

Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan  
Reflecting a Nation: A Public Programming and Activities Vision for  
the Core Area of the Capital  
Capital Core Area Commemorations

*Public Consultation Report*

June 2005

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## 1. Context

### Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan

Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan represents the third and final phase of a planning cycle initiated in 1998. The development of this Sector Plan is based on the *Plan for Canada's Capital*, the most important document setting out the Federal Government's vision for developing the National Capital Region (NCR), and on the planning framework in effect at the National Capital Commission (NCC). The Sector Plan was amended in response to the most recent public consultation results and is currently in the approval phase. A strategic environmental assessment was conducted while the Plan was being developed.

This planning exercise started with the development of *Vision of the Future for Canada's Capital Core Region (1998)* and included a variety of proposals to plan, develop and liven the Capital Core. These proposals sketched a picture of the Capital Core's evolution over the next 50 years and prompted an understanding of what links developments of the past with the present, and with projections for the future. For the first time, one plan was going to focus on both downtown cores of Canada's capital, Ottawa and Gatineau.

The *Core Area Concept of Canada's Capital (2000)* constituted the second phase of the Sector Plan preparation. It was prepared in conjunction with the municipalities of Canada's Capital Region and accounting for municipal and regional development policies. The *Concept* identified six planning initiatives specifically focusing on areas such as LeBreton Flats and Sparks Street. Detailed public consultations were conducted as part of both these phases.

Completion of the third phase of the planning cycle represents a continuation of the process begun in 1998. It confirms the NCC's willingness and openness to study the future of Canada's Capital Core Area in concert with its partners, interest groups and the public. The relationships between these persons, organizations and their planning initiatives clearly demonstrate that a useful sector plan could not be developed in isolation.

### Reflecting a Nation: a Public Programming and Activities Vision for the Core Area of the Capital

Reflecting a Nation: a Public Programming and Activities Vision for the Core Area of the Capital is an integral element of NCC planning for the Capital Core Area. It describes how the Core Area needs to change in the future to meet the needs of residents and visitors to the Capital and to properly represent Canada and Canadians. The Core Area is the location where most of the NCC's programming activities are centred.

The Vision outlines principles and strategies for the public experience and organizes the Core Area into 13 districts and two routes, each of which the visitor experiences in a distinct way. The Vision describes the unique identity of each district based upon spatial attributes and symbolic and heritage features, and proposes orientations, enhancements and developments which, if implemented, will contribute to making the experience of the Capital Core Area more meaningful. This strategy will allow the NCC to synchronize plans with visitor perception and behaviour, while enhancing the coherence and richness of Capital themes and symbols. Better representation of Canadian values and identity, better balance of offerings throughout the Core Area, improved transportation and linkages and development which allow more integration of symbolic spaces and visitor amenities are key to the success of this Vision.

## Commemorations in the Capital Core Area

Canada's Capital Core Area commemorations are also an integral part of the Core Area Sector Plan and of Reflecting a Nation: Public Programming and Activities Vision. The NCC has a mission - "to make the Capital a symbolic meeting place for Canadians." Commemorative monuments are a powerful tool in helping the Commission address that mission. By representing Canadians and Canadian history in the Capital, monuments of national significance express our enduring values, our connections to the past and our aspirations for the future.

The NCC is the lead federal agency responsible for approving the location and design of new commemorative works on federal lands in Canada's Capital Region. To help guide decisions relating to new commemorations over the next 20 years, the Commission recently embarked on a review of the commemorations program.

This planning exercise, which included consultation with commemoration partners and stakeholders, involved the preparation of urban design and thematic frameworks, a review of the NCC commemorations policy and procedures, and preparation of a site inventory of approximately one hundred potential commemorative sites. The Commemorations theme calls for a Capital more representative of Canada and Canadians, and to the development of new commemorative spaces in the Capital conveying symbolic importance.

## 2. Public Consultations

### 2.1 Objective of public consultations

Consultations were held on all three draft Plans: *Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan*; *Reflecting a Nation: A Public Programming and Activities Vision for the Core Area of the Capital* and *Canada's Capital Core Area Commemorations*.

While developing the *Vision of the Future for Canada's Capital Core Region* (1998), the *Core Area Concept of Canada's Capital* (2000) and the present *Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan (2005)*, many partners, interest groups and members of the public shared their expertise. This included professionals participating in the development of the Capital Core or citizens making use of the facilities and environments the Core offers and the events it hosts. The Sector Plan's principles and policy statements reflect their knowledge and their priorities.

Over the course of the year 2000, a period of public consultation on the *Core Area Concept of Canada's Capital* took place and included a series of questionnaires, workshops and a charrette. The Plan was presented to National Capital Region residents and elected representatives, local municipalities, interest groups, business people, local and national associations, government organizations, visitors to the Capital and the Canadian public.

From 2003 to 2005, people involved in planning the Capital Core's as well as the general public participated in developing the Sector Plan. Representatives from various federal organizations, institutions and municipal authorities offered their observations and advice through a series of interviews and a comprehensive workshop. In the context of three separate presentations, the NCC's Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty was called upon to offer their professional opinion and objective point of view on the Plan. A draft of the Plan was presented to the general public during a consultation period in the spring of 2005 at which time the public's observations were solicited by means of questionnaires and discussions.

The objective of this consultation on the Sector Plan part was to obtain comments on the development and land use in the Capital Core Area as well as its enhancement, with a view to the Plan's final approval in June 2005. A strategic environmental assessment of the Sector Plan was also submitted to the public for comment.

There were also targeted consultations on *Reflecting a Nation: A Public Programming and Activities Vision for the Core Area of the Capital*, involving interest groups in varied fields such as heritage, festivals, and museums. Federal and municipal partners were also consulted. Comments received on visitors' experiences in the Capital Core enabled the refinement of the *Vision* content for its final approval, also anticipated in June 2005. The *Vision* was also subjected to a strategic environmental assessment.

The Commemorations theme was presented to the public for the first time. The goal was to obtain an overview of the public's opinion on questions such as the themes represented in the Capital by commemorative monuments and the most appropriate places to locate them.

The NCC demonstrated great openness and a very clear desire to establish plans for Canada's Capital Core Area in collaboration with its partners, interest groups and the public. Their influence will have been important throughout the process.

## 2.2 Communication about public consultations

### Newspapers - Radio

Public consultation sessions were announced in the March 19, 23, 29 and 30, 2005 issues of the daily newspapers the , *Ottawa Sun*, *Ottawa Citizen* and *LeDroit*, and through various public notices (see Appendix A). Notices were also placed in *Régional Hull-Aylmer* and *Centretown Buzz*. The NCC also ran a radio campaign between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2005 on CFRA, CJRC, KISS and CHEZ.

### Web site

All the information, both on the consultations being held and the content of the three topics of consultation (Core Area Sector Plan, Programming Vision and Commemorations) was available on the NCC Web site. People who could not attend the public consultations on the 29th and 30th of March had access to a variety of tools, in particular, a dynamic online questionnaire, so that they could fully participate in the consultations.

### Personal and E-mail Invitations

NCC staff communicated personally with more than 300 people by letter or by e-mail to inform them of the public consultations. These people had previously shown an interest in these plans, or have an interest in some of the themes addressed in the Sector Plan, the programming Vision or the Commemorations initiative.

### National Audience

Lastly, roughly fifty professional associations, schools and organizations in the fields of architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, engineering and design from across Canada were invited to participate in the public consultation. These organizations were directed to the online consultation because they were not necessarily able to take part in the 'in person' consultations held in Ottawa and Gatineau.

### Press Releases

Press releases were issued on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2005 to inform the media and the public about the initiatives and that public meetings were being held. (See Appendix B)

### Media Briefing

A media briefing session was held on 18 March 2005 to give the media an overview of the three initiatives and the fact that public consultations were to be held.

### 2.3 Format of the public consultations

The public consultations took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2005 at the Ottawa Government Conference Centre and at the Four Points by Sheraton in Gatineau, respectively. The sessions took place in the evening from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. About 50 people participated in each of these sessions.

The public consultations were conducted in two parts. The first part was an open house where the public had access to panels and to NCC personnel so that participants could discuss the projects and obtain more information, as well as communicate their ideas, questions and comments.

The second part of the consultations started with a verbal and visual presentation of about 45 minutes, followed by a comment and question period lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. Comments expressed at the meetings were noted and considered.

Questionnaires and comments relating to the plans were accepted by e-mail, fax and regular mail until 29 April 2005. As of 18 March 2005, information on the three initiatives was made available to the public on the NCC's Web site, as well as in the region's major libraries. Overall, the consultation period lasted more than 40 days.

### 2.4 Cross-section of comments received during the public consultations

All the oral and written comments, as well as the questionnaires, were carefully analysed and studied. A community association presented a petition to the NCC., and Particular attention was paid to this petition and the comments appended to it.

Five (5) interest groups made written comments as part of this consultation: Ottawa-Vanier Greens, New Edinburgh Community Alliance, *Association du patrimoine du ruisseau de la Brasserie*, The Society for Study of Architecture in Canada, and Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital. The NCC also considered two briefs submitted at a meeting (held prior to the publicconsultation) of interest groups and the NCC's Board of Directors. The groups that submitted briefs were Heritage Ottawa and Whitewater Canada.

