinture de verdure, le processus et l'échéancier, l'état du projet actuel ainsi que les diverses occasions où le public pourra nous faire part de leurs observations et suggestions.

À cette étape initiale de la révision, un rapport détaillé de l'état de la Ceinture de verdure sera compilé pour les thèmes de discussion tels que le domaine forestier, le patrimoine naturel, l'agriculture, le patrimoine culturel et bâti, l'infrastructure, le domaine récréatif, la qualité de l'air, le changement climatique et les considérations de développement durable et économique. Afin de contribuer à la préparation de ce rapport sur l'état actuel de la Ceinture de verdure, nous invitons le public à partager leurs expériences et leurs connaissances de la Ceinture de verdure. Pour participer à ce sondage, vous pouvez accéder au questionnaire par le lien suivant : www.capitaleducanada.gc.ca.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur la Ceinture de verdure de la capitale nationale, le public peut consulter le site Web au **www.capitaleducanada.gc.ca** ou communiquer avec la CCN au **613-239-5555, 1 800 704-8227**. ATS (appareil de télécommunication pour personnes sourdes) est aussi disponible en composant le 613-239-5090 ou le 1 866 661-3530.

<u>Renseignements :</u>	Jean Wolff	Cédric Pelletier
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NCCN-09-06-15-MA

June 10, 2009

MEDIA ADVISORY

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE GREENBELT'S FUTURE

Canada's Capital Region – The National Capital Commission (NCC) invites the public to get involved in the review process of the Greenbelt Master Plan and to have their say at the first public consultation events. The NCC wants to inform and engage citizens while assessing the Greenbelt's existing conditions. These events will be an opportunity for the public to provide input on what they think the Greenbelt's greatest features are, and what they see as the pressures and trends that should be considered when planning the future of the Greenbelt.

The Greenbelt consists of over 20,000 hectares of green space, forming a crescent-shaped band that surrounds the nation's capital. It is a living symbol of Canada's rural landscape and ecologically sensitive areas — with a mix of farms, forests and wetlands — which also provides important space for recreational uses, federal institutions and research facilities.

NCC staff will be at the following locations to provide information, answer questions and collect your comments:

Thursday, June 11, 2009

World Exchange Plaza, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Billings Bridge Shopping Centre, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, June 12, 2009

Rideau Centre, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bayshore Shopping Centre, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, June 13, 2009

St. Laurent Shopping Centre, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

To set up media interviews, media may contact:

Before the events:

Cédric Pelletier
National Capital Commission
613-239-5709 (office)
613-852-0279 (cellular)
Email: Cpelleti@ncc-ccn.ca

For more information on the National Capital Region's Greenbelt, members of the public may contact the NCC at **613-239-5000, 1-800-465-1867** or visit the website at **www.canadascapital.gc.ca**. TTY (text telephone for the hearing impaired) is available at: 613-239-5090 or toll-free 1 866 661-3530.

Media Information:

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POUR DIFFUSION IMMÉDIATE
NCCN-09-06-15-MA

Le 10 juin 2009

AVIS AUX MÉDIAS

PRONONCEZ-VOUS SUR L'AVENIR DE LA CEINTURE DE VERDURE

Région de la capitale du Canada – La Commission de la capitale nationale (CCN) invite le public à s'impliquer dans le processus de révision du Plan directeur de la Ceinture de verdure et à prendre la parole lors des premières consultations publiques. La CCN veut renseigner et inviter les citoyens à participer à l'évaluation des conditions existantes de la Ceinture de verdure. Ces réunions permettront au public de faire part de leur point de vue sur les principaux attraits de la Ceinture de verdure, de même que les contraintes et les tendances dont on devrait tenir compte dans la planification pour l'avenir de la Ceinture de verdure.

La Ceinture de verdure est un espace vert de 20 000 hectares en forme de croissant, qui entoure la capitale du pays. Avec ses fermes, ses forêts et ses zones humides, elle symbolise les paysages ruraux et les zones écosensibles du Canada, en plus de faire une large place aux loisirs, aux institutions fédérales et aux installations de recherche.

