

January 7, 2019

To: Mark Kristmanson

Cc: Councillor Tobi Nussbaum

Dear Dr Kristmanson,

First, please allow me to say that it has been a pleasure working you as CEO of the NCC and to wish you all the best in your new endeavours.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital regarding the protection of mature trees on Parliament Hill. I have taken the liberty of copying Councillor Nussbaum as this issue extends well into the future into his term as CEO. As your successor well knows from his municipal experience, infill and renovations are often the cause of unjustified tree removals. As the Centre Block will be undergoing massive renovations over the next several years, we are concerned that, like many private owners, the federal government, as public owner and main contractor of these premises, will conclude that mature trees will need to be removed for ease of access or otherwise facilitate the renovation process.

We are particularly concerned about the removal of distinctive trees. A prime example of such a tree is the centenary white elm next to the statue of Sir John A. Macdonald, just east of the Centre Block. It is just one tree, but it is quite a distinctive one, part of the view and framing of the Parliament Buildings. In our estimation, the whole of Parliament Hill, with its tree cover and open spaces, is a fundamentally important piece of greenspace in the heart of the Capital and deserves utmost protection.

I am calling on you to ensure that the National Capital Commission takes all necessary measures to protect trees in the Parliamentary Precinct during the renovation of the Centre Block in fulfillment of its mandate as custodian of the capital realm.

Sincerely,

Paul Johanis

Chair, Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital