

Friends of the Central
Experimental Farm



Amis de la Ferme
expérimentale centrale

February 1, 2016

The Honourable Catherine M. McKenna, M.P., P.C.
Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
107 Catherine Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0P4

Dear Minister McKenna,

Representatives of the Friends of the Central Experimental Farm (FCEF) would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the importance of the Central Experimental Farm as a national heritage site, a renowned research facility, and a public green space.

We understand from recent media reports that you may review the previous government's decision to provide 60 acres of Farm land for a new hospital. We are also aware that City of Ottawa officials have suggested taking a strip of Farm land along Baseline Road to improve the city's East-West Transportation Corridor. We believe that any decision to radically change the nature of National Historic Sites such as the Farm should consider the full impact of that decision on the intrinsic value and significance of that site.

The FCEF has been a supporter of the Farm for over 25 years. Our group of approximately 500 members and volunteers generously donates 10,000 hours annually to working in the gardens and through events or other activities, such as our quarterly newsletter that promote awareness of the beauty, scientific value, and historical importance of the Farm and the work done there.

As a tenant on the Farm, we cannot take a position on the land transfer or other decisions regarding Farm property but we can share with you concerns our members have expressed.

We are approaching you because of your interest in the transfer of Farm land for a new hospital and because the Farm is within your riding. We fully appreciate the tremendous demands on your time but hope that your schedule will permit an opportunity to meet with us to discuss the value and contribution of this wonderful heritage site.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judy Dodds,
President

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