



Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067

**Public Consultation Report
Summer 2016**

Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017–2067

Public Consultation Report

I – Description

Background

The National Capital Commission (NCC) is developing the Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017–2067, the signature planning framework that will shape the vision for the nation’s capital until Canada’s bicentennial in 2067. This plan presents a general vision for the Capital’s future. More specifically, the plan

- outlines the vision for the use of federal lands, buildings, parks, transportation facilities and symbolic spaces in the Capital;
- ensures that the Capital continues to be nationally significant and supportive of federal institutions;
- identifies three themes and the strategic principles in the Capital that will reflect our growth as a nation, build a lasting legacy for future generations and serve as a platform for Canada’s influence in the world;
- outlines the role of government and its partners in implementing the plan; and includes 17 milestone projects that will guide the next 50 years of Capital building.

The Plan presents a long-term vision of the Capital’s future and three major themes that will guide its implementation.

| The Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017–2067 | | |
|---|---|--|
| Canada’s Capital is a symbol of our country’s history and diversity, a true reflection of our democratic values, and our commitment to a flourishing and sustainable future. | | |
| Inclusive and Meaningful | Picturesque and Natural | Thriving and Connected |
| Protect and highlight the inspiring symbols that reflect our national identity, celebrate our values and achievements, and represent our Indigenous heritage and citizens from across Canada. | Protect and enhance the Capital’s ecological jewels and natural features, and improve access to and animation of waterways, shorelines and the Capital green space network. | Support a liveable, resilient and economically competitive Capital Region. |

Consultation Objective

In 2011, 2012 and, more recently, in the winter of 2016, the NCC held public consultations on 17 milestone projects to be included in the Plan. Following these consultations, the NCC developed an initial draft of the Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017–2067.

The purpose of the consultation held in the summer of 2016 was to gather feedback on the draft document from Canadians before finalizing the Plan.

II – The Consultation Process

Overview

Dates: Thursday, July 7 to Sunday, August 7, 2016

Format: The online consultation gave participants a chance to read a draft of the Plan, answer the questionnaire and express their opinions. Over 325 respondents shared their comments and suggestions. Appendix 1 contains a copy of the questionnaire.

Comments were also sent to the NCC by email.

Invitation and promotion

- An electronic invitation was sent to the following stakeholders:
 - interest groups and community associations (our distribution list includes over 4,000 individuals and groups);
 - elected officials from the three levels of government.
- The consultation was promoted through social media (Facebook and Twitter).

III – Consultation Highlights

The main comments concerned the following:

- **Aboriginal presence in the Capital:** Acknowledge that the Capital is located on the ancestral lands of Algonquin nations. Some would like to see greater Aboriginal involvement in planning decisions.
- **Transportation and mobility:** All participants would like the existing transportation system improved and consolidated.
- **The environment:** For many participants, the protection of natural areas, shoreline access, the beautification of parks and greenspaces, respect for wildlife and plant life, and innovative green infrastructure are priorities for the next 50 years.

IV – Consultation Outcomes

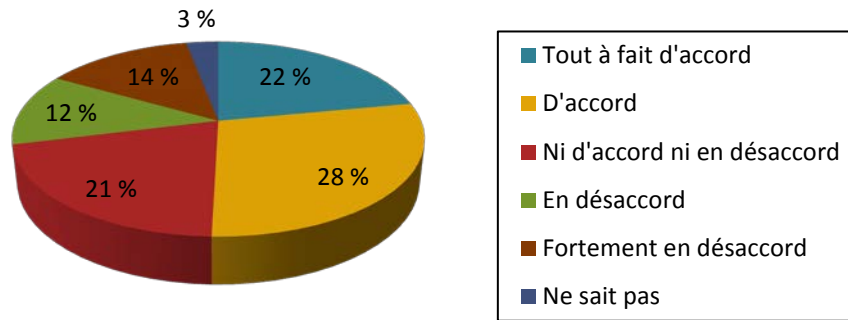
Most consultation participants agree or strongly agree with the three major themes proposed in the Plan.

An analysis of the comments gathered is presented below in the same order used in the questionnaire. To assist understanding and analysis, the ideas submitted have been grouped into themes.

Question 1

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the goals and commitments for the first major theme, entitled “Inclusive and Meaningful,” are presented in a clear and concise manner?