The questionnaire was formulated to target key topics about which the NCC wished more detailed comments from the public. It was distributed at public meetings and, as mentioned earlier, was also available on the NCC Web site.

The New Edinburgh Community Alliance circulated a petition in the New Edinburgh neighbourhood and 185 individuals and families signed it. Ten comments were sent via the petition.

In summary, the public consultation yielded the following response:

- 19 letters
- 34 e-mails
- 13 paper questionnaires
- 21 Web questionnaires
- 23 oral comments expressed at the public meetings
- 2 briefs
- 1 petition

### **3. Analysis of the public's comments and the NCC's responses**

This section presents an analysis of comments received from different stakeholders as part of the public consultation, and the NCC's response to these comments and ideas. This analysis is divided into the most frequently occurring themes. The detailed comments that fuelled this analysis can be found in Section 4, where readers will find a summary of all the comments submitted during the consultation sessions: comments submitted by letter, e-mail and via the questionnaire.

In general, the public comments on the Sector Plan, the Programming and Activities Vision and Commemorations were very supportive. In particular, the visual presentation, the emphasis on more animated spaces, recommendations for improved transportation options, and proposals for year-round, day and evening programming were applauded.

On the other hand, there was some concern about the lack of will or financial resources to realize the ideas that are proposed. In response to these comments, the NCC has pointed out that the implementation of the Core Area Sector Plan and Programming Vision will require further planning work, collaboration with partners and step-by-step execution of recommendations, as opportunities permit. In contrast, the NCC received some comments that the concepts were too modest and the ideas not grand enough for so important a space. In response to this, the NCC noted that ideas will grow and be elaborated upon as time and resources permit.

#### **Capital Core Area Sector Plan**

##### **Public transit / Bicycle and pedestrian pathways**

Comments received underscore the importance of these means of transportation in the Core Area, in particular, the importance of the completion of missing links in the recreational pathway system and improved signage. Public transit systems on both sides of the River need to be integrated. The parking problem is also mentioned as an important issue. Lastly, a great many people want more consideration for pedestrians in the Core Area and less for motor vehicle usage.

Response: The NCC has considered the comments and adjusted several policy statements in the relevant sections: 3.6 (Capital Open & Public Spaces) and 3.7 (Sustainable Urban Transportation) to reflect the comments expressed.

##### **Preservation of built industrial heritage**

The enhancement of industrial heritage remains a significant issue. Several comments mentioned job losses due to the conversion of the former Scott Paper Mill lands into parkland and green space.

Response: The NCC is aware of this concern. However, this is a twenty-year plan (2025) and the current lease with Krueger terminates in 2028. The NCC has adjusted some of the policy statements to indicate that development can commence when the lands are released from their current activity (Section 4.2).

##### **All-season and evening public activities**

The proposals pertaining to expanding public activities on appropriate sites generated enthusiasm, in particular when it was seen to generate greater activity in the Core during the evening. Our climate must be considered in developing the Capital Core Area.

Response: The NCC agrees with the comments and has taken them into account in the policy statements (Sections 3.3 and 3.12)

### **Proposals relating to Sussex Drive North**

Many residents in the New Edinburgh community are opposed to increasing activities for visitors and using parcels of land to consolidate Confederation Boulevard.

Response: NCC staff met with community representatives. The current plan indicates that the built streetscape along Sussex Drive must be reinforced. The NCC indicated that there are no projects planned in the short-term, but that the Commission must be able to set aside some land to accommodate future international uses and activities. These parcels have never been designated as park/green space in previous NCC plans. The proposal to develop the parcels situated between Stanley and Alexander streets to accommodate a building with an international focus is the most controversial. Despite the negative response, some indicated their support for the land designation proposals suggested in the Plan. It is certain that in the event of a project being proposed, precise guidelines governing the building envelope, massing, parking, traffic and uses will be developed in consultation with the community (Section 4.3.). A few policy statements were amended to indicate that the number of land parcels is limited and future uses do not include federal administrative buildings. A new statement indicates that the NCC and PWGSC will explore the possibility of using the underground parking at 111 Sussex Drive to reduce traffic and parking pressure if new activities were implemented.

### **Brewery Creek and Montcalm Street**

The proposals for this area prompted many reactions. Although comments were positive, on the whole, some citizens want the land alongside the creek to stay public for park and green space purposes.

Response: The NCC considered the preliminary findings of the joint NCC-City study for this sector. The proposed land uses in the urban development plan and the zoning regulatory framework foresee projects that could act as catalysts for revitalization(Section 4.11). One policy statement was amended to stress the need to balance built development with public green space.

### **Tailrace - LeBreton Flats East**

Several individuals and Whitewater Canada hope to see greater recognition for kayaking activities taking place at the Tailrace, situated in the eastern part of LeBreton Flats. Whitewater kayaking is generating increasing interest and is contributing to this sector's vitality. The group hopes that the NCC will indicate the presence of this site on its maps and that it will improve the services available at this location.

Response: We have considered the comments in modifications to some policy statements (Section 4.8).

### **Green space preservation and restoration**

Many comments dealt with the importance of preserving and restoring green space.

Response: The agrees with these comments. Several sections of the Plan acknowledge the importance, role and quality of green space in the Capital Core Area. This heritage must be preserved for future generations (Chapters 3 and 4).

### **Sparks Street area**

Proposals concerning the Sparks Street area suggest making the area livelier in the evenings and on weekends, adding to the site's notoriety, enhancing the area's federal and political significance, and improving aspects of the area's entertainment.

Response: Several comments received have been incorporated in Section 4.7 for the Sparks Street Character Area.



## **Reflecting a Nation: Public Programming and Activities Vision for the Core Area of Canada's Capital**

### **Residents and visitors**

The Vision puts undue emphasis on visitors to the Capital as opposed to residents.

Response: The programming mandate of the NCC is directed towards all Canadians. Nevertheless, the Vision does refer to residents as a valued audience for the public experience of the Core Area. Certain text passages have been modified to include reference to local residents.

### **Interpretation of the Capital**

Heritage Ottawa representatives commented that, while they generally supported the Vision, the Plan needs to avoid presenting a revisionist interpretation of the National Capital as a pan-Canadian experience which could overlook the history of Ottawa.

Response: While the Plan will continue to underline "national" themes in presenting the Capital's story, additional references to the importance of the local history of the Core Area will be made in the Vision.

### **Sussex Drive North**

Concern about proposals for more animation and visitor amenities in the area of Sussex Drive North and concerns about the designation of Sussex North as the "International Sector" of Confederation Boulevard.

Response: This area of the Capital hosts a number of Capital attractions and symbolic sites and it is an important district in the visitor experience of the Core Area. However, certain key supporting services, which would make this area comfortable and convenient for visitors, are lacking. The Vision will continue to recommend additional services and amenities. However, there will be minor modifications to the text to indicate that the scale of amenities that are suggested are "basic". No changes will be made to the text relating to the international identity of the district. This identity is underscored by the presence of a number of embassies, the Canada and the World pavilion and Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

### **Enthusiasm for the Vision's recommendations for increased four-season, day and evening programming activities.**

Response: The NCC welcomes these comments.

### **Support for the Vision's transportation recommendations including: shuttles, water taxis and public transit options.**

Response: The NCC welcomes these comments.

### **Caution about commercial development at Brewery Creek and concern for preserving the heritage ambience.**

Response: Text changes will be made to indicate that proposed commercial development is to be complementary to the heritage of the site and to incorporate a new recommendation to protect and interpret the ecology of Brewery Creek.

### **LeBreton Flats**

The need for the LeBreton Flats district text to better reflect the historical significance of the Fleet Street Pumping Station and the value of white water/ kayaking recreational activities that occur at the tailrace.

Response: New text will be added to emphasize the significance of the heritage features and incorporate the Tailrace recreational activities into the visitor experience of LeBreton Flats.

#### **Rideau Canal**

Concern about ideas relating to widening portions of the Rideau Canal in the vicinity of the Conference Centre and concerns from Parks Canada staff that the respective jurisdictions and roles of Parks Canada and the NCC need clarification.

Response: Modifications to the text will be made to reflect Parks Canada jurisdiction, especially in regards to protection of the heritage fabric of the canal.

#### **Concern about preserving the heritage role of the Garden of the Provinces.**

Response: The vision recommends that the Garden of the Provinces have enhanced programming. New text will call for increased emphasis on programming and animation to communicate the significance of Canada's provinces and territories and their rich diversity.

#### **Recommendations for enhancing the appeal and effectiveness of the Capital Infocentre.**

Response: No modification to our current vision is recommended, as there are currently too many unknowns regarding future plans of municipal and federal partners for complementary/competing services.

#### **Observation that enlivening the natural landscape could cause environmental concerns and suggestions for input from naturalists.**

Response: The NCC will add a reference to the need for increased interpretation of the natural environment of the Core Area.

#### **Commemorations**

Objection to the idea of commemorating and interpreting the forest industry heritage of the region, without recognizing that this is a still functioning industrial activity in the Core Area and communicating this fact to visitors.

