



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION  
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

# Annual Public Meeting

3 NOVEMBER 2022

SUMMARY REPORT

Canada



# I – Description

## Context

As part of government-wide efforts to increase accountability and transparency over the past 19 years, the National Capital Commission (NCC) has organized an annual public meeting (APM) with the chief executive officer (CEO), chair of the Board of Directors (the Board) and executive management.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the format of the meeting has been modified to follow public health directives and expand the reach of events with the larger public. The 2022 APM was held both online via the NCC YouTube channel and in person at NCC headquarters. The meeting included an introduction by the moderator and brief presentations by the Chair and CEO on the NCC's strategic directions, the year in review and the priority projects for the remainder of the year. This was followed by a question period, where the CEO and a few members of executive management answered questions from interested members of the public, either in advance or during the live event.

## Objectives

The objectives of the APM are as follows:

- Enhance the public's awareness and understanding of the NCC's mandate.
- Provide the public with an overview of the NCC's accomplishments in the past year.
- Provide the public with an outline of the NCC's current activities and priorities for the year to come.
- Offer the public an opportunity to ask questions or provide comments on corporate priorities.
- Provide an opportunity for the NCC to respond to the public's questions and consider their views as part of the NCC's planning and decision-making processes.

## II – Process

### Overview

Date and location:

Thursday, November 3, 2022, in person at the NCC headquarters, 40 Elgin Street, Urbanism Lab, second floor and live streamed from the NCC YouTube channel.

A recording of the event is also available to view on the NCC's YouTube channel.

Time: 11 am to noon

### Meeting proceedings

- Introduction by Émilie Girard-Ruel, Director, Public and Corporate Affairs
- Presentation by the Chair, Marc Seaman: Strategic directions and governance
- Presentation by the CEO, Tobi Nussbaum: Year in review, priority projects
- Public question and comment period

### Invitations and promotion

- An invitation was sent by email to the following:
  - the Public Affairs distribution list (members of the public and interest groups)
  - elected officials
  - media organizations
- Facebook and Twitter messages also promoted the APM

### Participants

#### Speakers

- Marc Seaman, Chair, NCC
- Tobi Nussbaum, CEO, NCC
- Alain Miguelez, Vice President, Capital Planning, NCC
- Anne Ménard, Vice President, Capital Stewardship, NCC

#### Guests

- Members of the public, 67 total attendees in person
- Members of the public, 228 total views on YouTube

### **NCC Board members attending**

- Mireille Apollon
- Larry Beasley
- Lise Bernier
- Victor Brunette
- Michael Foderick
- Tanya Gracie
- Caroline Lajoie
- Lisa M. MacDonald
- Deborah Lynn Morrison
- Norm Odjick
- Sara Jane O'Neill
- Lou Ragagnin
- Denis B. Vaillancourt

### **NCC staff attending**

- Émilie Girard-Ruel, Director, Public and Corporate Affairs (emcee)
- Mélanie Amyotte, Director, Strategic Media
- Michel Collette, Director, Audit, Research, Evaluation and Ethics
- Véronique de Passillé, Vice President, Public, Legal and Corporate Affairs
- Maryam El-Akhrass, Strategic Communications Advisor
- Luc Fournier, Chief of Staff and Commission Secretariat
- Benoit Gélinas, Officer, Public and Community Relations
- Madeleine Gomery, Public and Community Relations
- Tania Kingsberry, Vice President, Corporate Services
- Hilary Koum Njoh, Public Consultations Analyst
- Ariane Larocque Manager, Public Consultations
- Michel Legault, English Writer
- Bill Leonard, Vice President, Real Estate and Development
- Iulia Madularu (Acting) Vice President, Design and Construction
- Nancy Martel, Vice President, Human Resources and Facilities Management
- Kelsey Regnier, Administrative Assistant
- Robert White, Manager, External Relations

### III – Question and Comment Period

The following is an overview of questions received from members of the public, and the answers provided. Similar questions have been grouped by theme and combined to ensure clarity in both the question and response.

#### **Theme: Gatineau Park active use program**

##### **Question 1**

- What will the Gatineau Park active use program schedule look like for the 2023 season?
- Why is use reserved for active transportation?
- Will the programming for the 2023 season include opening the parkways to cars?