Le personnel de la CCN sera présent aux endroits suivants pour donner des renseignements, répondre aux questions et recueillir vos commentaires :

Le jeudi 11 juin 2009

World Exchange Plaza, de 11 h à 14 h

Centre commercial Billings Bridge, de 15 h à 19 h

Le vendredi 12 juin 2009

Centre Rideau, de 11 h à 14 h

Centre commercial Bayshore, de 15 h à 21 h

Le samedi 13 juin 2009

Centre commercial St. Laurent, de 9 h 30 à 21 h

Les médias peuvent communiquer avec la personne suivante afin de coordonner des entrevues :

Avant les événements :

Cédric Pelletier
Commission de la capitale Nationale
Tel: 613-239-5709
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Courriel: Cpelleti@ncc-ccn.ca

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur la Ceinture de verdure de la capitale nationale, le public peut consulter le site Web au **www.capitaleducanada.gc.ca** ou communiquer avec la CCN au **613-239-5000, 1-800-465-1867**. ATS (appareil de télécommunication pour personnes sourdes) est aussi disponible en composant le 613-239-5090 ou le 1-866-661-3530.

Renseignements :

Cédric Pelletier
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613-239-5709 (bureau)
613-852-2804 (cellulaire)

Couverture médiatique

Dévoilement des détails du processus de révision du Plan directeur de la
Ceinture de verdure
12 décembre 2008

Couverture Web

La ceinture de verdure sous la loupe

Mise à jour le vendredi 12 décembre 2008 à 14 h 40



La Commission de la capitale nationale revoit le plan de la ceinture de verdure, ces espaces verts d'une superficie d'environ 200 kilomètres carrés qui entourent la région urbaine d'Ottawa. Le dernier plan de développement et de vision pour cet espace remontait à 1996.

Le potentiel financier de la vente ou du développement de terrains de la ceinture de verdure sera notamment à l'étude. Toutefois, le vice-président de l'aménagement à la CCN, François Lapointe, explique qu'il ne s'agit pas de la priorité.

« La ceinture est adjacente à plusieurs communautés. On a beaucoup de demandes, que ce soit pour des services récréatifs, des hôpitaux, au niveau transport. Alors, c'est clair que ce débat va avoir lieu. Actuellement, c'est prématuré de considérer ça », précise-t-il.

Le conseiller municipal Alex Cullen souhaite que la ceinture de verdure demeure intacte. Il estime que la CCN ne doit pas perdre de vue que l'endroit doit conserver sa vocation environnementale. « La question de développement, c'est toujours là. Et il faut être vigilant sur cette question », soutient-il.

Une firme d'experts-conseils sera notamment chargée de consulter le public sur la ceinture de verdure. Elle a obtenu un contrat de 320 000 \$ pour le faire.

Les consultations commenceront au printemps. La publication du nouveau plan est prévue pour 2011.

La ceinture de verdure est constituée de fermes, de forêts et de terres humides.

Couverture – Journaux

12 décembre 2008

Révision du plan directeur des terres protégées qui entourent Ottawa

- La ceinture de verdure sous la loupe de la



Archives, LeDroit



Louis Lafortune

Le Droit

Au moment où les pressions s'intensifient pour développer une partie de la ceinture de verdure, la Commission de la capitale nationale annoncera, ce matin, le début de la révision du plan directeur de ce vaste territoire protégé de 20 000 hectares qui entoure Ottawa.

Un sujet délicat, car divers groupes et politiciens de la capitale fédérale s'inquiètent, depuis quelque temps, de l'avenir de ces terres.

La ville s'est développée rapidement ces dernières années. La construction résidentielle et commerciale a dépassé cette ceinture verte et cet étalement urbain exerce des pressions sur ce territoire protégé.

