

CHECKPOINT



"Environmental sustainability is a governing principle for the new Civic Campus," said Joanne Read, Executive Vice President of Planning at The Ottawa Hospital.

New sustainability benchmarks in the new Civic development

The Ottawa Hospital's new campus aims to integrate health-sustaining features that reduce stress and improve wellbeing for patients, visitors, staff, and volunteers.

"We are very focused on 'biophilic design,' an approach to architecture that seeks to connect the people in buildings to their natural surroundings, as part of our approach to wellness" said Jeff Mosher, Sustainability Specialist at HDR Architecture Associates Inc. "Biophilic design will be incorporated into

the hospital through ready access to natural lighting, views of nature, natural interior features, and opportunities for both exercise and respite on the site's beautiful, natural landscape."

The new Civic Development team is applying a hybrid of the most modern sustainability models. The environmental benefit of the high-performance building will include cleaner air, reduced energy demand, use of renewable energy technology, and low-



Jeff Mosher, Sustainability Specialist at HDR
Architecture Associates Inc.

carbon fuel sources. The team is exploring opportunities for a future-proof design that aspires to be "Net-Zero Ready."

Built to be climate resilient during Ottawa's cold winters and hot summers, the new Civic will utilize best practice climate modelling to assess risk and design for future probabilities to ensure longevity and performance in a changing world.

Before construction, the soil and water contamination on the site will be remediated to provide healthy, open green space, as well as areas for vegetation and biodiversity – all in collaboration with the National Capital Commission (NCC), aspiring to not just reduce environmental harm but to enhance the ecological performance of its site.

The landscaping will feature pollinator and natural habitats, and the creation of a protected wildlife corridor through the site that connects Dow's Lake and the western Rideau Canal to the Rideau River and the Southern Greenbelt areas is being studied.

Following Bird Safe Design Guidelines released by both the City of Ottawa and the NCC, the project team is exploring how to incorporate 'bird friendly' design standards in all openings of the building envelope, including curtain walls, windows, doors and skylights to minimize the risks to birds and bird collisions with lit buildings at night.

"In every reasonable way possible, the new Civic development intends to be a good neighbour by conforming to, or exceeding, City of Ottawa by-laws and NCC guidelines on noise and light trespass to adjacent neighbourhoods and lands," said Joanne Read, Executive Vice President of Planning at The Ottawa Hospital. "We aim to reduce environmental harm and to enhance the ecological performance of the site, improving the quality of life for the people, and the wildlife of the National Capital Region."

The project management team will also focus on water conservation by reducing potable water consumption, protecting the quality of nearby water resources, and preserving the health of the watershed by infiltrating the rainwater and treating pollutants on site.

The operation of the new hospital will reduce the impact on existing landfill capacity and regional ecosystems, and the broader environment through the reduction of landfill methane and microplastics.

"The project team aspires to dramatically reduce construction and operational waste, conserve resources, and prioritize sustainability through recycling, composting, device reprocessing, and new conservation programs that reduce operational waste once destined for landfill," Joanne added. "Environmental sustainability is a governing principle for the new Civic Campus."



View from Commissioner's Park.



View towards Dow's Lake.

Indigenous Peoples Advisory Circle established with vision of inclusion and cultural safety

A new Indigenous Peoples Advisory Circle has been established to advise The Ottawa Hospital on its new campus and ensure that cultural awareness, inclusion, and safety are



Marion Crowe is a member of the Ottawa Hospital Board of Governors and Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Circle.

integrated in planning and design of the new hospital.

More than 25 Indigenous representatives – from national and local agencies and communities in Ottawa, Eastern Ontario, Western Quebec, and Nunavut – gathered in May virtually for the first assembly of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Circle.

"It is an honour for me to chair this new Circle, which brings together the sharing of many diverse backgrounds while planning a common future for Indigenous health and healing at The Ottawa Hospital," said Marion Crowe, Member of the Ottawa Hospital Board of Governors, and Chair of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Circle. "The inaugural gathering was the first step of 'dreaming' together as we envision what could be integrated into the new Civic."