##### **Answer 1**

- The 2023 active use program schedule for Gatineau Park has not yet been decided. We want to apply the lessons learned from the 2022 season before developing the approach for the next season.
- As part of this process, there will be a survey on the NCC's active use and parkways program. The NCC will also meet with stakeholders, including interest groups, to gather the views of their groups and membership.
- The NCC is seeking to move towards a more active, sustainable model of accessing Gatineau Park. Initial observations suggest a successful shuttle program during summer 2022. While great feedback was received regarding the shuttle program, we have observed opportunities to expand (i.e., including weekdays or extending the season).
- In the coming years, the NCC wished to put in place a permanent parkways schedule to balance the Gatineau Park parkway roles, as established in the Gatineau Park Master Plan. The Master Plan was conceived through multiple public consultations, including extensive online consultation in summer 2020.

#### **Theme: Vincent Massey Park**

##### **Question 2**

- What does the NCC plan to do about unsanctioned events at Vincent Massey Park, in violation of its rules and etiquette as well as City of Ottawa By-laws?
- How does the NCC plan to approach the insufficient capabilities of conservation officers to enforce its rules and regulations?

## **Answer 2**

- As noted, there is an important jurisdictional cooperation element required with the City of Ottawa to enforce rules, regulations, and by-laws. Our operations team ensures that grounds are maintained after events take place in our parks. This past summer, we reached out to City of Ottawa By-law and Regulatory Services about Vincent Massey and will continue conversations with the City as necessary.
- Following the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen a surge in the use of our urban parks, and this presents a challenge for surrounding resources. We currently have 13 conservation officers working across our lands. Although our conservation officers have the authority to enforce liquor infractions, they are reliant on By-law for noise infractions. We recommend that you reach out to the Ottawa Police Service if you see any criminal activities.

## **Theme: Public access to outdoor spaces in River Ward**

### **Question 3**

- Is the NCC willing to support four-season public use of outdoor spaces in River Ward (e.g., Hog's Back Park and Vincent Massey) by conducting winter maintenance on parking lot spaces this winter?

## **Answer 3**

- Over the past few years, we have observed the growth of winter activities, thanks in part to amazing volunteer groups creating ski trails on NCC pathways. Now we are focusing our attention on providing greater access to these areas for public use. In the past few years, the NCC has opened several Greenbelt parking lots, and Vincent Massey and Hog's Back are lots we may consider in the future. There may be opportunities for a cost-sharing agreement by partnering with the City of Ottawa, which was the case on the Rideau Canal Pathway.

## **Theme: Greenbelt/Environmental Protection**

### **Question 4**

- What is being done to protect greenspace, fight against encroaching development projects, and maintain environmental standards in the Greenbelt?
- What is the NCC's stance on the environmental impacts of policy decisions made by the Province of Ontario?

#### **Answer 4**

- The current NCC Greenbelt Master Plan outlines protective measures for the Greenbelt and its natural spaces. The existing plan does a good job of describing the management of conservation elements. Interested members of the public will have the opportunity to help shape the plan, as it will be up for renewal starting in 2023.
- One of our primary goals for the plan is to ensure clear direction for the conservation and restoration of natural areas. NCC representatives meet regularly with municipal, provincial, and federal partners to discuss many issues, including those impacting the Greenbelt.

#### **Theme: Experimental Farm**

##### **Question 5 – Improving access and parking**

- In terms of parking, why are there not more opportunities for people to access the Experimental Farm, like they do with properties in Hull? The current fencing acts as a barrier to members of the public interested in public exercise.

#### **Answer 5**

- The Central Experimental Farm is under the custodianship of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. For that reason, the NCC does not provide parking throughout the farm.

##### **Question 6 – Canadensis Botanical Garden**

- Will the NCC consult with the public about the proposed botanical garden in the southeast corner of the Experimental Farm before it is given the green light?

#### **Answer 6**

- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada owns the land where the proposed garden is located. All projects on federal lands are subject to federal approval. As part of that process, the proponent is responsible for providing information about the project and submitting an application to the NCC. The NCC is responsible for reviewing the application, publishing the project summary on the Impact Assessment Registry for a 30-day public comment period, and providing a recommendation to the NCC Board of Directors.
- Public consultation is the responsibility of the proponent. Questions about the project should be directed to the Canadensis Botanical Garden Society.