Response: There will be modification to the text for the Victoria Island West and Chaudiere district to include reference to contemporary industrial activities and to ensure that visitors are able to appreciate how these industrial activities that have contributed to the economic history of the Capital Region.

## **4. Summary of public comments**

### **4.1 Letters and e-mails**

#### **a) General**

- Very enthusiastic about the plans.
- The key year is 2025. 2067 is too far.
- The plans are complex.
- Glad that attention is paid to interaction between the NCC and municipal governments.
- Complete the following area plans as soon as the Plan is adopted: Rideau Canal, Linking LeBreton Flats to Sparks Street and the Ottawa River. Also, the Islands, Sparks Street and Gatineau waterfront are important.
- Streets are becoming disgusting with the cigarettes butts people leave on the streets. A policy should prevent smokers from littering the streets.
- It is normal that natural areas are not very lively.

- Adding more buildings and stages does not showcase natural areas.
- Illuminating the Capital will disturb the bird migration.
- The NCC has made many improvements to the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau, especially along the Ceremonial Route.
- It is important to factor in the maintenance of the federally owned properties - need to inspect and repair.

**b) Not in agreement with the Sussex North proposals**

- Loss of heritage greenspace.
- The new Sussex Drive was narrowed to two lanes; the area cannot accept more traffic.
- Already parking issues in New Edinburgh.
- Many tour bus problems.
- Needless crowding.
- Affect the appeal of Rideau Hall as a destination.
- Affect Sussex Drive as a scenic route.
- Do not dismantle the heritage McTaggart's Wall.
- Development would impair the natural setting of Fraser School House.
- Do not remove the mature shrubs that support masses of Christmas lights
- Neighborhoods cannot flourish amid increasing commercialization, with crowds, noise and traffic pollution.
- Consider increasing parking on Government House property or along Rockcliffe Parkway beside the gatehouse.
- 24 Sussex and Rideau Hall are important symbols of Canadian nationhood. They should be placed in a setting consistent with their heritage.
- Sussex Drive should reflect our Country - a place of open vistas where people are close to nature.
- Canada & the World Pavilion is an empty building, rarely visited, whose mandate is unclear and offerings mediocre. It is located in one of the most beautiful areas of the city.
- We regret that we did not object to Canada & the World Pavilion.
- It seems that the Canada & the World Pavilion is managed by a private firm, Accenture, and the museological results are mixed.
- Projects on Sussex Drive are a waste of public money.
- The money for this plan should be used to help the financially strapped National Gallery down the street.
- More development would jeopardize a great link between embassies, official residences and the gateway to New Edinburgh.
- New Edinburgh was always under threat. The government tore down the Victorian houses that sat at Alexander and Stanley avenues, for something that was never built.
- Sussex Drive is already dense enough with existing federal, NCC and diplomatic facilities and residential properties.
- Do not turn Confederation Boulevard into an amusement park like Disneyland.
- There are plenty of buildings already developed in Ottawa to accommodate such requirements.
- LeBreton Flats would be best suited for the institution.
- Increased traffic would exacerbate security problems from vandalism to destructive property crime.
- There are no important missing services and amenities, such as parking, food services, and animation/programming in New Edinburgh.
- Resources should be rather put in: more and better shelters for the homeless, protection and maintenance of our greenspace, support for our cultural community, patrols and maintenance of our bike paths, better maintenance of NCC-controlled roadways.
- The NCC should have done proper research or surveys to ask what are the priorities of this neighbourhood. The public comment period until April 29 is not proper.

- Improve signage and maps to points of interest and bus stops in the area and enhance the greenspace between Stanley and Alexander with park benches and flowerbeds.
- Planning, building and programming on Confederation Boulevard in the national capital calls for the finest Canadian architectural, urban and landscape design, to celebrate both heritage and the environment and to welcome and delight all visitors.
- Very recent architectural history has not, regrettably, demonstrated sufficient awareness of the significance and planning objectives of Confederation Boulevard.
- The Daly Building site, the United States Embassy and the Peace Monument are surrounded and isolated by a traffic circle and are less successful. Embassies of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and the Canada and the World Pavilion are not successful either. The scale and sitting of these structures have overwhelmed and confused the streetscape, interrupted pedestrian and traffic circulation and blocked out views and light.
- Projects at LeBreton Flats are more promising.
- No additional buildings should be planned for the south side of Sussex Drive.
- It is sad that the observation terrace adjacent to Rideau Falls is closed for summer 2005.
- Current embassies' preoccupations with security must serve as a caution against further diplomatic installations on Confederation Boulevard.
- The principal orientation of Sussex Drive North cannot be accommodated in three blocks.
- A new building would involve new access to service vehicles. They would use the side streets as Sussex is not a truck route.
- The NCC should retain the historic streetscape.
- Owners of many properties in the area do not want development close to their houses.
- Over the last 30 years the NCC has worked with this community and never mentioned this project.
- The NCC should undertake to enhance the Governor General's grounds for tourists and local needs, for example bury the hydro lines around the property.
- Thomas and Stanley streets are parts of an important wildlife corridor between Rideau Hall, Rockcliffe Park, New Edinburgh community and the Rideau River.
- An international precinct is not a desirable neighbourhood nowadays.
- These lands could be used for an arboretum or a sculpture garden.
- Modern buildings will not fit with the natural setting of the area.
- Federal accommodation is not appropriate and new cultural institutions are not necessary.
- Embassies would require security features that would create a fortress-like appearance in this peaceful community.
- Homeowners will have less incentive to preserve and invest in their homes.
- The proposal for parking, food services and animation sounds like a means to make money.
- Will diminish the quality of life for residents.

**c) In agreement with the Sussex North proposals**

- Dissatisfied with New Edinburgh Community Alliance's campaign to oppose possible development plans on Sussex Drive.
- This area was fully occupied by buildings from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- The trees that are referred to in the NECA flyer are arranged in line with the former property boundaries.
- The Fraser School House is not in its heritage environment - it was a tight mixed of residential, service and even industrial buildings.
- The NCC should prepare a well-illustrated report with images that show the past commercial and industrial uses in the area.
- Like the landscape enhancements proposed on Sussex North precinct.
- Likes the idea of improving visitor access to the area such as shuttles and water taxis.

#### **d) Sparks Street**

- Support the Vocation Study undertaken in 2003.
- Opening the Street to traffic at night will not help the merchants.
- Commercial success and dynamism depends on the retail, food and drink establishments.
- Although heritage buildings should be reused in their entirety, it is still good to have retained the facades.
- Pavilions should be removed or painted in a light color.
- An entrance should be available from Sparks Street to the CBC building and to 240 Sparks (shopping mall).
- NCC should not sacrifice the quality of design in order to achieve its residential objectives.
- Put more public facilities in the Core Area.
- A new visitor centre is a good idea, but parking is an issue.
- A proposal for Sparks Street - Attract people to Sparks Street during and after business hours.

**The following section summarizes an overall approach submitted by one individual:**

#### **NCC Infocentre: The Heart of the Nation**

The NCC Infocentre should include the following:

- All brochures for the NCR, including all private businesses, not just federal offerings;
- Hotel reservation service;
- Desks for all tour companies offering such services, eliminating booths on the street.
- Ground Floor: tourist information and tour desks;
- Second Floor: existing theatre and NCC history; new interpretive centre on the government;
- Third Floor: relocation of main Canada and the World exhibit;
- Fourth Floor: administration, storage

#### **Federal Offices: Giving a Centre to The Centre**

Sparks Street should be a district that symbolizes political authority in a celebrated manner (examples: London's Whitehall, Washington's Federal Triangle)

Sparks Street should have a national purpose.

#### **Federal Services: One-Stop Shopping**

All federal front-line offices should be relocated to Sparks Street:

Canada Revenue client service centre;

Ottawa Centre human resource centre;

Ottawa Centre Business Development Bank.

A new official Federal Publications store should be at street level within a government building.

#### **Museums: Kids Are People Too**

This vision calls for the Canadian Children's Museum to be pulled from the Museum of Civilization and be relocated on Sparks Street.

For such an initiative to be truly effective, an enclosed adjacent outdoor playground would be necessary and the only property that could conceivably offer such space is the old Bank of Nova Scotia building.

#### **Museums: First Class Mail, First Class Gateway**

The Canadian Postal Museum should be relocated to the upper floors of the Post Office building at Sparks and Elgin streets.

### **Streetscape: Signs of the Future**

In order to complete the vision of the street being presented, several aesthetic improvements should be made:

All government offices need to be fully branded;

Information posts should be placed at the intersections of Sparks, with specific reference to the attractions and services on the street. Historical markers should be added;

There should be an intensification of public art. Murals and/or billboards should be placed on blank facades;

With the cooperation of the City, remove the fixed green outdoor café structures. Businesses should have patios emanating from their frontage.