L'actuel plan directeur de la ceinture de verdure date de 1996 et la CCN indique qu'il est temps de réviser cet « outil de référence ». « C'est dans les règles de la CCN d'avoir une révision tous les 10 ans. C'est un exercice de taille et ce qui sera annoncé demain, c'est comment ça va procéder », explique son porte-parole Jean Wolff.

Il faudra attendre à demain pour connaître l'échéancier de cette révision, qui comprendra des consultations publiques. La première dirigeante de la CCN, Marie Lemay, a toutefois déjà évoqué 2011 comme échéancier.

Des organismes aux aguets

Chose certaine : le processus qui débute ce matin sera suivi de près par des groupes comme Save Our Green Space, organisme voué à la défense de la ceinture verte, et par le Conseil régional de l'environnement et du développement durable de l'Outaouais (CREDDO).

« La CCN dit qu'il n'y aura pas de projet à l'intérieur de la ceinture de verdure durant le processus de révision. Mais on aimerait que ce soit formellement un moratoire », dit Nicole Desroches, directrice générale du CREDDO.

« Il y a de fortes, fortes pressions pour développer et gruger, petit à petit, la ceinture de verdure ».

L'an dernier, le président de la CCN, Russell Mills, avait suscité des inquiétudes lorsqu'il a évoqué la possibilité d'ouvrir des parcelles de la ceinture au développement. M. Mills a par la suite rectifié le tir, précisant qu'il s'agissait de son opinion personnelle.

Cannon se fait rassurant

Le ministre fédéral responsable de la CCN et député de Pontiac, Lawrence Cannon, s'est fait rassurant, hier, lorsque questionné sur le processus de révision qui débute. Le gouvernement, a-t-il répété, croit dans le modèle de la ceinture de verdure qu'il a qualifié de « joyau de la région ».

« Notre gouvernement a indiqué à maintes occasions que le parc de la Gatineau, tout comme la ceinture verte, est une ressource précieuse pour la région de la capitale nationale », a dit M. Cannon, ajoutant qu'il s'agit d'un attrait touristique unique en Amérique du Nord.

Il souligne enfin que des amendements à la Loi sur la capitale nationale seront bientôt déposés aux Communes. Ils visent à assurer la protection des espaces verts comme le parc de la Gatineau et la ceinture de verdure.

Le ministre fédéral des Transports et responsable de la région d'Ottawa, John Baird, a déjà affirmé par le passé que la ceinture verte doit être protégée.

13 décembre 2008

Ceinture de verdure de la CCN : trois ans pour réviser le plan directeur



Paul Gaboury

Le Droit

La Commission de la Capitale nationale (CCN) devrait présenter les détails du nouveau plan directeur de la Ceinture de verdure à l'automne 2011. Mais d'ici là, ce n'est pas une mince tâche qui attend ses responsables qui ont dévoilé hier les détails du processus de révision devant déterminer l'utilisation de ces 20 000 hectares de terrains fédéraux pour dix ans, ainsi qu'une vision pour les 50 prochaines années.

C'est la première fois que la CCN entreprend une révision du plan directeur de la Ceinture verte depuis 1996.

D'entrée de jeu, la première dirigeante de la CCN, Marie Lemay, a fait savoir que le processus de consultation allait être « inclusif et transparent », tel que l'organisme s'y était engagé.

« Notre but est d'entamer un processus inclusif et transparent qui nous mènera à une vision pertinente de la Ceinture de verdure pour aujourd'hui et pour les générations futures », a indiqué la première dirigeante Lemay.

Plutôt que d'attendre au milieu ou à la fin du processus, le public sera ainsi le premier consulté dans cette démarche, a souligné Mme Lemay.

Un contrat de 320 000 \$

Pour la révision de ce plan, la CCN a octroyé un contrat de 320 000 \$ à la firme SENES Consultants Ltd., des experts-conseils dans le domaine de la planification.