### **Question 7 – Environmental impacts**

- Due to the construction and demolition activities at the Experimental Farm and Queen Juliana Park, Dow's Lake is contaminated. Do you have any properties that would be affected by poisoning of groundwater running down from a construction site into Dow's Lake?

### **Answer 7**

- The NCC is not in possession of studies that show the contamination of water at Dow's Lake. However, if there is a known occurrence of contamination, please immediately share these with Environment Canada, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) and Parks Canada, who have jurisdiction in this area.

### **Theme: Long-term interprovincial transportation**

#### **Question 8 – Old transportation data**

- Why have the NCC and PSPC devoted considerable resources to plan for a new bridge in the east when there is no recent data to support the need for a new crossing? Such a crossing would not address the serious heavy truck problem in downtown Ottawa.
- Regarding the Long-Term Integrated Interprovincial Crossings Plan study, when does the NCC plan to undertake the short-term strategy that was developed to update the commercial vehicle data?

### **Answer 8**

- PSPC and the NCC are currently working in close collaboration to coordinate the gathering of new information to help the Government of Canada consider options for an additional National Capital Region crossing. Over the next 24 months, PSPC and the NCC will examine the regional movement of people and goods in the National Capital Region.
- This includes leveraging the results of the Long-Term Integrated Interprovincial Crossings Plan, approved by the NCC Board of Directors in January 2022, the update of the regional transportation model that takes into account the Origin Destination Survey, completed in 2022 and led by the TRANS Committee, and the Commercial Goods Movement Survey, which will be initiated by the NCC in spring 2023.



### **Question 9 – Project status, transparency, next steps**

- Where will the bridge be located and who is leading that decision? What are timelines for decisions? What role does the NCC play?
- Why has the NCC not stepped back and considered the possibility of a tunnel or bridge in the west end instead? How can the NCC promote existing crossings, like the Alexandra Bridge?
- Why is there not more transparency throughout the project? Are all studies available to the public? How can the public access the 150-page WSP study led by PSPC?
- Will there be an opportunity to receive public comment on the work?

### **Answer 9**

- In Budget 2021, the Government of Canada noted they were establishing a project planning office within PSPC as the lead, working in collaboration with the NCC, as the Capital planner. The role of the project office is to gather additional technical data to enable the government to make a decision. A decision on the location of the bridge has not been made.
- Currently, the NCC, the cities, and provincial partners are collaborating to update regional mobility data, for residential and goods movement. The NCC will be updating the Long-Term Integrated Interprovincial Crossings Plan to consider those updated regional mobility patterns. The plan identifies many short-term strategies to improve interprovincial mobility, such as transit improvements.
- In terms of transparency, studies conducted in the past are available in a variety of documents. These are available on the NCC or PSPC website or can be requested from either organization.
- Public and community stakeholders can share their questions with the Project Office by contacting PSPC.

### **Questions 10 - Geotechnical field study in the Ottawa River**

- What is the rationale for the study?
- Why have certain locations been chosen for the study?
- Is the NCC concerned about the environmental impacts of studies being conducted in Green's Creek and McLaurin Bay?
- How does the NCC intend to protect the environment in areas like the Greenbelt, Green's Creek and McLaurin Bay?

## Answer 10

- In October 2022, PSPC hired Golder and Associates Ltd. to undertake a field study to collect additional geotechnical data for three potential corridors located on the Ottawa River. The corridors had been previously identified in a 2013 study led by the NCC and updated in 2020. The field work did not include a location in Green's Creek.
- The results from the field work will be used to help understand whether a site may be appropriate to support the structure of a potential crossing. More details will be shared with the public as they become available.
- The current NCC Greenbelt Master Plan outlines protective measures for the Greenbelt and its natural environmental components, which includes clear direction for the conservation and restoration of natural areas.

## Theme: Capital planning

### Question 11 – Planning documents

- The NCC published *The Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017-2067* a few years ago. I was wondering if any of the projects mentioned in the book slowed due to the pandemic, and how does the NCC ensure that objectives are met for 2067?
- What new plans and projects does the NCC have for Ottawa in the upcoming year?

