



Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
Alliance pour les espaces verts de la capitale du Canada

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To: The Honourable Ted McMeekin,
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Government of Ontario

By Email
tmcmeekin.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Dear Minister,

Since its founding in 1997, the Greenspace Alliance has actively participated in Ottawa's municipal election campaigns and has been a close observer. We understand that your department is conducting a review of the *Municipal Elections Act* following last fall's round of elections. We offer the following three suggestions:

1. Corporate and labour union contributions to election campaigns should be prohibited. It is extremely important for our democracy that the power of money be controlled. Three successive analyses of election financing in Ottawa have clearly demonstrated the undue dependence on and effectiveness of corporate contributions, in particular from the development industry.
2. Municipalities should be given the opportunity to modify their electoral system. Some form of proportional representation should become possible, which would avoid a candidate winning based on a very small percentage of the vote.
3. A "none of the above" vote should be acceptable at the voting station. It is a legitimate expression of a voter's will and is not the same as spoiling a ballot. Refusing the choices presented on a ballot should be fully available as an option and be reported on.

Thank you for considering our views. We would appreciate being informed of any results of your review.

Erwin Dreessen

Erwin Dreessen
Co-chair

Cc: The Hon. Yasir Naqvi

The Greenspace Alliance works with members of the community to preserve and enhance green and blue spaces in the National Capital area. It engages with all levels of government. We believe that urban greenness is essential for a community's quality of life, contributing to our personal, social, economic, cultural and spiritual well-being. It also connect us with the natural and cultural history of our region.