La première étape fera le bilan et les enjeux d'ici le printemps 2009. Puis à l'automne 2009, on présentera un énoncé de vision. Le concept d'aménagement et les énoncés politiques suivront à l'été 2010. Des plans sectoriels seront ensuite présentés au printemps 2011, puis le plan directeur final à l'automne 2011.

La CCN sollicitera la participation de citoyens, de partenaires, de groupes et intervenants et même des universités. Elle souhaite la participation active des citoyens, de la région et de partout au pays qui pourront s'exprimer lors de rencontres, mais également par Internet. Autre particularité de cette consultation : un comité consultatif public sera mis sur pied au cours de l'hiver 2009.

Au cours des trois prochaines années, l'organisme fédéral sera placé devant un défi important puisqu'il devra concilier les intérêts nationaux, régionaux et plus locaux, avec les pressions des citoyens, des développeurs, des défenseurs de l'environnement, des entreprises et des institutions qui y sont déjà installées.

L'organisme devra ainsi déterminer quels usages il permettra ou interdira au cours des dix prochaines années, tout en préparant une vision d'avenir pour les 50 prochaines années.

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NCC hires consultants to spearhead Greenbelt review

The National Capital Commission has hired Senes Consultants to lead a three-year review of the Greenbelt master plan, including whether the band of green around Ottawa's downtown should be opened to development. Last reviewed in 1996, the plan needs updating to reflect population growth, economics and other changes in the last decade. The first phase of the review, which will run to 2010, is to concentrate on developing a vision for the 50,000-acre expanse of woodland, bogs, farms and fields. The second phase, which will go until the fall of 2011, is to lay out a detailed plan of what needs to be done with the Greenbelt, including development options. A public advisory panel is to be formed next year to facilitate public participation.

Couverture – Radio

LE MONDE SELON MATHIEU 1 (CBOF-FM), Ottawa, 12 Dec 2008, 03:13PM,

Length: 00:08:00, Ref# 1148B0D-8

Anchor/Reporters: CLAUDE NAUBERT, Reach: 4,000

ENTREVUE: LA CCN PROCEDERA SOUS PEU A LA REVISION DU PLAN DIRECTEUR DE LA CEINTURE DE VERDURE. "MARIE LEMAY" EST PREMIERE DIRIGEANTE DU COMITE DIRECTEUR A LA COMMISSION DE LA

CAPITALE NATIONALE. LA CEINTURE DE VERDURE EST TRES IMPORTANTE POUR LA CCN. ON DEMANDE LA COLLABORATION DU PUBLIC DES LE DEBUT DU PROCESSUS EN JANVIER. [SAVE OUR GREENSPACE] [CREDDO] [CAPITALEEDUCANADA.CA]

NOUVELLES (15h30) (CJRC-FM), Gatineau, 12 Dec 2008, 03:35PM, Length: 00:00:15, Ref# 1149453-3

Anchor/Reporters: ANNICK CHARETTE, Reach: 6,000

OTTAWA: LA COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE A DEVOILE PROCESSUS POUR REVISER LE PLAN DIRECTEUR DE LA CEINTURE DE VERDURE.

LE MONDE SELON MATHIEU 2 (CBOF-FM), Ottawa, 12 Dec 2008, 04:32PM, Length: 00:00:40, Ref# 1148BD0-11

Anchor/Reporters: CLAUDE NAUBERT, CHANTAL PAYANT, Reach: 4,000

OTTAWA: LE CONSEILLER MUNICIPAL "ALEX CULLEN" AURA LA COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE A L'OEIL DANS LES PROCHAINES ANNEES ALORS QU'ELLE REVISE SON PLAN DIRECTEUR DE LA CEINTURE DE VERDURE. CULLEN VEUT QUE L'ENDROIT RESPECTE SA VOCATION ENVIRONNEMENTALE.

Couverture – Télévision

Aucune

SOURCETAG 08123038994429

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BYLINE: LAURA CZEKAJ

**WORD
COUNT:** 195

NCC looks for public view of Greenbelt vision

The National Capital Commission wants to hear how the Greenbelt Master Plan should be revised.