## Answer 11

*The Plan for Canada's Capital* is alive for us at the NCC, and when we get opportunities to rehabilitate assets, we look at the milestone projects, some of which are currently underway. For example, Kiwekì Point (formerly Nepean Point) was included in the plan and is now underway, and we have plans to reopen it next year. We are reading the plan constantly, and in the months ahead, you will start hearing some exciting announcements about how we plan to realize some very dynamic and exciting projects in the document.

### Question 12 – Plans for Confederation Heights

Is it possible to focus on Confederation Heights in the coming year? Is the NCC planning to collaborate on the project?

## Answer 12

Our planning team is at the table with Canada Lands Company and PSPC, which are leading the effort to rehabilitate the lands. The engagement strategy is being led by PSPC. The City of Ottawa is also actively participating and knows more about the details regarding the schedule of this project.

## **Theme: Alexandra Bridge project update**

### **Question 13**

The request for proposals (RFP) [for a technical advisor] for the Alexandra Bridge was issued on October 7, 2022. Can you provide an update on progress and possible open opportunities for working on the project, including more specialized volunteering opportunities?

### **Answer 13**

PSPC issued an RFP on October 6, 2022, until January 12, 2023, to seek the support of a Technical Advisor (TA) for the provision of various technical services, specifically architectural and structural engineering, strategic planning, project administration and technical drawing. The TA will assist with the design and construction of a new bridge; work will include development of conceptual design options. Such design options will be subject to public consultation, expected to take place in fall 2023.

The integrated project team continues to seek and identify opportunities where the public and stakeholders can partake in meaningful engagement which will inform the various stages of the project. Specific volunteer opportunities are being explored and once finalized, will be communicated to the public and stakeholders.

## **Theme: Ottawa Civic Hospital Campus Location**

### **Question 14**

- Was the decision to switch the hospital site from Tunney's to Dow's Lake a financial decision to allow commercial development at Tunney's?
- Is the decision to overturn the NCC recommendation on the location of the new Civic Hospital campus in contravention of the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*?
- How will greenspace be protected?
- Is this work in line with federal land use, design and transaction approval (FLUDTA)?
- Which members of the host nation have been consulted regarding the development of The Ottawa Hospital?

### **Answer 14**

- The NCC was directed to do a site selection process in 2016 to evaluate candidates for a potential land transfer for the new Civic Campus. The Tunney's Pasture site was approved by the NCC Board of Directors. Subsequently, the Government of Canada directed the NCC to move forward with the land transfer of the Sir John Carling site.
- The NCC has worked in its capacity in the roles it plays to enable the project to move forward. We are not the landowner. The NCC plays a federal approvals role and has been involved in various design plans.

- The NCC established Capital realm principles to help guide inputs, comments, and suggestions for the site. Since then, hundreds of meetings have taken place between the NCC, the hospital, and City staff to help guide the project; public consultations led by The Ottawa Hospital in 2016 also generated over 8,000 comments, which resulted in the hospital undertaking more extensive consultations.
- This is an ongoing project, and there will be many opportunities in the years ahead to look at more detailed parts of this project and further federal land use approvals as the project proceeds. Questions about work taking place onsite should be directed to The Ottawa Hospital.
- Indigenous engagement is a part of the hospital's consultation strategy. The Ottawa Hospital is leading engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

## **Question 15**

### **Theme: Renaming the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway**

- The Acknowledge the Truth event was referred to as a protest by some media outlets; however, it was not a protest, but instead a ceremony. The goals were to raise awareness of Sir John A. Macdonald's legacy.
- We also created postcards (hundreds of them) for walk attendees to sign if they felt inspired after the walk to share support for changing the name, and we wanted to give a collection to each of the NCC Board members to read over as you go through possible decisions for changing the name.
- We are here to present ourselves as the NCC goes through this renaming process, and to ask if our comments have been received?

