

Good afternoon Alain and team,

Thank you for meeting with us last Wednesday, 2 June. We appreciated being able to hear the perspectives of a diverse group of City staff members. We were also pleased to hear about the additional work that this group is doing on the revision of the draft Official Plan.

A number of items are of particular immediate interest to us.

1. Commitments and improvements identified

We would be happy to work with you to improve environmental and housing targets that reflect City Council's adoption of "emergency" motions in both cases. In the case of housing, in October 2020, the City of Toronto adopted a COVID-19 Housing and Homelessness Response Plan for 3,000 supportive homes before the end of 2022. The City of Montreal has a similar plan to construct 12,000 social homes before the end of 2022. Given that Ottawa is a third of the population of Toronto, half the population of Montreal, and much richer per capita than both cities, targets of 1,000 social homes with support services, and another 2,000 social homes with deep affordability by the end of 2023 is doable and required to be on par with other Canadian cities. Could you please let us know what the next step is for us to support your work to improve the targets?

Given the current lack of community engagement in defining High Performance Development Standards, we appreciate your commitment to invite the community to this conversation in the near future. We look forward to participating and sharing our expertise. POP would like to work with you and the development industry jointly on the HPDS. Siloed discussions, while better than none, are not likely to be as productive as when the key stakeholder groups work together and share thoughts on how best to accommodate each other's respective wants and needs.

We look forward to seeing policies relating to equity-based zoning in the revised draft official plan. Edmonton's Zoning Bylaw Renewal focus on equity was referenced as a good model.

Incorporating displacement protection policies for tenants who face similar situations to those in Timber Creek is a positive and much needed move. We look forward to seeing strong tenant protection policies realised. The City of Burnaby, along with several other BC cities have been working on better tenant protection language.

We look forward to receiving the track-changes version of the revised draft Official Plan, well in advance of the Open House. Highlighting the changes made between the two drafts will make both much more accessible.

We are also encouraged by your undertaking to review the next draft with a key aim of greater clarity and eliminating ambiguity.

Especially positive is the commitment to add indicators to the “what we want to achieve” boxes in each section. Providing such measures and indicators will allow the progress made by the City in implementing the Official Plan, once it is approved, to be monitored. This would be a good starting point for residents to track Ottawa’s achievements.

Given our concerns that there will not be a monitoring framework set out in the draft Official Plan, we were encouraged to hear of the plan to have a City-wide dashboard which could cover our 12 targets or similar ones. This would be a step in the right direction in terms of monitoring progress in implementing the policies in the draft Official Plan. We want to see appropriate targets and pertinent metrics for each of the Official Plan’s many policy goals and also recommend that PIED establish a single, well-integrated, reporting framework with relevant data and infographics that clearly demonstrate the progress, and rate of progress, made annually towards the achievement of the plan’s development, sustainability and livability. We are keen to work with you and other stakeholders on developing such a framework.

2. Follow-up on items, including questions unanswered or answer was vague and POP is still seeking clear answers

The OP needs to be pulled through an equity and inclusion lens in its entirety – rather than equity and inclusion issues being sporadically mentioned or inserted into the document. Equity and inclusion needs to be foregrounded and to frame the OP. We need to see goals articulated with a strong social and economic justice lens, accompanied by clear, measurable targets. For instance, transportation goals could be measured through the lens of access and accessibility for a diversity of residents. Could you please confirm that you will be adopting an equity lens, measuring goals and outcomes using an equity and inclusion lens?

We continue to seek clarity with you regarding policy around neighbourhood level planning. How will the City “guide the evolution of neighbourhoods into complete 15 min neighbourhoods” if there is no clear direction regarding the work to be done to properly understand neighbourhood context - community assets, gaps, opportunities, etc., And importantly, to build support for measures to implement improvements that meet unique neighbourhood needs? Do you have a plan so that you can be clear in setting expectations for how much intensification a neighbourhood should expect to receive over the planning time horizon? Will there be a mechanism for ensuring that identified neighbourhood/community upgrades are explicitly linked to intensification as it occurs? Planning at the Transect level is too blunt a tool. We urge you to include a plan for robust engagement at the neighbourhood level that leverages the knowledge of community members, beginning with identification and mapping of neighbourhoods. We would be pleased to work with you on specific proposals for how this could be approached in a cost-effective manner, with timeliness in mind. Could you please confirm if you will work with POP, noting our ability to coordinate broad partners, to make this happen?

Our understanding is that the Official Plan will not address the need for an equitable distribution of the urban tree canopy. You noted that a stakeholder consultation process will begin soon on the Greenspace Master Plan and Urban Forest Management Plan, during which equity will be one of the elements considered. Without a policy link from the Official Plan, however, equitable

access to a thriving urban forest, will remain merely a consideration. We continue to be concerned about this issue and about urban tree and greenspace preservation and reinstatement generally. Can you please confirm how this OP will ensure a policy links to direct clear objectives on equity, preservation and reinstatement for upcoming planning processes?