A public advisory committee, made up of key community representatives who have a stake in, and are knowledgeable about, the 49,000 acres of land that make up the Greenbelt, will be set up early in the new year. The existing master plan was established in 1996 and does not fully address current issues affecting the city, such as a growing population, increased development demands, and altered municipal boundaries.

The Greenbelt Coalition of Canada's Capital Region was formed by 15 local environmental and community groups in anticipation of the public's need to participate in the review process.

The coalition will be among the stakeholders involved with the advisory committee.

"The main issue with the Greenbelt is that we want a freeze on all approvals that are not in the current master plan until after the process is completed, including the airport master plan," said coalition chairman Sol Shuster.

Revisions to the master plan will be conducted in two stages, the first of which is underway and will continue until the summer of 2010.

The aim of the first phase is to develop a vision statement, a comprehensive assessment and a land-use concept.

The coalition has already expressed disapproval of the city's White Paper on Development in the

Greenbelt which proposes residential development in the Greenbelt. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

NCC begins review of Greenbelt Master Plan

BY ROSALYN STEVENS
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As the National Capital Commission (NCC) begins the three-year greenbelt review process, an assembly of concerned citizen's groups has formed to have its voice heard.

The Greenbelt Coalition, made up of environmental groups and concerned residents, is hoping the NCC will hear their advocacy for the protection of greenbelt lands and apply the protection with legislation in the Greenbelt Master Plan.

Nicole Desroches is one of the members of the coalition and she said the group would be planning several public events in the coming months and over the entire three-year review period, in hopes of attracting more public support.

"The NCC is reviewing the master plan [and] we decided that we wanted to participate but as [one] group," she said, adding that the coalition members believe their voices to be stronger as an assembly rather than

as individuals.

The overall goal of the coalition, she explained, is to see the NCC protect, maintain, and enhance the greenbelt. Part of that means recognizing the functions of the greenbelt and acknowledging value of the land, Ms. Desroches said.

"In this day and age, most people are densifying their urban areas and maintaining their green spaces," she noted.

While some people believe the greenbelt is no longer fulfilling its intended purpose, she said there is a strong group of individuals who feel it is crucial to protect the land.

"We want to say to everybody who wants to scrap the greenbelt that we're out there and there are a lot of people who don't want it scrapped," Ms. Desroches noted.

In the past few years, there have been rumblings of development in the greenbelt, though no official stance has been made clear.

"We're happy that they're doing the review of the mas-

ter plan," Ms. Desroches said, "because that should stop all the speculation."

Ann Coffey, another member of the coalition, said the greenbelt policy must be entrenched in legislation to protect the land.

She said it is crucial to preserve the green space, especially farm land, in order to ensure Ottawa and Gatineau can be self sufficient. Ms. Coffey said she believes a focus in the city should be strengthened to ensure enough land is available to feed the region, given the recent concern regarding oil supply. Far too much of Ottawa's food and resources are transported into the city from far away, she added, and that needs to change.

"If we want to be sustainable, we need to keep vegetation, add vegetation," Ms. Coffey explained. "We need to make sure our water is as clean, if not cleaner, when it leaves our city as when it enters."

She called the greenbelt a "life support system" for the area.

In comparison to other cities around the world, Ms. Coffey said the national capital region is far behind in its prioritizing of green space.

"If you look at what cities around the world are doing, they're actually increasing their greenbelt," she said.

Ms. Coffey said the review should look at the region as a habitat, which requires the essential elements of food, water, and shelter.

"We have developed a habitat for humans, but we have missed out on a very vital piece — food," she said.

Francois Lapointe, executive director of capital planning for the NCC, said a review of the Greenbelt Master Plan is required every 10 years. During this review process, he said, no development or alterations is permitted to the greenbelt.

While there are a couple reasons to conduct the re-

view, including legislation, Mr. Lapointe believes most importantly that it is time to bring the plan up to speed with the changes that have occurred in the area since the 1996 review.