## **Answer 15**

- Regarding the renaming process, in June 2022, the NCC Board approved a new Toponymy policy. It now includes criteria of Indigenous naming and is in general a much more thoughtful and modern policy than before. Now there is an opportunity for members of the public to suggest renaming NCC assets.
- We had already had requests for the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway, so this was the first renaming taken under the policy and, as part of the policy approval, we established an Advisory Committee on Toponymy with staff, historians, and members of the Algonquin Nation.
- In August 2022, a new NCC Advisory Committee membership was finalized; the committee's first meeting was held on September 13, 2022 and its second meeting on November 29, 2022. The NCC reviewed the advice provided by the Advisory Committee on Toponymy (ACT) and has decided to move forward with the renaming process with an Indigenous naming and engagement exercise.

## IV – Next Steps

The questions and comments shared by the public will be shared with the NCC Board of Directors and executive management.

## Appendix A – Email Questions and Comments

**Question 1** Is one of the NCC's roles to protect the Greenbelt? If so, how will the NCC protect these spaces from strong pressures to create developments, in particular at the sixth crossing?

How can the NCC promote existing crossings like the Alexandria Bridge?

What role does the NCC play with other partners? As a citizen, I am concerned that greenspaces are becoming built over and overdeveloped.

**Question 2** I would like to know your position regarding the opening of Gatineau Park to cars for the 2023 season.

**Question 3** I do have some questions in order of importance:

1. Why is the NCC spending my tax dollars now doing drill tests on the river for corridor 7 since previous studies have all concluded that corridor 5 is the best overall option?
2. Is the NCC not aware of the 2017 Quebec law for the protection of wetlands (read McLaurin Bay)?
3. Why is there a lack of transparency to what is taking place?
4. Which politician is the champion pushing for a sixth bridge? Alternatively, which commercial entity is pushing for another bridge (follow the money)?

**Question 4** Though it is possible to attend virtually, I wish to attend the Public Annual General Meeting in person in order to ask the following question(s) regarding Vincent Massey Park (VMP) and the continued disturbance our Ottawa neighbourhood experiences.

What does the NCC plan to do in regard to unsanctioned events with alcohol and loud DJ music that are in contravention of its rules and etiquette as well as City of Ottawa By-law?

Could the NCC please place a sign, similar to that of the Experimental Farm (see attached photo) or the attached PDF draft sample, at VMP?

Could the NCC please ensure that there is a memorandum of understanding between the City of Ottawa in terms of enforcement of noise from this “public” place?

What does the NCC plan to do about the lack of capability, such as conservations officers, to enforce its rules and regulations?

Note: There continues to be a chronic violation from VMP of Ottawa’s Noise By-law, Section 4 (Sound reproduction or amplification devices), subsection 5. We the citizens have concerns about the lack of compliance in enforcing the already existing rules and regulations and would like the NCC to ensure a collegial and safe environment.

**Question 5**

I have a question for the upcoming meeting as an Ottawa-Orleans resident:

The NCC multi-use riverfront greenbelt pathway between Orleans and Beacon Hill across Green’s creek has been an integral part of the Ottawa community, attracting thousands of cross-country skiers, cyclists including bike commuters, and long-distance runners going between communities weekly. It serves to encourage Orleans residents to bike to central Ottawa instead of driving, reducing traffic congestion in the downtown core and on the 174 by providing an alternative means for transportation. Green’s Creek also has an integral role in biodiversity as a wetland; it contains the cattail sedge and rare species of Canadian fish such as the river redhorse. The community of Convent Glen is heartbroken to see barges sampling this important area as part of the NCC refresh study for an interprovincial bridge that is intended for truck use. Given how important this Greenbelt connection is to the east Ottawa community and how environmentally sensitive this land is, why is the National Capital Commission considering this land as a potential site of an interprovincial highway (corridor 6 and 7), essentially taking away this well-loved, year-round multi-use pathway from East Ottawa residents, destroying important community farmland and risking losing habitat for rare Canadian fish species in Green’s Creek?

**Question 6**

Could the public finally get a truthful explanation about the sudden switch of the hospital site from Tunney’s Pasture, as recommended after extensive study to protected greenspace, far from public transit,

and destroying so many trees at a time when we are supposedly protecting the former? Why? Please justify this publicly.

**Question 7**

What is the current status of the sixth interprovincial crossing project and what is the anticipated timeline for decisions and impact studies?

Why was the 150-page report from WSP withheld from the public and when will it be released? (See below.)

Why does the NCC want to damage environmentally sensitive land that it has a mandate to protect to build this bridge?

