



NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CAPITALE NATIONALE

Renewal of the NCC's Environmental Strategy

PUBLIC CONSULTATION
JUNE 2017

Canada

Public Consultations on the Renewal of the NCC Environmental Strategy

I- Project Description

The NCC's current environmental strategy "Building a Greener Capital" is up for renewal in March 2018. A first set of internal consultations was held in early 2017 to collect ideas for the new strategy's goals. In June 2017, a first set of external consultations was held with the same objective.

At the same time, a bill was tabled in Parliament that proposed amendments to the Federal Sustainable Development Act (FSDA) which would extend responsibility for implementing the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) and enable a whole of government approach to environmental sustainability.

Although it is not proposed that the NCC be required to report on progress toward the FSDS, it will do so on a voluntary basis in order to align and comply with federal priorities and goals. Thus, the NCC's new environmental strategy will be a Sustainable Development Strategy that is in step with FSDS goals, targets and milestones, while remaining true to the ideas collected during the consultation process.

Project Objective

Launch a Sustainable Development Strategy for the NCC in September 2018.

II- Consultation Process

Overview

Date and Place:

- Consultations with stakeholders: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 from 9 am to noon (English workshop), and from 1 pm to 4 pm (French workshop), NCC, Urbanism Lab, 40, Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Consultation with the general public: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 from 6 to 8 pm, NCC, Urbanism Lab, 40, Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

Consultation objective:

- The objective of the public consultations on the renewal of the environmental strategy was to consult with the general public and the NCC's stakeholders to obtain their ideas as to the goals and objectives that should be pursued under the NCC's new sustainable development strategy.

Format

- Consultations with stakeholders : workshops
Consultations with the general public : open house

Invitations and Promotions

The consultations were publicized using the following methods:

- Email invitations to the public affairs database and other identified interest groups
- Media invitations
- Event on the NCC website
- Messages on Facebook
- Messages on Twitter
- Newspaper advertisements (*Ottawa Citizen, Le Droit*)

Participants

Stakeholder consultations:

- English Workshop – 25 participants representing 14 organizations
- French Workshop – 9 participants representing 6 organizations

General public consultations:

- Members of the public: 14

III – Consultation Highlights

Stakeholder consultations:

The stakeholder workshops began with a presentation on the review of the NCC's current environmental strategy. This was followed by a visioning exercise to identify the desired results of the new strategy. The exercise was led by an external certified professional facilitator. During the exercise, participants were asked to answer the following questions:

- What advice do you have for NCC on how to implement a successful environmental strategic plan?

- What do we want to see happening by 2028 as a result of the implementation of the NCC’s environmental strategy?

As a large group, the participants then sorted their ideas into themes that could form the basis of the new sustainable development strategy’s goals.

Consultation with the general public:

Since this was an open house consultation, ten panels were set up around the room. Each panel represented one of the functions of the NCC, as follows:

- We do long term planning for the Capital.
- We create mobility options.
- We manage buildings.
- We manage lands.
- We preserve and protect the environment.
- We manage the official residences.
- We offer outdoor experiences.
- We manage our internal services.
- We embrace good governance practices.
- Other ideas?

Each panel included the following question: “What would you like to see achieved in this area by 2028 as a result of the NCC’s environmental strategy?” Members of the public were asked to answer the question by writing their ideas onto sticky notes and posting them on the appropriate panel. Several NCC staff members were stationed around the room to engage in discussion and help collect ideas.

V – Comments Gathered

The following tables present a summary of the ideas gathered from stakeholders and the public that could apply to the new Sustainable Development Strategy’s goals.

Table 1. Stakeholder consultations ideas

IDEAS	THEMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make 24 Sussex a model of sustainable design. • Create a climate change adaptation plan. • Have an electric fleet for the NCC. • Be a leader in sustainable building management/energy efficiency. • Aim for net zero emissions in NCC buildings and 100% green energy. 	<p>Climate Change</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance green spaces and reduce fragmentation. • Protect all wooded areas and increase the urban forest. • Make buildings bird friendly. • Incorporate natural capital into decision making. • Reduce noise and light pollution in natural areas. 	<p>Natural Heritage</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renaturalize the river shorelines. • Make the rivers the cleanest in a capital city. 	<p>Rivers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer environmental education experiences to all users. • Make outdoor experiences accessible for all (through transportation, facilities and infrastructure). • Encourage the participation of new Canadians and youth in outdoor/nature education experiences. 	<p>Environmental Education and Outdoor Experiences</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create community gardens in partnership with community groups. • Harvest food from existing fruit and nut trees and create edible forests on NCC lands. • Create opportunities for local food production/consumption through urban agriculture. 	<p>Urban Agriculture</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with cities to create an integrated, accessible, sustainable transit network (walking, cycling, public transit, etc.) • Prioritize active mobility on the parkways. • Build electric bike stations. • Complete a network of multi-use pathways in the Greenbelt. • Make the NCR the most bike friendly city in Canada. • Improve transportation options between downtown and Gatineau Park. 	<p>Mobility</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCC should be a leader in sustainability. • NCC acts as a bridge between regional authorities. • NCC engages communities fully. • Partner with regional authorities to create an integrated transportation network and redevelop Prince of Wales Bridge for active transportation. • Consult with all groups, especially Indigenous. 	<p>NCC and the Community</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find budget efficiencies to fund new environmental projects. 	<p>Internal Operations</p>