Half of respondents (50%) agree or strongly agree with the “Inclusive and Meaningful” theme, while 21% neither agreed nor disagreed.



Question 2 (asked only of respondents who answered disagree or strongly disagree in Question 1)

Why do you disagree/strongly disagree?

An inclusive and meaningful capital

- The Plan should clarify the priorities of an inclusive and meaningful capital.
- This theme seems less popular than the other two because it concerns primarily ceremonial matters.

The inclusive capital concept

- The Capital should be inclusive of people of all backgrounds, languages, demographic profiles and cultures, both residents and visitors.
- For the Capital to be inclusive, more parks and public places are needed, along with multiple points of access to the various waterways, affordable and effective means of transit, and the elimination of various access charges.
- An inclusive capital should have a public participation process to implement projects.

Aboriginal representation

- The Plan should show greater commitment to Aboriginal peoples.
- Reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples is not possible unless the Zibi project is modified, given its location on land of natural and historical importance to the National Capital Region, which places it outside the limits of an inclusive project.

- To respect the inclusive and meaningful capital theme, some respondents said that Victoria Island and the Chaudières Falls should be returned to Aboriginal peoples.
- The NCC should assign full management of the islands area to Aboriginal peoples or, at least, give them a greater hand in the decision-making process.

National institutions

- Without moving it to a new location, the Canada Science and Technology Museum must be easily accessible, either by creating new public transit connections or through a shuttle project.
- The Central Experimental Farm makes Ottawa unique. Some people want to develop a vision in the Plan for this agricultural institution.
- The land occupied by the Central Experimental Farm must be conserved and must not be considered for new construction or developments like The Ottawa Hospital or a botanical garden.
- The Plan could identify a specific location for a botanical garden project.
- LeBreton Flats should be the site of a national institution, not an arena.

Federal government headquarters and offices

- The government buildings across from the Parliament Buildings, especially those on the Gatineau shoreline, do not enhance the beauty of the Capital landscape. The Plan must include concrete action to improve this situation.
- Suggestions have been made to improve the identification of federal buildings, for example, through signage indicating the name of the department that occupies each building.
- Review the use of the lands at Tunney's Pasture. The many parking spaces left vacant on weekends should be transformed into a pedestrian square or community garden.

National commemorative ceremonies and monuments

- For some respondents, the Plan places too much importance on the visitor experience and the ceremonial, commemorative and symbolic aspects of the Capital.
- Public space must also be used for activities other than commemorative ceremonies.

Representation of Canadian diversity

- The Plan should specify how it will better highlight the cultural and social diversity of the Canadian population.

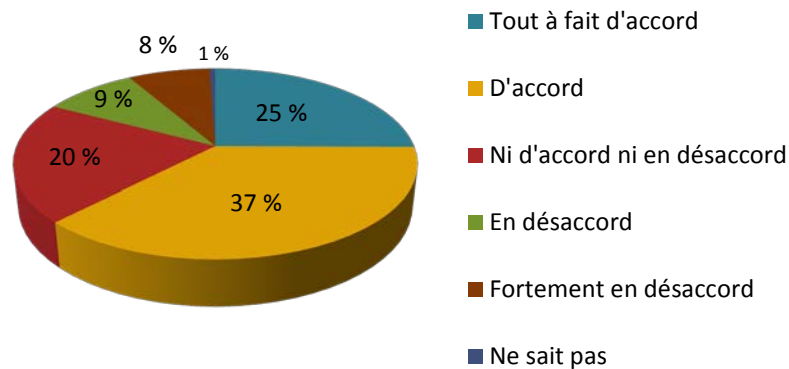
Official residences

- Some questioned the relevance of official residences in relation to a theme that promotes inclusiveness.
- The NCC is encouraged to use the renovation project to make 24 Sussex Drive more accessible to the public.

Question 3

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the goals and commitments for the second major theme, entitled “Picturesque and Natural,” are presented in a clear and concise manner?

Most respondents (62%) agree or strongly agree with the “Picturesque and Natural” theme, while 20% neither agree nor disagree.



Question 4 (*asked only of respondents who answered disagree or strongly disagree in Question 3*)

Why do you disagree/strongly disagree?