This article mentions the full report.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/government-report-sixth-bridge-over-river-1.5725934>

**Question 8**

To whom this may concern:

I have some questions regarding the plan to build a new bridge across the Ottawa River. These questions stem from many concerns I have regarding this bridge and its negative impact on our community (e.g. increase in pollution, increase in traffic, increase in noise, destroying wetlands, impact to an already determined fragile ecological nature corridor, destruction of popular nature trails, decrease in property value of homes, etc.)

(a) Is the location confirmed? If not, what are the next steps or what stage is this part of the process at? What opportunities are there for residents to provide opinions/voice concerns before that decision is made?

(b) What is the timeline on this project and related decision-making? I have only recently heard about this project, yet it seems the project is being accelerated. Who is leading this?

(c) I would like a copy of all meetings, reports, and testing results that exist regarding this project. How can I access these documents? I would also like access to the full (150-page) reserve study report.

I look forward to hearing from you (in a timely manner) given the urgency of the matter.

**Question 9**

Hello,



I have some questions regarding the plan to build a new bridge across the Ottawa River:

1. Is the location confirmed? If not, what are next steps or what stage is this part of the process at? And what are the opportunities for residents to provide opinions/voice concerns before that decision is made?
2. It seems the project is being accelerated? Who is leading this?
3. Kettle Island: Is this still a viable location, considering it would impact residential neighbourhoods less than other options?
4. How can I access the full (150-page) reserve study report?

**Question 10**

Good day,

Reference to scheduled NCC Annual Public Meeting 2022 to be held on November 3, 2022.

Please note that I am a volunteer for the Alexandra Bridge Replacement Project since March 2021.

I know that the RFP was issued on October 7, 2022.

Would you provide an update on progress and possible open opportunities of working at this project, including more specialized volunteering opportunities at the meeting sessions?

Thank you,

**Question 11**

Regarding the plans for the sixth interprovincial river crossing, I have some questions:

QUESTION 1

All the evidence shows that building more roads increases traffic:

<https://www.wired.com/2014/06/wuwt-traffic-induced-demand/>

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/building-new-roads-just-creates-more-traffic-heres-the-proof/>

What measures have you taken to ensure this doesn't happen? What non-road building alternatives have you considered?

QUESTION 2

- Why has the 150-page reserve study report not been publicised and made available for everyone to read? Why the lack of transparency?

**Question 12** My question is: "What authority does the NCC have over development on National Historic Sites in the National Capital Region? Might the decision to override the NCC recommendation of Tunney's Pasture for the new Civic Campus of The Ottawa Hospital be in contravention of the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*?"

**Question 13** To whom it may concern:

Thank you for allowing questions to be submitted.

My question as a concerned Ottawa resident to the NCC Board is the following:

Context:

The NCC is the largest landowner in Ottawa and has responsibility for the stewardship, in particular, of the many green spaces, wetlands and environmental treasures, especially now in light of the indisputable effects of climate change.

The public is just becoming aware of the provincial government's assault on our environment across the province, not to mention, Ottawa, the nation's capital.

Question:

Does this new policy of provincial government raise concerns for the NCC about protecting Ottawa's greenspaces under its jurisdiction? If so, how can the residents of Ottawa support the NCC in denouncing the lack of environmental standards and oversight?

If not, how will the NCC, let alone residents of Ottawa, hold their heads up high locally, nationally, and internationally?

I look forward to your reply at the meeting.

**Question 14** Here is my question for your annual public meeting:

The *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* states that the minister responsible for the Parks Canada Agency is responsible to "provide for the administration, preservation and maintenance of any historic places acquired or historic museums established pursuant to this Act.". Does the National Capital Commission have authority to allow the development of national historic sites in the National Capital

Region, like the Central Experimental Farm, for municipal purposes such as a hospital?

**Question 15** I have concerns about the plans for the Canadensis botanical garden that is proposed for the southeast corner of the Experimental Farm. Will there be consultation with the public by the NCC about this proposal before it is given the green light? If so, when and how?