Table 2. General public consultation ideas

IDEAS	THEMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make 24 Sussex a model of sustainable design. • Create a climate change adaptation plan. • Have an electric fleet for the NCC. • Be a leader in sustainable building management/energy efficiency. • Aim for net zero emissions in NCC buildings and 100% green energy. • Pilot environmental best practices and new technologies on NCC lands and properties. • Redevelop brownfield properties. • Focus on rehabilitation and re-purposing. 	<p>Climate Change</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance green spaces and reduce fragmentation. • Protect all wooded areas and increase the urban forest. • More community involvement in managing lands. • Limit new roads through the greenbelt. • Care for endangered species. 	<p>Natural Heritage</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renaturalize the river shorelines. • Make the rivers the cleanest in a capital city. • Renaturalize Chaudière Falls 	<p>Rivers</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer environmental education experiences to all users. • Create citizen science programs to support scientific research and education. • Make outdoor experiences accessible for all (through transportation, facilities and infrastructure). • Encourage the participation of new Canadians and youth in outdoor/nature education experiences. • Recreate historical portage routes along the Ottawa River. 	<p>Environmental Education and Outdoor Experiences</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create community gardens in partnership with community groups. • Harvest food from existing fruit and nut trees and create edible forests on NCC lands. • Create opportunities for local food production/consumption through urban agriculture. 	<p>Urban Agriculture</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize active mobility on the parkways. • Complete a network of multi-use pathways in the Greenbelt. • Maintain pathways in the winter. • Make the NCR the most bike friendly city in Canada. • Create canoe portages on the Ottawa River. • Improve transportation options between downtown and Gatineau Park. • Separated pathways (bicycle vs. pedestrian, commuting vs. recreational). 	<p>Mobility</p>

IDEAS	THEMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCC should be a leader in sustainability. • NCC acts as a bridge between regional authorities. • NCC engages communities fully. • Partner with regional authorities to create an integrated transportation network and redevelop Prince of Wales Bridge for active transportation. • Prioritize community and local government partnerships over developer/corporate ones. • Create a Mobile Volunteer Task Force for flood control, ski patrol, invasive species etc. • Consult with all groups, especially Indigenous. • Focus more on external operations with new strategy. 	<p>NCC and the Community</p>

VI – NCC’s Response

Ideas gathered from the consultations were grouped into themes which could form the basis for the goals of the new sustainable development strategy.

On June 19, 2017, Bill C-57 was introduced, which proposes amendments to the Federal Sustainable Development Act (FSDA). To enable a whole-of-government approach, it is proposed that the Act be amended to include several new federal departments and Crown corporations. Although these amendments do not extend to the NCC at this time, in order to remain relevant and compliant with federal standards of sustainable development, the NCC has chosen to align its new strategy with the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS) and report on progress toward the FSDS on a voluntary basis.

In light of this, the ideas collected from the consultation process on the renewal of the environmental strategy were reviewed to determine their alignment with the FSDS goals. By and large, the ideas generated through the consultation process fit within the framework of the FSDS. The themes which emerged from the consultation ideas were similar to several of the FSDS goals.

VII – Next Steps

The environmental strategy team has retained the services of an expert consultant to help with the next steps towards developing its new Sustainable Development Strategy.

In the fall of 2017, the NCC held a second series of internal consultations to develop “action plans” for each goal of the new Sustainable Development Strategy. Ideas gathered through the consultation process were included as actions of the new strategy, whenever possible.

A third set of external consultations with stakeholders will be held in April 2018 to obtain comments on the proposed actions, targets and key performance indicator.

An online consultation on the draft Sustainable Development Strategy will be available to the public in June 2018.

In September 2018, the NCC's Sustainable Development Strategy will be presented to the NCC Board of Directors for final approval.

Appendix 1 – List of participant stakeholders

Bullfrog Power
Canada Bikes
City of Ottawa
Conservation de la Nature
CREDDO
Envirocentre
Heritage Ottawa
Mid Summer Analytics
Mobi-O
Ottawa Carleton Wildlife Centre
Ottawa Chamber of Commerce
Ottawa Riverkeeper
Public Services and Procurement Canada
RCMP
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Safe Wings Ottawa
Smart Prosperity Institute
South Nation Conservation Authority
Ville de Gatineau
Vivre en Ville