

The Honourable Catherine McKenna,
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities
107 Catherine Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 0P4
Catherine.McKenna@parl.gc.ca

Re: Master Site Plan for the Proposed Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus

Dear Minister McKenna,

First, please accept our sincere thanks for your years of service representing Ottawa Centre and Canada on the world stage. Your efforts during your tenure have been very much appreciated. Before you leave your role, we, the Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association (CHNA), seek your assistance and that of the federal government to provide the necessary funds to build underground parking for the new Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus. This would ensure the protection of this site and nearby sites of national importance.

The CHNA is a volunteer, non-profit community association representing approximately 2000 households adjacent to the current Civic Campus of The Ottawa Hospital (TOH). Like most people in Ottawa and the surrounding region, our members have benefited from the exemplary health care provided by TOH and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. The CHNA is currently engaged in the review of The Ottawa Hospital Master Plan and has a number of concerns. We hope, with your assistance, to rectify one of its most significant problems: the proposed above-ground parking garage.

Campus Design Approval Process: TOH Master Site Plan was released by the City of Ottawa in late May and is being evaluated by the public as well as the City of Ottawa. It is expected to go to the City's Planning Committee for approval in late August. The Plan will also require NCC review and approval as a level 3 Federal Land Project. It is slated to be heard by the NCC board in October.

We believe that the Transportation Impact Assessment and Mobility Study (TIA) accompanying the application for the New Civic campus is flawed for a number of reasons resulting in some transportation decisions that need to be revisited.

Cost Trimming: Due to the sensitivity of the location on the Central Experimental Farm next to multiple Canadian historic views, TOH has repeatedly stated that the majority of car parking would be built underground. Unfortunately, the detailed site plans illustrate that this feature has been removed to trim costs. Rather, a multi-level parking structure is to be built above ground, albeit with a green roof, where Queen Juliana Park is today (Preston Street and Prince of Wales Drive.)

Proposed Structure: This proposed four-story parkade will contain 2,500 parking spots, similar to the size of the parking structure at the Ottawa International Airport. Some of the space is reserved for NCC use to replace the current public parking lot at that location.

Access, Biking and Greenspace Impact: On top of four layers of parking, TOH proposes a fifth layer; a green roof to replace the loss of Queen Juliana Park. However, this proposed green space will be located too high for meaningful access by the public. Pedestrians will be expected to walk up long ramps to reach the public amenities 20 metres above grade. Further, elevator access through the garage will be a deterrent to access as pedestrians will be less willing to find

their way through a parking garage and ride an elevator to reach the park. Existing intuitive biking connections from the nearby Trillium Multi-Use Pathway to Dows Lake are to be interrupted and cyclists will be asked to take a circuitous route up and over the roof to reach Dows Lake.

Cultural Heritage Impact: A four story parking structure with a fifth-floor green roof will rise more than 20 meters above grade surrounded by Prince of Wales Drive, Preston Street and Carling Avenue. This is inconsistent as evaluated against the standards of excellence set by the City of Ottawa and the NCC for this project. These criteria include: architectural design excellence, publicly accessible open spaces, underground parking, and respect for the cultural/historical nature of the site. The parking structure will be in full view of Dow's Lake, The Rideau Canal (a Canadian heritage river and an NHSC and UNESCO world heritage site), Commissioners Park (home to the NCC tulip display as part of the annual Canadian Tulip Festival) and Prince of Wales Drive (a historic scenic-entry route).

Do it Right: The new hospital development is estimated to cost \$2.8 billion dollars. The additional cost required to bury the parking underground is a very small percentage of the overall budget. There are many examples available for similar projects where parking was built underground. Nixon Field, the rugby pitch at Queens University, sits on top of an underground garage which is connected via tunnel directly into the Kingston Health Science Centre. Here in Ottawa, Lansdowne Park was redeveloped with underground parking in order to preserve its heritage buildings and to provide much-needed greenspace in its urban setting.

Your Help: We are requesting your help, and the help of the federal government, to ensure the required funds are found to provide underground parking for the new Civic Campus. Now is not the time to be removing active green space and replacing it with a parking garage on this historic site given the climate emergency. We all want the new world-class Ottawa Hospital Civic Campus to fit well into its new home on the Central Experimental Farm and to ensure we protect important city, national, and world heritage sites.

We would welcome a meeting with you to discuss this matter, virtual or otherwise (perhaps safely outside on the site itself).

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Regards,

Karen Wright

President, Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association

cc: Joel Harden, MPP Ottawa Centre JHarden-QP@ndp.on.ca, jharden-co@ndp.on.ca, Christine Elliott, Minister of Health christine.elliott@pc.ola.org, Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca, Jeff Leiper, Councillor, City of Ottawa jeff.leiper@ottawa.ca, The Ottawa Hospital Board of Governors board@toh.ca, Cameron Love, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Ottawa Hospital, cameron.love@toh.ca, Tobi Nussbaum, CEO, National Capital Commission tobi.nussbaum@ncc-ccn.ca