**Question 16** Question for the NCC Public Meeting on November 3, 2022  
Have the recommendations set out in the submission of the federal land use, design and transaction approval (FLUDTA) for the New Civic Development for the Ottawa Hospital master site plan been met regarding:

- Performance criteria of demonstrating harmonious integration with its setting;
- Accessibility: seamless, intuitive, safe, and unrestricted hospital access for all citizens requiring hospital care;
- Sustainable site development: exemplary stewardship of environmental resources by identifying, protecting, and supporting biodiversity;
- Requirements: meeting or exceeding applicable sustainable development requirements set out by federal, provincial, and municipal regulators?

**Question 17** The 2022 report in *The Lancet*, a prestigious medical journal, has just been published and is titled: “Countdown on Health and Climate Change.”

The report documents the serious deleterious effects of climate change on health and wellbeing, most particularly for the elderly, the vulnerable, and the very young.

How can the NCC still justify its decision to overturn its own recommendation as to where the new Civic Hospital should be built, namely at Tunney’s Pasture, and thereby cause the loss of over 50 acres of precious green space in the heart of the city, including the destruction of more than 500 (mature) trees?

**Question 18** My question is: Was the decision to switch The Ottawa Hospital site from Tunney’s to the Dow’s Lake site simply a financial decision to allow commercial development at Tunney’s? Our estimate is that the 50 acres at Tunney’s has about \$2.5 billion in development potential

for retail, commercial, warehouse and condominiums, which would be lost if TOH were built at Tunney's. Were the NCC and others willing to sacrifice this heritage Experimental Farm site to enable commercial development at Tunney's?

**Question 19**

I have some questions regarding the plan to build a new bridge across the Ottawa River:

1. I understand that there are 3 options being considered. All options will have impacts on the existing communities. How do I access the full (150-page) study results?
2. Living in Orleans, I am very concerned about the impacts on my community, particularly related to the increased traffic on highway 174, noise, and especially the environmental and green space impacts. How can concerned citizens jointly voice their concerns and objections?
3. I find it distressing that decisions to proceed with this project were made during the height of the pandemic. People were living in fear; that was not the time to rush through such an important decision that can so negatively affect communities. People need to be properly informed and consulted! Is there a public zoom session planned for community members? Are people able to attend the public meeting, on November 3, via zoom?
4. Has a final decision been made on the location of the newly planned bridge?

**Question 20**

Whereas federal, provincial, and local governments have already agreed on the destruction of 600+ mature trees in Canada's Central Experimental Farm to make way for a questionable new hospital and parkade construction project (said new hospital to become old and probably in need of replacement itself before replacement plantings can reach maturity), why have the developers/contractors of the project been allowed to fence off a large area of the Farm, including the doomed treed area, thus preventing its continued use and enjoyment by Canadians for summer and autumn 2022, a time when the site has been otherwise dormant and not even the agreed destruction has started to take place?

**Question 21**

Here are some questions that I would appreciate having answered.

1. This question is simple: Why is there so much secrecy about this project? The mandate document for Helena Jaczek, who is in charge of PSPC, states clearly at the beginning “*Open and Accountable Government* sets out core principles ... and standards of conduct...” expected of you and your office. In fact, much of the refresh was withheld on June 25, 2020, when the National Capital Commission (NCC) unveiled a report produced by engineering firm WSP. Apparently, it was intended for internal use only.
2. WHO, HOW, WHEN and WHY was it decided to change the footprint of option 6? The geotechnical testing doesn’t match the maps we believe were the studied locations. Additionally, please explain the fiscal wisdom behind testing all three sites. Why not test them in order of preferred location, stopping the testing when a site is deemed to be viable?
3. I understand from a recent letter you sent that “PSPC is working jointly with the NCC to refresh existing information and gather additional data to support decision-making on the need for an additional crossing in the region.” What “need” would you consider compelling enough to warrant spending billions of dollars to build a bridge that will effectively desecrate vast areas of natural greenspace (the eastern Greenbelt among others) that the NCC is mandated with protecting while at the same time placing huge burdens on the City of Ottawa to adapt current infrastructure to support (Hwy 174)?
4. Whose decision was it to put option 6 (Lower Duck Island) and option 7 (McLaurin Bay) back on the table when study after study has identified Kettle Island as the preferred location on almost all criteria? How can the pandemic have made options 6 and 7 more preferable than they were previously?

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful responses to these questions.