"The Advisory Circle is intended to benefit all people and all nations. It aims to be inclusive and receptive in addressing all needs."

The meeting was facilitated by Guy Freedman, who is fifth generation Métis from FlinFlon, Manitoba, who lives in Ottawa and is a former patient at The Ottawa Hospital. Among many other leadership roles, he has worked as a Senior Advisor for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

It was opened and closed with stories and a prayer by Algonquin elder Fred McGregor, and included a presentation by Gail Boehme, the Executive Director of the All Nations Healing Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, where traditional healing practices are seamlessly integrated with Western medicine.

In her opening remarks, Board Chair of The Ottawa Hospital Katherine Cotton said, "This engagement will be meaningful, ongoing, reciprocal and cyclical, a mutually beneficial

process that holds up principles of fairness, openness, and transparency."

The next steps for the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Circle include a series of workshops on major elements of Indigenous health and healing in building design, green space, growing of traditional medicines, and program delivery as the Circle considers progressive ideas that join both Western medicine and traditional healing into the new campus.



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Care in a modern facility, just one LRT transfer away

Interview with Matt Luloff, Ottawa City Councillor for Orleans and Chair of the Community and Protective Services Committee

What are the challenges and opportunities that should be addressed for the constituents of Orleans?

The Ottawa Hospital's new Civic Campus is such an incredible project that I support wholeheartedly. It is an opportunity for Ottawa to continue to lead the province and the region in innovation in health care.

Direct access to public transit is such an important aspect of this design. Here in Orléans, we are a few short years away from quick public transit connections to the rest of the city with Stage 2 LRT. That means that specialist and outpatient care in a modern facility is one transfer away from us.

As a former member of the Canadian Forces and a strong mental health advocate, what gaps

need to be considered in the delivery of mental health services and support to our community?

I am so pleased to see enhanced mental health services and a modern outlook when it comes to service delivery. The mental health area of the new Civic Campus is well-thought out and designed, with access to greenspace and natural light. To accompany that great design, service accessibility is important.

Providing easy to access emergency mental health services with active casework, referral and follow up is crucial to tackling the mental health challenges facing Ottawa citizens and our veterans. Many of us do not have a family doctor and referrals can be difficult to obtain.

The new Civic development will be one of the most advanced trauma-centred hospitals in Canada. How do we better partner with first responders?

The biggest issue facing our emergency services is the prevalence of level zeros, which happens when no ambulances are available to respond to a call. It is important that we continue to focus on the swift offload of emergency patients to keep our paramedics out on the road, ready to respond at a moment's notice.

I know that the Paramedic Service and The Ottawa Hospital take this situation very seriously and I was heartened to hear from the project team that this was a key design consideration. We must continue to take every opportunity to partner together to remedy this as quickly as possible.



Matt Luloff, Ottawa City Councillor for Orleans.

Demolition of West Annex building begins

Demolition of the West Annex building has begun.

The building demolition follows the Sir John Carling Building demolition, completed in 2014. The West Annex building sits on the north-west portion of new Civic development site on Carling Ave.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is responsible to coordinate the demolition as this commitment was part of the lease signed between The Ottawa Hospital and PSPC.

In May 2021, following an open tendering process, PSPC awarded the construction contract to Demolition Plus. The project consists of dewatering and demolishing the West Annex building. The work includes the removal of the piles and grade beams supporting the structure and special measures will be taken to protect natural elements on the site.

The completion of the demolition, expected by the end of November 2021, will allow The Ottawa Hospital to begin additional site preparation and soil remediation work for the next phase of construction.

The Sir John Carling Building, including the West Annex, was designed by well-known Canadian architect Hart Massey. It was built as part of the Gréber Plan, a mid-century urban plan for the National Capital Region that aimed to decentralize federal office complexes and encouraged the development of urban greenspace.

The project architects are exploring ways to honour Massey, the spirit of the Gréber Plan and the design of the former Sir John Carling building. This could include design elements that echo the architectural detailing, scale and palette of the original structure.



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View over Queen Juliana Park.

CheckPoint is a newsletter of the New Civic Project Development Team

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