### **Conclusion**

The contents of the Canada and the World should be moved to the new Infocentre;

The Canada and the World Pavilion could then be turned into a themed museum, a rental facility or perhaps the home of the proposed Sports Hall of Fame;

#### **e) LeBreton Flats**

- Corel Centre should have been plunked at LeBreton Flats.
- Do not wait for the second phase of redevelopment at LeBreton Flats to install public facilities such as community centres and playing fields.
- High standards for the redevelopment of LeBreton Flats are important. However, for the second phase, avoiding homogeneity could be an important factor, so invite several builders to develop the second phase.
- There should be more residential development in the Core. LeBreton Flats should have buildings of 10-12 storeys rather than 6.

#### **f) Chaudières and Victoria Islands**

- Projects on the Islands have great potential: aboriginal centre, the rapids, views and mixed-use. Hasten the departure of Domtar.

#### **g) Rideau Canal**

- Pleased to see use of Rideau Canal and ways of connecting LeBreton Flats to Sparks Street.
- Bring activities as close as possible to the Canal. Hope the footbridge is completed soon.

#### **h) Brewery Creek**

- Plans for the Brewery Creek area are great.
- Brewery Creek is an important migration and nesting point for birds. Rehabilitation and restoration is required.

#### **i) Canlands 'A' site**

- It is critical that the non-residential lower floors of any new structure(s) be carefully programmed and not simply left to market forces.
- Residential tower(s) should actually be anchored on Queen Street.
- Entertainment Centre: Come Out and Play  
The NCC should call for tenders and lease space for a multi-level restaurant/entertainment/recreation complex within the new Canlands structure(s);  
Parliament Hill is promoted as a place where Canadians celebrate on special occasions. Let Sparks Street be a place where Canadians celebrate every day. Canadian heritage could be encouraged with specifications for themed games, food offerings and décor.
- National Cinema Complex: Bringing Back the Marquee  
Ottawa should be the home of a new National Film Board Cinemathèque which could remain open through evenings, creating one of two new nighttime attractions on Sparks. Open a new cinema devoted exclusively to Canadian films. This attraction would be the first of its kind in Canada.

The Canlands site could accommodate two art-house cinemas with stadium seating. One of the two cinemas could stay on the Canlands grounds, while the other could be placed on the small property between the Ottawa Electric Building and the Thomas D'arcy McGee Building.

**j) Recreational pathways**

- Eastern and western pathways should be better linked together.
- Like the idea of more pathways along the Ottawa River and across Green Island as well as water taxi links and a sculpture garden along Rideau River.

**k) Ottawa River**

- Plans for the Ottawa River are great.
- The core of the future should be a place where an important ecological zone such as the Ottawa River still retains viable natural habitats for plants and wildlife.
- The current of the Ottawa River is too dangerous to rent canoes and kayaks to the public.

**l) Bank of Montreal at Wellington and O'Connor**

- Opposed to the idea of terminating the lease with Bank and changing heritage interior.
- The Bank should be preserved as a bank - the building could be offered to other banks if the existing one wants to leave.
- Otherwise, the building should be used for services that require agents, for example tourist services like Parliament Hill tours.

**m) Interprovincial transportation, transit, parking**

- Welcome the initiative to increase public transportation, improve signage and increase linkages between greenspaces.
- Ensure that all the transit systems are closely tied together.
- Parking is a major issue: at the Parliamentary Precinct for buses and cars (a garage could be put under the lawn on the Hill); in the downtown area, short-term parking spaces are declining. We should have more to encourage shoppers, diners and attraction attendees to choose downtown over suburbs. When new development projects arise at the NCC, encourage developers to provide short-term parking.
- There will be a need for a subway system as well as some consideration for bridges, a ring highway.

**n) Plans should be bolder**

- The plan underestimates the potential growth of Ottawa -Gatineau.
- If we consider the population growth, only in office space there will be a need for approximately 75 full blocks of office space by 2066 in the Core. The definition of the downtown should be revised

**o) Commemorations, public art, culture**

- Like the idea of an international art garden.
- Artists and buskers should be everywhere in the downtown area.
- Ottawa-Gatineau should host more major sporting events such as the Summer Olympics, the Commonwealth Games etc.
- Would like to see a planetarium, a major aquarium and a major botanical garden.
- Ottawa-Gatineau should have a major ballet company and a professional Symphony Orchestra.
- Need more commemorations of intellectual, scientific, sporting and cultural heroes.
- Festivals need financial commitment and long term planning to ensure their viability.
- Should have a Sports Hall of Fame; could be in the area of the parking lot behind the Lorne Building.

- There is a need for at least one internationally renowned building such as the Sydney Opera House.
- The Old Union Station should be used as a concert hall.
- The area near King Edward Avenue and Cumberland Street could be home to a large concert hall.
- The NCC should actively encourage the development of local visual and performing arts culture - need our own identity.
- The Lorne Building should be used as a cultural institution or a tourist attraction. This would help to create an Arts District in the Elgin Street North area.
- The Library and Archives will need to be relocated, they should stay in the downtown area.
- Science and Technology Museum should be built near Bayview O-Train station.

**p) The Garden of the Provinces**

- In the NCC's recent documents, this site will either remain as 'capital urban greenspace' [Reflecting a Nation] or will accommodate a 'future building'. [Core Area Sector Plan].
- Advocating for its retention as an urban space, especially in its prominent position on Confederation Boulevard.
- With development on LeBreton Flats now 'coming on line', The Garden of the Provinces is now at the brink of finally achieving its important place within the downtown core
- The Garden of the Provinces was originally identified by Jacques Greber as 'greenspace' and was so noted in his Plan for a National Capital (1950).
- John Diefenbaker, the Prime Minister of the day, described the park as a symbol assuring the provinces of their rightful place in Confederation.
- This site then represents that robust period of 'capital development' as realized at the hands of the FDC/NCC and remains something of which we Canadians are the beneficiaries and of which we can be proud.
- Since the NCC supported the protection and enhancement of this site through its recent rehabilitation, it would appear logical that the NCC support and promote the retention of The Garden of the Provinces in its current setting and state, well into the future.
- The retention of The Garden of the Provinces would certainly reinforce the concept of 'sustainable development'.
- The Garden of the Provinces must be considered in two ways: as an integral component of Confederation Boulevard; and as a link between the downtown core (via Sparks Street) and the emerging LeBreton Flats.
- The Garden of the Provinces is commemorating and promoting the Canadian 'collective', that is, its provinces and territories.
- If 'programmed' The Garden of the Provinces will provide an opportunity to lessen the recognized pressures (and physical impacts) on other Capital parks.
- With the numerous new residential high-rise towers in the west end of Sparks Street, many more residents for the area and a rejuvenated Sparks Street, pedestrians will be naturally drawn to the western end of Sparks Street where 'a direct route provides easy access to LeBreton Flats' and its new residential and institutional projects, including the Canadian War Museum.
- If a terraced stairway (including funicular?) connects eventually the Sparks Street Mall extension with a lively Aqueduct promenade via Pooley's Bridge, the Garden of the Provinces would most certainly be integral to this direction.

**q) Maps**

Hull Island does not appear on the maps.

The tailrace should appear on the maps.

**r) Strategic Environmental Assessments**

Environmental Assessments are incomplete, lacking in detail and contradicting each other.



## 4.2 Questionnaires

Responses are ranked according to frequency, from most frequent to least frequent.

1. If you were to describe your **vision** of the ideal Capital Core in 2025, what would it look like?

- Keep the heritage installations and the industrial/ecological balance by preserving and reusing the E.B. Eddy and Scott Paper buildings.
- Plenty of greenspace and parks.
- Pedestrian and cyclist friendly.
- Transit is more accessible, crossing the river is easier.
- 2067 is too far and unrealistic to plan with that timeframe.
- Attractive to both residents and visitors.
- People can still work at the Scott Paper mill.
- Clean.
- Fewer cars in Core Area and in Gatineau Park.
- Celebrate our Canadian identity.
- World-class whitewater facility at LeBreton Flats' Tailrace.
- Chaudières Falls are open to public.
- Better access to buildings and infrastructure.
- Well-designed.
- More youth oriented activities, source of pride for and visited by school groups.
- Great world-class Capital to visit.
- No trucks downtown.
- User-friendly.
- Wellington is transit, pedestrian and cyclist only.
- Amsterdam.
- Lively 24 hours per day and large population.
- Dynamic and lots of public art.
- Leisure opportunities.
- Preserve heritage, local and national scale.
- More bike lanes for commuters.