**Question 22** Can the reversal of the decision made by NCC with good reasons, that Tunney’s Pasture was the best site, remain an unchallenged precedent?

So much more is known about what would be less costly to the environment and the public purse and better for the success of the hospital, its staff and patients and the City of Ottawa.

NCC goals in best practices were summarized once as: Owner must budget and plan so that needless harm and waste are never an issue. Waste starts with an inappropriate site, sometimes with facts withheld. Waste follows with endless extensive and unsuccessful mitigations.

We must do better. Build smaller to be more effective, we are now advised. Cutting trees, building power lines, and paving tennis on green roof are not the elements of service to patients and staff.

The Ottawa hospital has in the recent past said nothing is set in stone, and that there is still time to change the design back based on feedback. Read the <https://reimagineottawa.ca/> website and Q and A and see how much is known about building a better hospital.

The Farm is Ottawa's only large park. Would Hyde Park in London, Stanley Park in Vancouver, give up 55 acres of their parks, or pave them?

We have the opportunity to build better, smaller and smarter and more sustainable, and we must!

Respectfully submitted,

**Question 23** What new plans does NCC have for Ottawa in the upcoming year?  
What new projects is NCC currently working on in Ottawa?

**Question 24**

- The *National Capital Act*, which I believe you are governed under, outlines the powers that you have under 10(2)(g) to “administer, preserve, and maintain any historic place or museum.” There’s nothing in there that says you can sell or lease it.
- I think this is an overreach of your authority to lease or disband the historical nature of this land. I’d like to know if that’s a true interpretation of the Act.

**Question 25**

- The CEO's opening remarks spoke to the high value placed on outdoor spaces. Thank you for the acknowledgment that people made great use of green spaces and parks during COVID.
- There is a lot of land in River Ward that is accessed during the winter, but not a lot of parking.
- Hog's Back Park parking lot is closed during the winter when people want to visit it in all four seasons, and we're seeing similar requests at Vincent Massey.
- It is very difficult to get the NCC to commit to plow part of the parking lot, even 25 spots.
- Illegal parking is turning the lots into a mess right now.
- We look to partners like the NCC to ensure four-season use of our outdoor spaces. Can we get a commitment from you to keep some spaces in River Ward's parking lots open this winter?

**Question 26**

- The NCC's Long-Term Integrated Interprovincial Crossings Plan notes that the Ville de Gatineau Schéma d'aménagement et de développement includes the action to maintain freight transportation on the KERWN corridor in Ottawa in the event of a bridge being built in the eastern part of the region.
- The LTIICP also concedes that the most recent Origin Destination Survey was conducted in 2011 and the most recent commercial vehicle data is from 2007—5 years ago.
- Why then are the NCC and PSPC devoting considerable resources to planning a new bridge in the east when there is no recent data to support the need for a new crossing and when such a crossing would not address the serious heavy truck problem in downtown Ottawa?

**Question 27**

I have a concern, and I'm under the impression that Dow's Lake is under your jurisdiction. Am I correct? How about the Rideau Canal? They're connected.

My concern, and it's serious, is that because of the construction and demolition activities at the Experimental Farm and Queen Juliana Park, Dow's Lake is literally being poisoned. And that is known information, and you have received a report to this effect.

Are there any areas in that watershed under your jurisdiction, where you could order an environmental assessment to follow up on the one that's already been done, but has never been followed up on?

Do you have any properties that would be affected by poisoning of groundwater running down from construction site running into Dow's Lake?

**Question 28**

We want to thank you for agreeing to change the SJAM name four days after we asked.

The Acknowledge the Truth event was beautiful, was kind of talked about as a protest in some of the media, wasn't intended to be that, it was a ceremony. Every step was a prayer, in hope of healing. So much joy and beauty and connection, and everyone at the event spoke to that. The goals were to raise awareness of Macdonald's influence and efforts in the creation of residential schools, and the hurt that it causes today.

We also created postcards (hundreds of them) for walk attendees to sign if they felt inspired after the walk to share support for changing the name, and we wanted to give a collection to each of the board members to read over as you go through the possible decision of changing the name, the ones that are hopeful and happy, but also the ones that are angry. We hope you'll accept them.

We are also here to present ourselves to you as you're going through this renaming process. We've sent an email about meeting, so we just want to reinforce that.