A picturesque and natural capital

- Under this theme, the NCC should be bold, innovative and committed to making the Capital Region a model of the environmental standards of a green city, across Canada and even internationally.
- The Plan should offer solutions for minimizing the environmental impact of property development projects.
- Green space must be used to contain urban sprawl.
- The NCC must prevent the construction of large buildings near its green spaces.

Gatineau Park

- Gatineau Park must be protected, and even expanded.
- The Plan should include a strategy to reduce vehicle traffic in Gatineau Park, particularly by establishing a shuttle service or by charging drivers an entry fee.

Shorelines and waterways

- Reducing or eliminating the number of parking lots along the edge of the river and along the light rail transit route should be a priority in an effort to repurpose these areas as parks or other types of green spaces.
- Participants suggested a number of measures concerning shorelines and waterways, such as river cleanup activities; reduced waste water discharge; development of water access points for swimmers and non-motorized watercraft; motor boat launches; activity sites and observation areas; and restaurants.
- Respondents want shorelines to remain in their natural state for wildlife and plants. Some even suggested doing away with the parkways along the edge of waterways.
- In cooperation with municipal, provincial and federal partners, the NCC should create a river tourism route. Mooring facilities should be developed, particularly at Jacques-Cartier Park, the Canadian Museum of History, Richmond Landing and the Ottawa River near the Rideau Canal locks.
- The Rideau Canal must be made more accessible, with meeting and activity areas and facilitate more contact with the water.

The Chaudières Falls and the islands

- The Plan does not specify future intentions for the Chaudières Falls. In the minds of many, this site epitomizes the essence of picturesque and natural.
- Respondents want to see the natural appearance of the Chaudières Falls restored by removal of the dam.

The Greenbelt

- High-density urban development around the Greenbelt is inconsistent with a picturesque, natural image for the Capital.
- The Plan does not specify how green corridors will be developed to allow for the movement of wildlife and to strengthen biodiversity.
- The NCC must better support local farmers and sustainable development.
- The Greenbelt trail network must be connected to other trail networks, particularly those along the shores of the Ottawa River, Gatineau River and Rideau Canal, and in Gatineau Park.
- The Greenbelt trail network must be completed.

Capital network of urban parks and green spaces

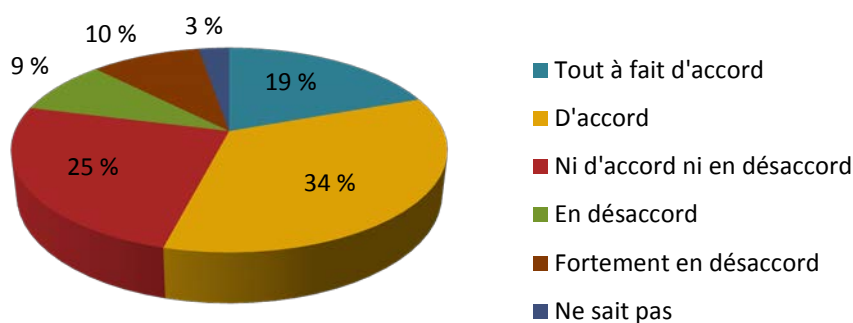
- A budget should be allocated to purchase land in order to conserve and enlarge natural areas.
- The NCC has many green spaces and most of them are underused. The Plan should include action to promote access, improve maintenance and upgrade public activities at these locations.
- For safety reasons, the Plan should emphasize implementation of a lighting strategy for urban parks and green spaces. However, it is important to preserve the view of the night sky.
- The Plan should include a commitment by the NCC to control invasive species on its lands, and follow naturalization plans that provide for the use of indigenous plant species.
- Replace grassed areas with indigenous plants along the parkways and in parks.

- The Plan does not make provision for forest maintenance and conservation. It would be important to plan for forest management in order to ensure conservation.
- Plan linear parks also in the east, along the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway.

Question 5

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the goals and commitments for the third major theme, entitled “Thriving and Connected,” are presented in a clear and concise manner?

Most respondents (53%) agree or strongly agree with the “Thriving and Connected” theme, while 25% neither agreed nor disagreed.



Question 6 (asked only of respondents who answered disagree or strongly disagree in Question 5)

Why do you disagree/strongly disagree?

A thriving, connected capital

- This theme should be developed in more detail.
- Improved coordination and partnership is needed with the City of Ottawa and Ville de Gatineau, as well as with other civil society partners and government authorities.