2. The following bullets summarize the **major proposals** of the **Core Area Sector Plan**. Below, they are stated, in order of priority according to the questionnaire responses:

- Safeguard and restore the natural environment (12)
- Protect heritage, cultural landscapes and archaeological resources (12)
- Improve open spaces, parks, stages and public places (11)
- Preserve and enrich the unique and symbolic character of the Core Area (8)
- Protect key views within the Core Area (7)
- Enhance the quality of urban design and form (6)
- Improve linkages and connectivity to build improved and sustainable urban transport (6)
- Define a coherent land use approach for federal accommodation, cultural institutions & international presence (5)
- Enhance levels of participation, appreciation and animation by offering memorable experiences to visitors (5)
- Ensure that commemorations and public art displays enhance the symbolic, visual aesthetics and educational experience of the Capital (2)
- Balance accessibility and security needs (2)
- Complete Confederation Boulevard as the Capital's ceremonial route (2)

Dislike or not a priority:

- Complete Confederation Boulevard as the Capital's ceremonial route (7)
- Establish a strategy for the illumination of symbolic buildings and places (4)
- Protect key views within the Core Area (2)

Other ideas:

- Keep E. B. Eddy and Scott Paper
- Against the projects for Sussex Drive North.
- Scott Paper contributes \$11 million in taxes.
- Trucks out of the Core Area.
- Extend the lease for the Scott Paper mill.
- Finish highway 50.
- Alexandra and Chaudières bridges are an eye-sore. Alexandra Bridge should be a 3-lane bridge with a reversible lane, and the walkway should remain.
- All good ideas but not at the cost of jobs.
- The symbolic character is already well established.
- More collaboration between Scott Paper, its employees and the NCC to remediate the soil contamination.
- Scott Paper has 500 employees that contribute to the economy of the area.
- One more park (where Scott Paper is located) would not make a big difference.
- The Ottawa River should be better promoted as a key transport link.
- Would like to see better architecture.
- Would like to see more investment in culture.
- Parks are important for healthy communities.
- Urban transportation should be the priority.
- There is a need for a whitewater facility to better serve Ottawa and attract visitors and national events.

3. The following are short summaries of the orientations for six important Character Areas within the Core Area, where the Federal Government plays a leadership role.

Character areas that are liked the most:

- The Islands and LeBreton Flats North (10)
- Parliamentary & Judicial Precincts (8)
- The Rideau Canal (8)
- Sussex Drive North (4)
- Jacques Cartier Park (4)
- Sussex Drive South (3)
- Gatineau Central Waterfront (2)

Character areas that are not a priority or are liked the least:

- Sussex Drive North (3)
- Gatineau Central Waterfront (2)
- Jacques Cartier Park (2)

Other ideas:

- Leave the Canal as is.
- Protect the riverbanks.
- Health and education are more important.
- Whitewater at LeBreton Flats.
- There should be more construction on the Quebec side to emphasize Canadian experience.
- Transit and light rail should be a priority, Prince of Wales Bridge should be indicated on the maps.
- Need new buildings and fewer parking lots.

4. Among the following **priorities**, please identify the **3** that you consider to be the most important.

The priorities in order of priority according to questionnaire responses:

Completion of gaps in the **recreational pathway network**, including Sussex Drive North, Rideau Canal north and through the Islands area. (9)

Completion of the **LeBreton Flats** mixed use community redevelopment project. (8)

Promotion of **new Canadian cultural and public institutions** and consolidation and improvement of existing facilities - on Victoria Island east (aboriginal cultural centre), Jacques Cartier Park north, LeBreton Flats north and west, and Sussex Drive North. (6)

Study and promotion of **interprovincial transit integration** that connects the downtown areas of Ottawa and Gatineau and links the cities' public transit systems in the Core Area. (5)

Completion, through support of Public Works and Government Services Canada, of long range plans that ensure the protection, accessibility and exemplary development of the **Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts**. (5)

Completion of the Area Plan for, and commencement of mixed-use development in, the **Islands** area surrounding the Chaudières Falls. (4)

Enhancement and expansion of the **public experience** in the Core Area, for national and international visitors - through the addition of new **capital stages**, increased **commemorations and public art**, interpretation and programming. (4)

Creation and promotion of enhanced **linkages and connections** throughout the Core Area - between the **Capital and civic realms**, and to the **Ottawa River**. (3)

Development of an **illumination plan** to highlight the key symbols and places in the Core Area and make the Capital come alive in the evening hours and winter months. (3)

Reinforcement and strengthening of **Confederation Boulevard**, completion of landscape components, increased public land uses and activities, improved accessibility around it, enhanced linkages to the River edges from it. (3)

Preparation of **Area Plans** for **Rideau Canal north**, **LeBreton Flats east/Sparks Street west**, and the **Ottawa River Basin**. (2)

5. Does the **vision statement** reflect what you think Canada's Capital Core should be like in 2067?

- Yes, the Vision reflects what I would imagine for the future.
- Add, 'celebration of Canada's role in the world'.
- Need for a balance between residents and tourists.
- Should reflect the cultural diversity better.
- Add, 'where people can work and live fully'.
- Don't place too much emphasis on visitors.
- Build on a four-season, all-generation experience.
- Should consider railroads.
- No, the Vision does not reflect what I would imagine for the future.

6. The document identified 17 key principles. We seek your thoughts, particularly, on the following principles.

The principles, stated in order of priority according to questionnaire responses are:

- The Capital Core Area will be a vibrant day and evening space for working, living and celebrating Canada. (10)
- The pedestrian experience of the Core Area will be emphasized. (7)
- The Ottawa River will serve as a programming stage and its shores will open up to the public through new public institutions, facilities, services and stages. (4)
- The Capital Core Area will reflect the essence of Canada, with symbolism and experiences shaped by Canadians from all regions of the country, and through celebration of the diversity, creative talent, aspirations and achievements of Canadian society. (1)
- Confederation Boulevard will be developed as a continuous programming stage balanced on both sides of the Ottawa River. (1)

Other ideas:

- Try to reach a better balance between motorists and pedestrians.
- Encourage businesses to stay open late.
- Meeting places for all social classes and teach youth accountability so they are more respectful of their environment.
- NCC should assume leadership for environmental and transit issues.
- Sussex Drive should have more embassies, and a better balance between buildings and gardens.
- The building on Bate Island and the burnt building on Victoria Island are eye-sores.

7. The document organizes the Core Area into 13 'districts' and 2 'routes', each with its own identity. It proposes new public attractions, commemorations, scenic links and events sites. Do you have any comments on what is proposed?

- Re-use Government Conference Centre as a light rail station and connect to LeBreton Flats and VIA Rail Station.
- Don't replace greenspace with parking lots and buildings.
- Focus on Market, Rideau Canal and Parliament Hill.
- It is disturbing that parking is considered an essential service for visitors.
- In the Brewery Creek context, residents should be respected. The built environment should be located on the East side of Montcalm. The panoramic links on the banks should be embellished.
- Keep institutions alive.

8. The map provides a summary of the various initiatives and strategies supporting the Vision. Do you have any comments?

- Like the pedestrian links.
- Like the River Route and water taxis.
- Renew the lease with Scott Paper.
- Unacceptable that buses can park on Laurier Street (Confederation Boulevard) in front of the Canadian Museum of Civilization.
- Mass transit system is lacking.
- Brewery Creek should be as visible as the Rideau Canal.
- A skating rink should be created on Lac Leamy in the winter.
- Indicate the Tailrace and pumphouse on the maps.

- Highlight the local significance of the downtown core, not only national.
- No more loss of greenspace.

9. Research on the subjects already commemorated in the Capital revealed the need for more commemorations pertaining to under-represented themes, such as Canada and the world, intellectual and cultural life, developing economies, social and community life. What subjects do you think should be commemorated in Canada's Capital?

- Workers
- Women
- Multiculturalism
- Francophones
- Aboriginals
- Rural areas
- Natural heritage
- Community life
- Canada and the World
- Veterans
- Peacekeepers
- Athletes
- Scholars
- Youth
- Canada and the World is already commemorated by the Canada & the World Pavilion.

10. As Canada evolves, so too will the subjects worthy of national commemoration. Are you in favour of safeguarding sites for future generations, including high profile sites on Confederation Boulevard suitable for large-scale monuments?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral/Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
5	5	3	2	2

11. Do you have other comments with regards to commemorations in the Core Area?

- More the better.
- Spend on maintaining and restoring rather than creating new.
- Less emphasis on war.
- Don't tear down only to rebuild.
- Monuments should be identified both by visual and voice presentation.
- Transit should be a priority, not commemorations.
- Large-scale commemorations should not be on the ceremonial route, as they are distracting and increase traffic.

12. Two Strategic Environmental Assessments were done in parallel with the Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan and the Public Programming and Activities Vision for the Core Area of Canada's Capital. Do you have any comments on the two assessments?

- They appear solid.
- Must monitor.
- The Vision has to evolve.
- Are there plans to remove garbage from the water left by tourists?

