

Office of the Chief Executive Officer Bureau du premier dirigeant

APR 28 2017

Ms. Judy Dodds
President
Friends of the Central Experimental Farm
Building 72 Central Experimental Farm
Ottawa ON K1A 0C6
info@friendsofthefarm.ca

Dear Ms. Dodds:

I would like to thank Friends of the Farm for its letter of February 7, 2017, regarding the long-term lease of federal lands to The Ottawa Hospital and the potential impacts on the Central Experimental Farm.

You raise profound issues and we agree with your assessment of the importance of the capital landscapes, public uses surrounding the site, and risk of precedent setting. Because the lands in question are of national interest, the project will be subject to the *National Capital Act*, and federal land use and design approvals will be required. The National Capital Commission (NCC) developed Capital Realm Design Principles that will serve as guidance for the development of the project. These principles will form part of the transaction approval and they were presented to the NCC Board of Directors at its April meeting.

Following the approval of the land transaction, the Capital Urban Lands Plan and the Central Experimental Farm Management Plan will be amended to reflect this new use.

Finally, Public Services Procurement Canada (PSPC) is consulting and responding to all enquiries from the public and stakeholders on this project. We look forward to working with the proponent, the city, the province, stakeholders such as yourselves, and others in the phased design approvals that are to come.

The Ottawa Hospital is a vitally important institution in the National Capital Region that provides health care services that are essential to a healthy and economically vibrant capital region in both Eastern Ontario and West Quebec. The Hospital also undertakes medical education and research which is of national importance.

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It should also be noted that the Hospital is the third largest employer in the National Capital Region. The site design should enhance and protect nearby capital landscapes including Dow's Lake and UNESCO Rideau Canal World Heritage Site, Commissioners Park, Prince of Wales scenic entry and the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site.

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us and I trust that the information provided will be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mark Kristmanson
Chief Executive Officer

- c.c. The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister responsible for the NCC
 The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
 Canada
 The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister Responsible for the Historic Sites
 and Monuments Board and the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office
 The Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Attorney General
 His Worship Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa