



YASIR NAQVI

MPP/DÉPUTÉ

Ottawa Centre

June 17, 2016

BY EMAIL

Mr. Erwin Dreessen
erwin_dreessen@ncf.ca

Dear Erwin,

Thank you for your email regarding the Civic Campus of The Ottawa Hospital's (TOH) plans for future growth. I appreciate the time you have taken to write and share your concerns with me, and I am pleased to take this opportunity to respond.

The Civic Campus has been at the centre of our community for nearly 100 years and remains an important part of our daily lives. For nearly ten years, TOH has been looking at options for redevelopment of the Civic Campus, as the current space is aging and in need of important upgrades.

This is an important opportunity for our community to have a discussion about the kind of hospital we need for our growing, diverse community. As part of the health care planning process, TOH will be required to consult widely with the community, stakeholders, the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and other partners on key decisions such as the size, design and function of any new capital project. I want to stress that this is just the beginning of a long and involved process.

Before any new hospital is built, it must work with the LHIN and submit a Pre-Capital Plan to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. This plan essentially asks the Ministry for permission to start planning the capital project. This does not mean that the project is approved – it simply means they can proceed with doing the necessary research and consultations to develop a business case and plan for the new capital project. TOH has submitted a Pre-Capital Plan to the Ministry and it is currently being considered.

It was through TOH's pre-capital planning phase that it identified the Central Experimental Farm as a potential site for hospital expansion. The Farm was established in 1886 as the central research station for the federal Department of Agriculture, and was designated as a protected national historic site in 1998. As you know, the previous federal government announced the transfer of 60 acres of the Farm from Agriculture Canada to the National Capital Commission (NCC) who would be offering it to TOH as a potential site for a new Civic Campus.

Early last fall, the new federal government indicated that they would like to do their due diligence before any land transfer was completed, and as such no land has been transferred at this point. Most recently, the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Hon. Mélanie Joly, has asked the NCC to review all the possible sites for the Civic Campus through a rigorous and transparent process, in order to provide the federal government with a recommendation. Once that review is complete, the federal government will make a decision on next steps. This review is expected to be completed by November 2016.

Community Office / Bureau communautaire

109 rue Catherine Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0P4

Tel/Tél 613-722-6414 | Fax/Téléc 613-722-6703 | ynaqvi.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org

yasirnaqvimpp.ca | @yasir_naqvi | facebook.com/yasirnaqvimpp

As the MPP for Ottawa Centre, I am dedicated and committed to keeping the Civic Campus in the core of the city. I am also committed to a transparent process. I believe MP Catherine McKenna has been prudent in calling for a review of potential locations, and considering all options for the Civic Campus expansion, including the Farm and Tunney's Pasture. I feel strongly that we need to hear from local residents about where they hope to see the new site of the hospital. I have heard from many by personally going door-to-door and at community events.

I was pleased to attend and speak at the information session at the beginning of March, which served as a first step in the public engagement process. I understand TOH is working closely with the federal government to see what options might be feasible and I hope this process will include consultation with our community.

I remain committed to working with TOH and the Champlain LHIN on developing a long-term plan for the Civic Campus. Once the Pre-Capital Plan is approved, TOH will begin the important work of determining what a new hospital might look like, including what health services it will provide. Public consultation is required during this phase and I encourage you to continue to participate in the process at every step.

One thing we all agree on is that we need a hospital in downtown Ottawa and I will do everything in my capacity to make sure that our Civic Campus remains in the heart of our community.

Once again, thank you for writing. Please do not hesitate to contact me at my Community Office at any time to share your thoughts and concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yasir Naqvi' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yasir Naqvi, MPP
Ottawa Centre