Responses related to food and agriculture did not address the concerns outlined in the documents provided. A separate meeting has been set up to review these concerns, and determine more clearly what can be incorporated within the OP. We heard resistance to the idea that the OP should be used to direct staff to adopt an intersectional approach in actions and future planning. The multiple *urgent* needs of food security, economic development and climate mitigation requires an intersectional approach to ensure that decisions on one issue—or plans from one department—do not override long-term, sustainable options or compromise future community health and resilience. Issues related to food and agriculture are by their nature complex and interconnected to decisions throughout city departments. Both a food lens and an equity lens are required to ensure that decisions use the well-established intersectionality approach, internationally accepted as a requirement to meet complex challenges. The siloed approach of one department having domain on a single issue is archaic, or one policy dealing with tree canopy without inter-related policies promoting an edible landscape, will not serve the long-term interests of the city and its residents. Can you please confirm that the OP will clearly direct all City staff to embed an intersectional food lens approach into their work, including operational policies, zoning decisions and future plans?

You indicated that Royce Fu has completed modelling in support of (and presumably to test) various policy options considered in development of the OP. In the interests of transparency, we ask that this be provided at the earliest convenience. It will be difficult if not impossible to build support for the revised OP if stakeholders are not provided with an opportunity to understand the assumptions made and trade-offs contemplated. For example, it is possible that this work is informed by and outlines a more comprehensive vision of what constitutes “Walkability” than it was possible for staff to convey in our limited time frame. Sharing of the modelling would provide a great deal of clarification. Can you please confirm when you can share this information with us?

### 3. Questions on the agenda that still need responses:

**Financial sustainability.** POP looks forward to receiving answers from Don Herweyer to POP’s questions about the financial sustainability of the OP. Mr Herweyer agreed to provide answers to POP in writing as he wasn’t available to respond during the session. Our questions were based on the *Accountability for Financial sustainability* section in POP’s Key Issue report and we ask Mr. Herweyer to respond to the points raised by POP therein, including:

- Why has there been no analysis of the financial impacts of the OP for taxpayers or City finances?
- The PPS calls for coordination of OP with infrastructure and public service facilities to ensure financial viability of these investments over their lifecycle. How does the City propose to meet this PPS requirement?

- What will be the burden on taxpayers and City finances from development and maintenance of the new roads, water/sewer and other infrastructure and services required by the growth pattern promoted by the OP?
- How will the City ensure OP goals, targets and sanctioned plans are tied to revenue generation and are viable?
- Will the OP set out financial management principles and parameters to ensure financial sustainability and equity?
- How are the significant financial implications of low carbon growth for buildings and public transportation being addressed in the OP?

**Emerging Risks and Resulting Uncertainties.** These questions were not asked in the meeting due to time constraints. The issue for POP and many community groups is that the OP does not take into account COVID or other uncertainties that make it impossible to predict conditions in the City five years from now let alone 25. The key questions POP wants answered are:

- What does the City plan to do about the likelihood that all their projections are off (e.g. for employment downtown vs working at home, commuter transportation numbers, retail shopping space needs vs on-line shopping, etc.)?
- How will the City manage the OP planning risks from significant COVID impacts, unneeded road widening or infrastructure expansion, delayed master plans (infrastructure, transportation, resilience), etc.?

## Conclusion

Thank-you for prioritizing a continued partnership with POP to deliver on our shared objective of having an Official Plan that succeeds in achieving its ambition of Ottawa becoming *the most liveable mid-sized City in North America by 2046*. POP is a broad alliance of 20+ civil society organizations that represents Ottawa citizen's concerns, interests and expertise, ranging from housing, to social equity, transportation, climate, affordability and homeless, rural and ecological protection, greenspace, food security and financial (taxpayer) concerns. POP continues to grow and bring on board other groups and interests.

We support the general policy directions of the Official Plan and appreciate the hard work and efforts of PIED and others to comprehensively revise the Official Plan for the pivotal transformation that the City needs to undergo in the next 25 years. However, we are very concerned that the OP does not provide the guidance and direction for applying the OP's visionary general policies. Thus we have invested hundreds of hours in meeting, reviewing OP documents and working together to produce the two submissions (Technical Report and Key Issues Document) and to develop serious and realistic comments and solutions that we believe will enable the OP to succeed.

We urge you to consider our concerns seriously, incorporate our input, and continue to work with us as expert, committed stakeholders in this process.

As next steps, we are requesting to hear back from you on the questions in this document by Monday, June 21, and asking that we set up a follow-up meeting with you for Wednesday, June 23, on the As We Heard It report that you are releasing today.

Sincerely,  
People's Official Plan Committee

Co-convenors of the People's Official Plan:  
Ecology Ottawa  
Greenspace Alliance for Canada's Capital  
Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability  
Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa  
Just Food  
Walkable Ottawa  
Healthy Transportation Coalition  
Waste Watch Ottawa  
City for All Women Initiative  
Ottawa Transit Riders  
MD Moms for a Healthy Recovery  
CoEnergy  
Ottawa Renewable Energy Co-operative  
Ottawa South Eco-Action Network  
For Our Kids  
Bike Ottawa  
Climate Reality Leaders  
Energy Mix  
Ottawa Eco-talent Network  
Ottawa Stewardship Council