



Date: Saturday, May 9, 2020

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Issue:** Ottawa Official Plan – Growth Management Strategy and Urban Boundary Expansion

On Monday, May 11, City of Ottawa Planning Committee and the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee will be presented three alternatives for our New Official Plan and Growth Management Strategy. The direction and decisions will result in impacts affecting every neighbourhood and all citizens in Ottawa beyond 2046.

**The Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA-FAC)** is the forum for citizens associations and similar non-profit volunteer groups in Ottawa. Member associations share information about issues facing their communities and, when appropriate, take joint action.

### “Neighbourhoods Matter – Let’s Do Density Responsibly”

The Federation of Citizens' Associations (FCA) of Ottawa is pleased that Ottawa City Council has recognized Ottawa's Climate Emergency and our Housing Affordability Crisis. Extensive outreach during our current and deeply troubling COVID Health Epidemic leads us all to the need for improved planning for the future. The challenge is many long-term unknowns, tough economic and fiscal challenges ahead and personal choices that will impact current city planning and business operations of the future.

#### FCA Recommendations:

1. **No Urban Expansion** - we have plenty of land within the existing boundary of Ottawa
2. **Distributed Density** that includes complete 15 Minute Neighbourhoods:
  - Identify Nodes and Corridors for infill, mixed use development and affordable housing
  - Provide Density Data and mapping of all neighbourhoods
  - Enforce Environmental regulations and Urban Tree Management
  - Update and Identify Infrastructure capacity for all proposed development
  - Develop Secondary plans, zoning, and site plan expectations for all new builds
  - Identify amenities necessary for complete neighbourhoods
  - Enforce the bylaws

#### WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE SAYING

**Barbara Ramsay,**  
**Kanata Greenspace Protection Coalition**  
[chair@ourkanatagreenspace.ca](mailto:chair@ourkanatagreenspace.ca)

The opportunity is now to ensure Ottawa's planning and development process moving forward includes appropriate standards and metrics to ensure all city development applications are approved with an eye to our natural green infrastructure. The assessment and contribution of these assets to our climate crisis via our tree canopy, open space and rural land needs to occur with every re/development application inside our urban boundary. All housing developments and neighbourhoods should provide homeowners and their families access to open natural space and the safety of a 40% tree canopy. Finally, Ottawa's Greenspace Master Plan needs to be transformed into a timely living document to not only guide but also monitor our success in creating and maintaining healthy, walkable, liveable neighbourhoods

**Angela Keller-Herzog**  
**CAFES (Communities Associations for environmental sustainability)**  
[akellerherzog@gmail.com](mailto:akellerherzog@gmail.com)

" There absolutely are viable and better alternatives to urban sprawl"

" We want to see a future development path that is sustainable financially, environmentally and socially. Boundary expansion helps with none of that; it is expensive for taxpayers, increases carbon emissions, destroys nature and farmland, and certainly does not create affordable housing.

"We are interested in growth solutions where we preserve the land and nature around Ottawa for future generations and build better density with more affordable housing, more trees and canopy, more healthy transportation, more access to parks. Investing tax dollars in sprawl is just wrong, wrong, wrong from financial, environmental and social perspectives.

**Paul Johanis**  
**GREENSPACE ALLIANCE**  
[pjohanis@rogers.com](mailto:pjohanis@rogers.com)

"It is important we tell the mayor and our councillors that we oppose urban expansion, that we understand that it might mean more density in our neighbourhood but that this is a trade-off we can accept for all our sake and that of generations to come."

**Laura Urrechaga**  
**FCA rep FCA Planning and Zoning**  
[lauraurrechaga@gmail.com](mailto:lauraurrechaga@gmail.com)

"The question isn't "Can we hold the line?" The question is "Do we dare?"

**Carolyn Mackenzie**  
[carolynwmackenzie@gmail.com](mailto:carolynwmackenzie@gmail.com)

In January, Mayor Watson stated that "*Ottawa now finds itself in a new league when competing with cities around the globe – we have to live up to the expectations of a world-class G7 capital city.*"

Let's have the ambition to be a world-class city.

Let's focus on a better way to add density and (re)build livable, affordable, healthy, 15-minute neighbourhoods. Let's not give in to intensification scaremongering. And let's hold the line on the boundary so we can afford to make the right investments for our communities.

**Shawn Barber**  
**president Centretown CA**  
[president@centretown.ca](mailto:president@centretown.ca)

"There may come a time when Ottawa's urban boundary needs to be expanded - but that time is not now."

"The City's own growth projections in 2016 concluded we don't need any additional urban land until at least 2036. What's changed in four years?"

**Rachelle Lacours, President,  
Greater Avalon Community Association, Orleans**  
[rachelle\\_lecours@hotmail.com](mailto:rachelle_lecours@hotmail.com)

“As evidenced by new growth at the edges of Ottawa, we continue to waste valuable land by building new low density communities that are **disconnected from transit and separated from jobs and community amenities. . . Vital discussions must take place around density, neighbourhood liveability, affordability and sustainability while respecting community input.**”

**Solomiya Ostapyk**  
Osgoode  
[saeostapyk@gmail.com](mailto:saeostapyk@gmail.com)

“Expanding the urban boundary may be seen as an easy way to accommodate growth, but given the detrimental effects this path would have, the City needs to reject the easy way out and use creativity and smart planning to prepare for Ottawa's future.”

**For further information please contact:**

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