

October 26, 2021  
Mayor and Council  
City of Ottawa

**Subject: The Peoples Official Plan urges you to act now**

Dear Mayor Watson and Council

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peoples Official Plan. First, we would like to thank and commend all the Councillors who, as members or non-members, sat through the Joint Meeting of Planning and ARAC from October 14-18. We saw a civil and productive meeting at which all delegations were given the opportunity to be heard, helped by sensitive and probing questions from committee members. And we witnessed their deliberation and deft handling of the large number of motions presented to amend the draft Official Plan. Many of the motions we had proposed were adopted in whole or in part, and we urge full council to approve the Committee recommendations, or indeed go beyond.

Time moves on and addressing the climate emergency has become ever more urgent. Code Red for humanity is not an exaggeration. Directions taken and decisions made two or three years ago as part of this planning process perhaps inevitably lag behind facts on the ground. Inaction leads to worse outcomes.

So we urge you to act now. Act on the budgets required to fulfill these plans. Act on intensifying while maintaining urban tree cover. Act on preserving our natural heritage and agricultural land. Act on safeguarding our food security. Act on just and equitable outcomes.

Many motions resulted in referrals and direction to undertake subsequent work. Approving this plan is not the final chapter, it is the start of the new one which must be focused not on words but on action. The Peoples Official Plan looks forward to remaining engaged and to working with the City to see this process through.

Sincerely,

Paul Johanis  
on behalf of the Peoples Official Plan