### 4.3 Public comments received at the consultation sessions

The consultations sessions drew close to 100 people, and 23 individuals or representatives from interest groups voiced their comments at the microphone. The major themes addressed during the sessions were:

Sparks Street and Bank of Montreal  
Ottawa's economic role  
Opposition to Sussex Drive North projects  
Safety and accessibility  
Heritage  
Public transit  
Ottawa Gateway Centre  
The environment and Leamy Lake Park  
Brewery Creek  
The future of the Scott Paper mill  
The future of the Domtar plant  
Relations with the Aboriginal community  
Dallaire project

Here are details of the comments:

#### 1. Private citizen

- Bank of Montreal, stressing that the Bank of Montreal should be 'preserved as a functioning bank, the purpose for which this fine piece of architecture was designed', and suggesting, that if this were not possible, the building be used for services that require agents, including ticket selling and visitor services (replace InfoTent)

#### 2. John Schioler, former Sparks Street Mall board member

- more emphasis should be put on the 20 rather than 60 year vision
- enhance role and coverage of the Tripartite Committee interaction; should televise the portion of the annual AGM where the past years' tripartite meetings are summarized
- very excited about the Islands area future
- reinforced comments re world-class city, needing an icon or internationally-recognized symbol - how to get to this status: by incremental steps, gradually or by a few big steps or strokes?
- Wants a concert hall on Elgin Street
- Town is too dominated by government

#### 3. David Gladstone, City Centre Coalition

- disturbed that the Vision does not reflect sufficiently upon the role of the Core as the economic heart of a city of 1 million, does not highlight its economic importance
- lack of reference to transit, particularly interprovincial transit and the role of the Prince of Wales bridge
- no reference to federal accommodation
- too much emphasis on public programming

#### 4. Gemma Kerr, New Edinburgh Community Association

- concerned about sites on Sussex opposite French Embassy between Stanley and Alexander: some reservations about future use
- improved signage, pedestrian environment, etc. welcomed, but concerned about the tour bus and vehicular traffic/parking requirements associated with expanded and new cultural institutions and programming activities proposed for the area
- a shuttle bus along Sussex would be good to transport people and reduce the need for cars in the area; New Edinburgh is very densely developed with no capacity for parking

- later questioned whether the old school building would be preserved
  - also NE Community Association tried to set up a tree sculpture project in the Stanley Park area (between Sussex and Union, beside the Rideau River), interested in Art in the Park idea (in Programming vision), and would like to work with the NCC to pursue such an initiative
5. Michiyo Yamada; Women's Initiative for Safer Environments
- referenced four priority areas for commemorations, notably women
  - concerned about accessibility, safety and security issues
6. Louisa Coates, Heritage Ottawa
- NCC does not have good track record for preserving heritage buildings
  - Should emphasize how heritage buildings can be figured into future plans and thereby preserved
  - Good that Sparks-Metcalf plaza project was cancelled
  - Wants commitment to 'no more demolitions of heritage buildings'
7. Private citizen
- Will the old building on Sussex Drive (Fraser School House) be preserved?
8. Ida Henderson, Dalhousie community
- Spine of the plan should be the light rail, public transit system
  - In order to promote sustainable development/smart growth, there must be a real dedication to mass transit - how will you get all these people into the Core
  - Prince of Wales bridge should be shown for interprovincial transit
  - Environmental leadership - NCC should show this by working hard to get the buses out of the downtown core and get everyone on light rail
9. Eric Charron, Carleton U architecture student
- Why not have Ottawa consultant instead of Toronto
  - More community run planning exercises needed for local input, use university architecture schools to contribute to planning
  - Looking too much at just the downtown - why not look at the Experimental Farm, it could be the Central Park of Ottawa
  - Need to do much more intensive development, grow more
10. Private citizen
- Lived in city for 50 years
  - Sees lack of 'big time' thinking, of seeking to achieve great ends/things, no big goal or vision, no major event foreseen in plans
  - 2017 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation - what is NCC doing for this?
  - at the street level, why aren't there more artists, entertainers, buskers, more excitement - where is the big attraction; then, where will you put this street activity?
  - Poor information on local attractions
  - Ottawa lacks the big, internationally-recognizable symbol (à la Sydney Opera House, Bilbao Guggenheim) that instantly says 'Ottawa' - this city needs pizzazz, to get into the minds of people around the planet
  - Do a painters' area in Major's Hill park
11. Quentin Gall, Ottawa Arts Heritage Advisory Committee and on the Ottawa Gatineau GeoHeritage Committee
- Many exciting proposals in the NCC documents

- Wants more of a role for public, interest groups, local committees - how can they get involved, offer input and feedback; has been frustrated by lack of openness and response
- Mentioned idea of Ottawa Gateway Centre, place for intro or launch to Capital/City museums, attractions, activities, etc. - why isn't there a presence in the CIC for this ?

12. Marcel Ernst, private citizen

- Lots of good ideas
- Not dreaming big enough, need a bigger vision
- Remember that Capital is a community of communities
- Need to reflect the interests of the disenfranchised
- Good idea for federal government to look at the long term planning

13. Michel Prévost, Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais

- Good that documents speak to the importance of built, natural and cultural heritage
- Too much emphasis on 'visitors' and not enough on people who live here; local heritage is important, and more important to the locals than national heritage
- Preservation of Scott-Wright house (on Gamelin) key initiative
- The River is an important place

14. Harry Gow, CREDDO

- Need more emphasis on residents' affairs, and less on monuments and institutions
- Importance of renaturalising the banks of Brewery Creek, particularly at the Ottawa River confluence. There are a lot of birds in the area.
- There is a lot of empty space west of Wellington.
- Hydro Québec does site visits of their hydroelectric stations: could do site visits of Domtar, Scott Paper

15. Duncan Caas-Beggs, Association des résidents de l'Île de Hull

- Likes the Vieux Hull vision in the plans; the village concept, the dynamism, historic character - sees it as the Byward Market of the Outaouais, the 'Latin Quarter'
- Uneasy about Brewery Creek - doesn't want a lot of buildings, wants green space
- Should encourage Domtar to open up access to their properties to the public; unrealized potential of these buildings and sites
- Need better linkages from the Museum of Civilization to the facing historic quarter along Victoria, Papineau - and toward Prom du Portage from CMC and the Scott Paper site (future)

16. David Jeanes, Heritage Ottawa, Transport 2000

- Encouraged to see linkages promoted between Nepean Point and Lady Grey Drive, Sparks and Pooley's Bridge, access to River, water taxi proposal
- Must invest in public transit

17. Scott Paper Union representative

- Against the NCC's acquisition of the site, and future closure of the plant
- Loss of millions of \$ in tax revenues to provincial and federal government, loss of jobs in favour of creating a park - sees initiative as regrettable.
- The industry is part of the region's history.

18. Patrice Léger-Bourgoin, Domtar

- Opposed to comments made by Hull community association rep; feels that Domtar is a good corporate citizen that does its best, must respect that it is an operating industry
- Would like an audience with the community association representative?



19. Muriel Fauteux-Demers, Native Alliance of Québec – Kitchi-Sipi Community
  - Promoting William Commanda’s respect for the environment, the water, the air, the land that sustains us all
  - Special sacred nature of Victoria Island, Commanda’s vision for that site
  - Aboriginal ceremonies, culture, values – worthwhile for all Canadians, visitors to see and experience this
  
20. Jacques Demers, CREDDO
  - Need to interpret, present the forestry industry to people visiting, residing in the Capital (urban, rural and beyond rural experiences)
  - Value of living museums
  - Pursue more interior spaces to visit that are in active productive use – rather than just museums that are displays; example: Cité de l’énergie à Shawinigan
  - Renaturalize Parc Jacques-Cartier, Brewery Creek and Leamy Lake Park
  
21. Private citizen
  - Visitor = guest
  - All we see in photos and drawings is summer. Show Capital fall, winter and spring. Wealth = industrial forest resources. Not just government. E.g. Forêt de l’Aigle: resource is the inhabited forest. Scott and Domtar are forest industry interpretation resources
  - Need indoor space in winter.
  
22. Claire Couture, Jean Dallaire foundation
  - Proponent for the Projet Dallaire – wants a central site, prefers site beside Brewery Creek
  - Jean Dallaire is part of our heritage
  - This project could be an economic generator, an anchor
  - Questioned appropriateness of residential use in Brewery Creek area
  
23. Private citizen
  - Victoria Island – good location for Museum of Science and Technology – interpretation centre, possible ecomuseum

## 5. Comments from interest groups

### 5.1 Ottawa-Vanier Greens

- Against the proposed concept for Sussex Drive North.
- New buildings would mar the sense of place of the area.
- Buildings would lessen the visual impact of the McTaggart’s Wall or the maple and pine trees.
- Would prefer a minor, non-intrusive landscaping project with a sculpture.

### 5.2 New Edinburgh Community Alliance – Letter

- Interested in the idea of increased public transportation, (buses and water taxis) extension of pedestrian paths and possible creation of an international art garden.
- Community is unanimous in its opposition to building anything on two lots near Thomas, Stanley and Alexander.
- 

Buildings would increase traffic on Sussex, create parking problems on community streets and eliminate an important wildlife transit route between Rockcliffe Park and New Edinburgh Park.

- The “green space” creates an important green gateway to the Prime Minister’s and Governor General’s residences – a beautiful and distinctively Canadian approach.
- There are heritage issues; modern structures will not fit in and will take away from the natural setting of the existing buildings.
- Federal accommodation is not appropriate and cultural institutions are not necessary.
- To enhance the area, could have a Canada garden, an arboretum or a sculpture trail.
- A simple measure would be the installation of park benches.

### **5.2 New Edinburgh Community Alliance - Petition**

- Greenspace must be preserved.
- Already a parking issue in the area.
- The NCC has taken on a developer attitude.
- The NCC should be concentrating on beautifying Confederation Boulevard to take advantage of its natural and historical attractiveness instead of putting in modern office buildings.
- The NCC has done enough harm to Ottawa already.
- Raises security issues given its close location to PM’s residence and Rideau Hall.
- This location enriches the life of man/womankind and animals alike.
- No more ill-conceived development along the “Sussex Superhighway”.
- Just because you can doesn’t mean you should.