"I think that the important [reason] is that we want our plan to be really in step with society," he said.

Farming is one sector that has changed in recent years locally and Mr. Lapointe said there is a strong push for locally grown food. As well, growth in the region

has impacted the greenbelt, as communities have sprouted up on both sides of the protected land.

"I think it's very important and some of these properties are in sensitive areas," he said.

"The greenbelt is a very complex area. It's really a mosaic of lands."

The review will incorporate public comment, Mr. Lapointe said, and the goal is to end with a comprehensive evaluation of the land based on local needs, con-

servation requirements, and public opinion.

"In the recent past there have been different points of view of the greenbelt expressed," he said, "some advocating complete preservation and others [advocating] some development."

When the review is complete, Mr. Lapointe said it will be incorporated into a new City of Ottawa Official Plan, the same process that has been followed in previous years.

As the review progresses,

the NCC will hold public meetings to receive comments, he said.

Cynthia Levesque of Senes Consulting Inc. said consultants are currently in the data collection process and she expects an initial public meeting will occur in the spring.

Approval of the final review is expected in the fall of 2011, she said.

For more information, visit www.greenbeltcoalition.com, or www.canadacapital.gc.ca.

First meeting held for Greenbelt review

BY ROSALYN STEVENS

rstevens@thenewsemc.ca

EMC News — The National Capital Commission's Greenbelt review is officially underway.

The first public advisory committee (PAC) meeting for the Greenbelt Master Plan review was held last month between National Capital Commission (NCC) staff and identified community groups with a special interest in the project.

"This was just the first meeting to foster a dialogue with the Greenbelt Master Plan team," explained Cedric Pelletier, media relations officer for the NCC. "We invited organizations or groups of interest in the region who have an interest in preserving the Greenbelt."

Among those groups was

the Greenbelt Coalition, a collaboration of special interest groups with the aim of preserving and enriching the green space.

Chair of the coalition Saul Schuster said he was very pleased with the initial meeting.

"We had a meeting in the morning," he said, "and then we had a bus tour of the Greenbelt in the afternoon."

Mr. Pelletier said the goal of the tour was to identify for the group what exists within the Greenbelt, including natural resources and various land values throughout the region.

"The purpose of the tour was because this group will work with the project team," he explained.

Mr. Schuster said the PAC was promised the review would be an open and in-

clusive process, something that the coalition had asked for when the review was announced in the fall.

"I think it's a very good start," he noted. "In fact, the NCC took the initiative after the meeting to ask if they could meet with us at our next [coalition] meeting."

The coalition has also asked that the Greenbelt region be protected through legislation, and that the area be enhanced for the betterment of all residents in the area. During this meeting, Mr. Schuster said, he felt that the NCC review team was "sincerely listening" to those concerns.

"We're looking forward to ongoing meetings with them," he said.

Mr. Pelletier said that all concerns expressed during that meeting were re-

corded, and will be implemented into a report that is scheduled for release in the fall. In June, he said, public consultation meetings for the general community will be held, though the dates and locations of the meetings have yet to be determined.

"I know they'll be in mid-June," he said. "There's going to be three public consultations."

The PAC will meet throughout the process as well, Mr. Schuster noted. During the course of the three-year review, the group is scheduled to meet once or twice a year.

For more information about the review, visit www.canadascapital.ca.

Information about the Greenbelt Coalition can be found at www.greenbeltcoalition.ca.

This was just the first meeting to foster a dialogue with the Greenbelt Master Plan team.

Cedric Pelletier
Media Relations Officer, NCC



NCC asks for Greenbelt views

The National Capital Commission will be holding public consultations for citizens who want to have their say about the future of the Greenbelt.

The NCC is in the process of reviewing the Greenbelt Master Plan.

Sessions are being held today at the World Exchange Plaza, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the Billings Bridge Shopping Centre, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Friday at the Rideau Centre, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the

Bayshore Shopping Centre, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturday at the St. Laurent Shopping Centre, 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

— Sun Media

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