The Capital and regional economy

- Better support the agricultural sector.
- Innovation and technology sector:
 - The NCC should examine the role of innovation, information technology and digital infrastructure in planning the Capital core area for the next 50 years.
 - Innovative mobile applications, digital guides, virtual tours, instantaneous translation and a Wi-Fi network on NCC properties are ideas worth exploring.

A living culture and heritage

- Heritage

- Strike a better balance between heritage conservation efforts and implementation of the projects outlined in the Plan.
- The NCC should encourage the permanent occupancy and maintenance of heritage assets and open these properties to the public.
- Culture
 - Creation of a symphony house.
 - Development of a mural art program. Artworks would be created by Canadian artists.
- Design
 - Several participants would like to see a better approach to urban design and architecture on federal properties.
 - During design work on sites or buildings, the NCC should hold design competitions and encourage creative, forward-thinking and green designs.

Connectivity and mobility

- Strategic transportation plan
 - The Plan should be more explicit about the NCC's commitment to transportation, mobility and infrastructure. Without a transportation strategy, it would be difficult to implement other aspects of the Plan.
 - All respondents believe that the NCC must improve connections between sectors and more effectively manage vehicle traffic within its network.
 - Construction of a new interprovincial bridge is essential and would solve a number of problems. It was suggested that, in the absence of a new bridge, the two shores could be linked by ferry.
- Light rail transit
 - Light rail transit must be integrated within the National Capital Region as a whole, and therefore extended to the Quebec side.
 - Increase the extent of light rail transit in downtown Ottawa, and create a multi-modal network that starts downtown.
- Trail network
 - Participants asked for improvements to NCC trails and pathways, specifically by separating the different types of users, where possible, and by reinforcing speed limits and codes of conduct.
- Parkways
 - The parkways create barriers between neighbourhoods, and between these same neighbourhoods and waterways. Drivers, who can be aggressive at times, use the parkways like highways. Their speed and the noise they create clash with the beauty of the surrounding natural areas.
 - For many respondents, all of the NCC's parkways should be developed in a way that moderates or discourages vehicle traffic. Respondents mentioned lane reductions and the use of traffic circles.
 - On the other hand, some respondents said that reducing the number of lanes on the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway clashes with this theme's objective.

- Prince of Wales Bridge
 - In order to improve the public transit system, the Prince of Wales Bridge project is essential and a priority. It should proceed in the short term.
 - Light rail transit, buses, pedestrians and cyclists must have access to this bridge.

Question 7

If you could change one thing in the plan, what would it be and why?

Many of the answers to this question were given in the previous questions. Aboriginal peoples, mobility, transportation and the environment are recurring concerns among participants. Others had questions about the means available to the NCC to achieve the Plan's objectives. Finally, others commented on the consultation format.

Here are the various statements.

The Plan's vision

- The vision could be more inspiring and ambitious. The region must stand out, especially considering the proximity of other major cities like Toronto. The National Capital Region has the potential to become a world leader. Culture, architecture and the river must be used to present a different image from that of a region of government employees or an administrative area.
- Several participants felt that the vision's goals and commitments are not clearly presented.
- Some participants wonder how this theme will be evaluated and its impacts measured.

Aboriginal peoples and the islands

- The Plan should give more prominence to Aboriginal peoples and their rich cultural heritage.
- The NCC should more firmly state its commitment to respect a vision for the Victoria, Albert and Chaudières islands that encompasses an Aboriginal centre on Chaudières Island and eliminates the dam in order to restore the falls.
- Management of this area should be a priority.
- A park should be created in the islands area to link the Gatineau and Ottawa sides of the Ottawa River.
- No private, residential or commercial development should be permitted on these sacred lands.
- Victoria Island should revert to its Algonquin name.

Transportation and mobility

- The NCC must help develop an integrated transportation and mobility strategy that includes roads, public transit corridors, walking and bicycle paths, while taking account of rural areas and airports.
- The NCC must take a stand on reducing vehicle traffic on parkways.
- Support the plan for a 400-kilometre passenger train proposed by Moose Consortium and the plan to develop trails running parallel to the railroad track to Wakefield, and provide service to Gatineau Park by the regional public transit system.