### **5.3 L’Association du patrimoine du ruisseau de la Brasserie**

- L’Association du patrimoine du ruisseau de la Brasserie (APRB) congratulates the NCC for its work on the Capital Core Area Sector Plan.
- The vision is definitely ambitious and it seems willing to accommodate respect for the built environment and the principles of sustainable urban development.
- The neighbourhood harbours an important chapter of the Capital Region’s history and still has architectural heritage of great value.
- The Association was at the crux of many battles to oppose real estate developments that threatened to erase all traces of our collective past, our environment and our shared assets.
- We are quite receptive to the vision you are advocating for the neighbourhood – a pleasant pace, a body of water, green space and an art centre.
- Citizens and association representatives were clear – they are strongly opposed to real estate or commercial developments on the banks of Brewery Creek and wish to preserve and improve the creek’s green space and natural environment.
- Instead, neighbourhood residents would be more in favour of developing the east side of Montcalm Street and establishing a museum, such as the Musée Jean Dallaire project on the west side of Montcalm.
- The following considerations are fundamental for the APRB:
  1. Protection of built heritage
  2. Protection and improvement of the banks of Brewery Creek
  3. Protection and reinforcement of residential quality of living
  4. Sustainable long-term development of the downtown of the former city of Hull

### **5.4 The Society for Study of Architecture in Canada**

- Oppose the proposed building development on Sussex Drive between Stanley and Alexander streets.
- Preserving heritage not only means preserving buildings, it means preserving context as well.
- New buildings will block views and transform the openness of the original settings for these buildings.

- Do not turn greenspace along Sussex Drive into turf for undistinguished architecture, inappropriate landscaping and parking lots as has happened in the case of the Saudi Embassy.
- There is a need to create cultural sites but wonder about the appropriateness of the international precinct concept; it does not seem carefully planned.
- LeBreton Flats would be better suited for this development, as it is barely developed. Underground parking could be built. It is close to the Parliament buildings and the Canadian War Museum.
- Rather use the money to renovate the Prime Minister's decrepit residence and the other heritage buildings like the National Gallery.
- Also resent the increase in traffic and the loss of greenspace.

### **5.5 Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital**

- The Greenspace Alliance provided comments in the second round of development of plans when the Core Area Concept Plan was up for discussion.
- Several of our comments do not appear to have been acknowledged: Victoria and Chaudières Islands be made car-free and comments on pesticide use.
- This latest round of consultation on the Core Area Plan is again very deficient and will likely see a repeat of the poor response rate of the previous round, when just 60 written communications were received, including 22 responses to a questionnaire.
- Twenty-two responses to a questionnaire offer no basis for valid analysis.
- In the current round, a questionnaire is again one of the main tools employed and again no attempt is made to administer it to any kind of random sample of potential respondents.
- As for the nature of the questions, they consist mostly of motherhood statements; there is little inclination to express preferences or priorities between such statements, meaning the results have little informative value.
- The Public Programming & Activities Vision for the Core Area of Canada's Capital - Reflecting a Nation is indeed on a "vision" plane, where all is beautiful and exemplary. Despite the apparent detail and artists' sketches, it has minimal informative value if one seeks to understand what the planners actually have in mind to do.
- Only two reference copies were available at the public meeting and other copies were deposited only at the NCC's library and at the main branches of the Ottawa and Gatineau libraries.
- The text of the Report is also on the NCC web site but the page numbers on the web site version of the full report and in the printed report are not the same so it is not the same version.
- The January 2005 draft of the Plan is marred by a lack of correspondence between page numbers in the Table of Contents and the actual text, and by Map references which do not correspond with the map numbers in the back.
- In numerous other ways this is clearly still a rough draft. Yet it has a January 2005 date and it is the best that is available during this April consultation period. This reflects poorly on the consultation standards that are attained here.
- The Executive Summary is at such a high level of abstraction and generality that no issues arise.
- There is no analysis of need in the Report for so many buildings within the next twenty years. If space needs to be preserved for future generations (a reasonable objective) then it would be better to label these as such, not as "Current and recommended" building sites.
- The Plan offers no rationale for the Core Area boundary that is employed throughout, nor for the slightly larger Area of Influence. It excludes major locations such as the National Aviation Museum, the Museum of Science & Technology, the Museum of Nature, the Experimental Farm, Laurier House and Beechwood Cemetery.
- No evidence of actual joint effort of full integration of planning at all levels of government.

- Lost opportunity to erect a marker near the St. Patrick Street Bridge that would point to Beechwood Avenue and the Cemetery, and to the pathway along the Rideau River.
- No solid justification for the “new cultural institutions and federal accommodations” on the open spaces east of Sussex Drive between Stanley Avenue and Alexander Street.
- Scant attention paid to monitoring and evaluation.

### 5.6 Heritage Ottawa

- Pleased to note that the idea of demolishing buildings along Sparks Street was dropped.
- Stresses that the NCC must interpret both the local and the Capital story when talking about Ottawa.
- Pleased to note that NCC is moving toward ensuring meaningful consultation and cooperation.
- Recognizes the NCC’s commitment to improve the connections between the Capital and the Civic realm to bring the federal and municipal story together.
- Pleased to see NCC’s commitment to promote a comprehensive approach to the preservation of built heritage, cultural landscapes and archaeological resources.

### 5.7 Whitewater Canada

- Kayaking and canoeing have played an important symbolic role in the history of Canada.
- People have been doing these activities for many years in the heart of the Capital, at the Tailrace (eastern portion of LeBreton Flats).
- The Tailrace is eastern Canada’s leading training facility for competitive whitewater sports, and is used by athletes from across the country as their training ground.
- Many spectators also enjoy the activity at the Tailrace, and it contributes to the image of an exciting Capital.
- Volunteers have worked hard since the early 1980s to clean and improve this site.
- Would like the site to continue to be used for national and international competitions; however, it has concerns about the site, such as the lack of public amenities.
- Whitewater Canada requests that the NCC improve this area.

## 6. Comments from municipalities

The cities of Ottawa and Gatineau were both officially invited to submit their comments on the drafts of the three plans. The NCC ensured that the proposed concepts and ideas were in harmony with the Official Plan for the City of Ottawa and the Plan d’aménagement de la Ville de Gatineau. The municipalities’ comments are summarized as follows.

City of Ottawa:

Canada’s Capital Core Area Sector Plan is in keeping with the City of Ottawa Official Plan and the Downtown Ottawa Urban Design Strategy 2020 policies, aimed at promoting the liveability of the downtown and addressing the challenge of creating well-designed buildings and spaces. The Canada’s Capital Core Area Sector Plan is particularly strong in addressing nation-building issues, such as the importance of celebrating Canada’s National Symbols and strengthening the linkages between the Ontario and Quebec sides of the Ottawa River. As a high-level policy document, the Plan does not address in detail how the planning objectives will be implemented, particularly in areas where the civic and capital realms overlap, such as the Canal Area near City Hall and Confederation Park and the Interface District between Queen and Wellington, as identified in the Downtown Urban Design Strategy 2020. A presentation to the City of Ottawa Environment and Planning Committee was made on May 11, 2005 and was well received by councillors.

Ville de Gatineau:

Some specific comments clarifying and providing more information on sections 4.2, 4.10, 4.11 and 4.15 of the draft Plan were sent to the NCC by City of Gatineau personnel. These comments were incorporated in the document. A presentation was made on April 18, 2005 to the City's Advisory Committee on Planning. Overall, the Plan blends well with the city's development plan and members' remarks were positive.

## 7. Comments from partners

The NCC also invited its federal partners to review the proposed plans and share their opinions.

### Summary of Parks Canada comments, which primarily address concepts involving the Rideau Canal:

They are satisfied with the general direction of the Sector Plan and the Vision for programming.

The plans recognize the importance of the Rideau Canal and the concepts proposed are in keeping with Parks Canada's existing Canal-related mandate and policies.

The choice of words in the Sector Plan may lead to confusion. It must be clear that authority for Rideau Canal planning and management falls under the purview of Parks Canada.

The document should make more reference to Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy.

Jurisdiction over Confederation Square should be clarified. This area is not the responsibility of Parks Canada as the text may lead readers to believe.

The idea for a footbridge emerged at the end of the 1990s. This idea must continue to be considered in a broader context and its use should not necessarily be restricted to pedestrians.

The Plan should indicate qualify that *improvements* could be made to the interpretation and educational experience already in place along the Rideau Canal.

### Summary of Comments from Public Works and Government Services Canada:

Detailed comments were sent to the NCC on May 26, 2005. As holder of an extensive real property portfolio in the Core Area, which includes the Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts as well as a concentration of Crown-owned and leased office accommodations, PWGSC are extremely interested in the policy content and initiatives outlined in the Draft for Discussion Core Area Sector Plan.

PWGSC clarified the intent of their *Good Neighbour Policy*. Comments were made on Sections 3.2 (Land Use), 3.9 (Safety and Security), Section 3.10 (Urban Design & Urban Form) and Section 3.11 (View Protection). Extensive comments were submitted on Section 4.1 (Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts), Section 4.7 (Sparks Street Area), and Section 4.13 (Ottawa Central Business District). Some comments question the orientation of the Plan. However, according to the NCC's Planning Framework, certain more detailed matters are better addressed in an Area Plan than in this Sector Plan. Staff of the NCC and PWGSC met and resolved PWGSC's concerns through the redrafting of certain sections.

## 8. Media Coverage

Summary of Print Coverage of Public Consultations on the Core Area Sector Plan and Reflecting a Nation documents(See Appendix E to consult the articles):

Date	Newspaper Journal	Headline and summary / Titre et résumé
March 19, 2005	Ottawa Sun	<p>“Fresh face for the Capital: NCC eyes downtown makeover by 2067”</p> <p>Positive and factual. Capital core needs to shed bureaucratic image and become vibrant place to live, work, visit and learn about Canada. Mentions public consultation.</p>
March 19, 2005	Le Droit	<p>« La CCN jette un regard sur le futur »</p> <p>Positive; lists the Plan’s recommendations; NCC’s vision broad and far-reaching in its plan for the Core Area; mentions the consultation sessions and invites the public to visit the NCC Web site.</p>
March 19, 2005	Ottawa Citizen	<p>“Agency envisions 50-year beautification project for Ottawa”</p> <p>NCC unveils 50-year vision to make Ottawa more lively. Positive and factual. Mentions public consultation and website.</p>
March 19, 2005	Ottawa Citizen	<p>“NCC offers vision for a capital: The federal agency has set out its long-term plan for government-owned land that includes new buildings and people places. Some wonder, though, whether the NCC is trying to do too much.”</p> <p>Positive and factual. Mentions public consultations. Concerns expressed about loss of greenspace and environmentally sensitive waterfront, about visual clutter that could result from adding programming and amenities, and about pressures for the NCC to sell land for development.</p>
March 22, 2005	Ottawa Citizen	<p>“Finding Canada in the Capital”</p> <p>Supports the NCC proposal to create a Canada House to showcase the provinces and territories. “Admirably, the plan emphasizes the experience of people in the capital, rather than building a lot of monuments or grandes allees.” Suggests the NCC has a huge list of possible projects and should “get on with a handful of the projects and make the experience of visiting the capital more engaging for all Canadians.”</p>
March 24, 2005	Ottawa Citizen	<p>“Talk’s good, but NCC slow to act: Agency has ideas that are worthwhile”</p> <p>Praises the NCC for avoiding mega-projects in its new plan. Plan includes sensible ideas of which municipal politicians should take note. Suggests the NCC “are talkers, not doers” and that simpler ideas should be quickly implemented.</p>
March 30, 2005	Ottawa Citizen	<p>“30 residents turn out to see NCC’s draft plan”</p> <p>Notes plan was well received by public, community and special interest groups who attended the meeting.</p>
March 31, 2005	Le Droit	<p>« Le plan d’aménagement de la CCN reçoit un bon accueil »</p> <p>Notes the overall favourable response of about 40 people who attended public meeting. Issues raised include heritage, environment and potential job losses at Scott Paper Ltd.</p>
April 2005	Centretown	<p>“NCC downtown plans to be completed by 2067”</p>

	News	Public comments on federal accommodation in the core, transportation strategies and need for more public consultation are noted.
March 31, 2005	Ottawa Citizen	"An idea for empty space: keep it"  Laments some proposals in CASP to build in parks or open spaces, e.g. Jacques Cartier Park, Infocentre plaza, Garden of the Provinces. Worries about "clutter" on Confederation Boulevard.
April 1, 2005	Charlottetown Guardian	Reprint of above - "An idea for empty space: keep it"
May 11, 2005	Metro	"Water taxis, parks in 20-year plan"

## 9. Conclusion

The Core Area Sector Plan and the Programming Vision will be submitted to the Board of Directors of the National Capital Commission for approval on June 30, 2005. Following this approval, the final version of the Plan and the Vision will be prepared for distribution in the fall of 2005. The Commemorations Plan requires more internal work and will be presented for approval later in 2005.

Appendix A - Public notices



# The National Capital Commission (NCC) Public Consultation on Canada's Capital Core Area



public  
activities events

transportation  
heritage planning  
environment  
sustainable development

The NCC would like to receive your comments and suggestions on two important planning documents about the future of Canada's Capital core area over the next few decades. The first of these documents relates to the **planning and use of federal lands**, and the second is about **public programs and activities**.

Two public meetings will take place:

- Mostly in English, **Tuesday, March 29, 2005**, at the Government Conference Centre, 2 Rideau Street, Ottawa
- Mostly in French, **Wednesday, March 30, 2005**, at the Four Points by Sheraton, 35 Laurier Street, Gatineau

**5:30 pm** Open house  
**7 pm** Presentations  
**7:45 – 9 pm** Questions and comments

The related documents and the questionnaire are available on the NCC website and at the following locations:

**The NCC Library**

40 Elgin Street, Second Floor,  
Ottawa

**Main Library, Ottawa Public Library**

120 Metcalfe Street, Third Floor,  
Ottawa

**Maison du Citoyen Library**

25 Laurier Street, Gatineau  
(Hull sector)

Please send your comments, or the questionnaire, by **April 29, 2005**.

Public Consultation and  
Community Relations

National Capital Commission  
40 Elgin Street, Room 202, Ottawa,  
Ontario K1P 1C7

**Fax:** (613) 239-5039

**Phone:** (613) 239-5555

or 1 800 704-8227

**E-mail:** [info@ncc-ccn.ca](mailto:info@ncc-ccn.ca)

**Website:** [www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca](http://www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca)

Appendix B - Press Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NCCN-05-03-05-MI

March 14, 2005

**\*\* MEDIA BRIEFING \*\***

**NCC PRESENTS LONG-TERM PLAN AND PROGRAMMING VISION FOR THE CORE AREA  
OF CANADA'S CAPITAL**

**Canada's Capital Region** - The National Capital Commission (NCC) invites media to attend a briefing on the NCC's new **Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan** and on *Reflecting a Nation*, a Public Programming and Activities Vision for the Core Area of Canada's Capital. Both documents are being released for public consultation.

The Core Area Sector Plan sets out long-term policies and plans for federal lands in the core areas of both Ottawa and Gatineau. *Reflecting a Nation* presents general orientations for the planning of public spaces and activities in the heart of Canada's Capital, from a visitor's perspective.

**Media Briefing:**

**When:** Friday, March 18, 2005  
10 am

**Where:** National Capital Commission  
40 Elgin Street, Room 702  
Ottawa

**RSVP:** Eva Schacherl, NCC Media Relations  
(613) 239-5673 (office)  
(613) 769-4890 (cellular)

Chantal Comeau, NCC Media Relations  
(613) 239-5075 (Office)  
(613) 797-0279 (cellular)

**Public Consultation:**

Media are also welcome to attend the NCC's public meetings on the Core Area Sector Plan and on *Reflecting a Nation* on Tuesday, March 29 at 5:30 pm at the Government Conference Centre at 2 Rideau St. in Ottawa (mostly in English) and Wednesday, March 30 at 5:30 pm at the Four Points Sheraton at 35 Laurier St. in Gatineau (mostly in French).

-30-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 NCCN-05-03-13-MI

March 24, 2005

**\*\* MEDIA INVITATION \*\***

**NCC TO HOLD PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PLANS FOR THE CORE AREA OF CANADA'S CAPITAL**

**Canada's Capital Region** - The National Capital Commission (NCC) invites media and the public to attend two public consultation meetings on long-term plans for the Core Area of Canada's capital on **Tuesday, March 29, 2005** and **Wednesday, March 30, 2005**.

This consultation will give the public an opportunity to comment on diverse issues affecting the Core Area of the capital, including development, sustainability, transportation, the environment, heritage, commemorations, cultural activities and public programming.

First Session (mostly in English):	Second Session (mostly in French):
<u>Tuesday, March 29, 2005</u> Government Conference Centre 2 Rideau Street, Ottawa 5:30 pm Open house 7 pm Presentations 7:45 pm - 9 pm Questions and comments	<u>Wednesday, March 30, 2005</u> Four Points by Sheraton 35 Laurier Street, Gatineau 5:30 pm Open house 7 pm Presentations 7:45 pm - 9 pm Questions and comments

The related documents and the questionnaire are available on the NCC website and at the following locations:

**The NCC Library:** 40 Elgin Street, Second Floor, Ottawa

**Main Library, Ottawa Public Library:** 120 Metcalfe Street, Third Floor, Ottawa

**Maison du Citoyen Library:** 25 Laurier Street, Gatineau (Hull sector)

For more information on the the NCC's plans for the Core Area of Canada's Capital, please contact the **National Capital Commission (NCC)** at **(613) 239-5555** or **1 800 704-8227**, or visit the NCC's website at [www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca](http://www.ncc-ccn.gc.ca).

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## Appendix C - Media Coverage