The environment

- The NCC should make a greater commitment in an environmental strategy. Participants would like the NCC to take a position on climate change, sustainable development and green technologies.
- Participants mentioned other environmental projects that could be included in the Plan for the next 50 years. Among them, the NCC should generate its own energy, restore natural wetlands, invest in green infrastructure and green roofs, promote a vehicle-free downtown, acquire geothermal heating capabilities, etc.
- The Plan should include a waste management section, especially for public activities. The NCC is asked to take the lead in promoting the “zero-waste” concept by ensuring that people who take part in its activities have access to composting and recycling bins.

Plan content

- All of the Plan and the 17 milestone projects are geared more toward the regional visitor experience than the daily lives of residents.
- The Plan would benefit by integrating its shared vision and objectives with the City of Ottawa and Ville de Gatineau.

Plan implementation

- Some participants would like the Plan to include a schedule that specifies development priorities, as well as the scope, cost and completion time for each project.
- Some participants think that a 50-year planning period is too long, and that the Plan will become obsolete within 20 years.

Consultation methods and plan format

- The NCC should innovate by devising a new way of presenting its plans.
- While access to the full official plan is useful, an abridged version adapted to the public should also be available.

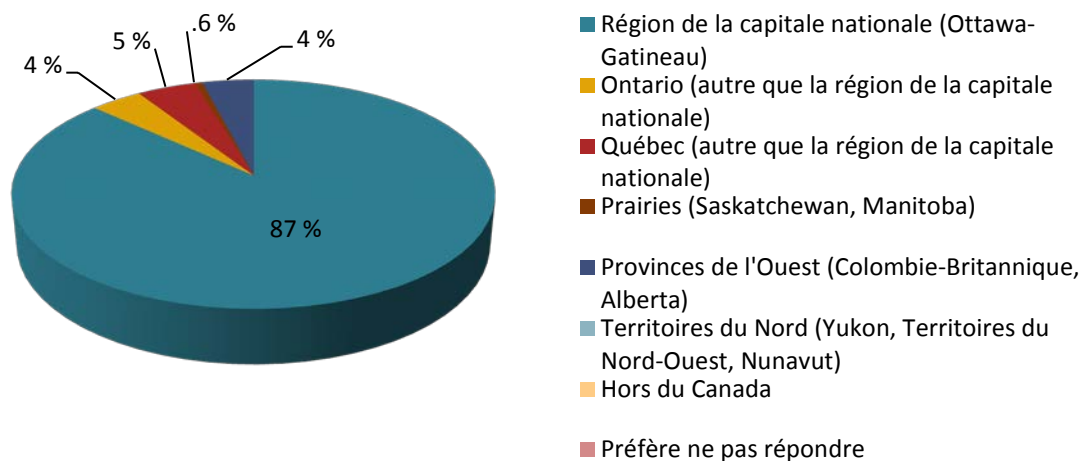
Other comments, suggestions and recommendations

- Develop adapted and universally accessible washroom facilities. The NCC must plan and develop its facilities to accommodate an aging population
- Review the territory covered by the National Capital Region and expand its boundaries.
- Establish a “no smoking” policy on NCC property.
- Design a plan to make Metcalfe Street a broad boulevard leading to Parliament Hill.
- Improve facilities at Westboro Beach, Pinecrest Creek and Dows Lake.
- Create public spaces and squares in the downtown core.

Question 8 (*participants’ place of origin*)

Where do you live?

Participant's come from the following areas:



V – Next Steps

- Analyze the ideas submitted and incorporate those selected into the Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067.
- Have the final version of the Plan for Canada's Capital, 2017–2067, approved by the NCC Board of Directors in the winter of 2017.

Although the Plan covers a 50-year timeline, a 10-year action plan will be developed. This will allow the NCC to begin work on building the Capital of 2067, and to implement some of the ideas proposed by Canadians over the course of the Plan's development.

VI – Appendix

Questionnaire

The Plan for Canada’s Capital, 2017–2067, outlines a long-term vision for the future of the Capital based on three major themes.

- Inclusive and meaningful
- Picturesque and natural
- Thriving and connected

Let us know what you think about this draft plan by answering the following questionnaire. Your feedback will be reviewed and a final plan will be approved in 2017.

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the goals and commitments for the first major theme, entitled “Inclusive and Meaningful,” are presented in a clear and concise manner?
(Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Don’t know)

2. [ASK ONLY IF ANSWER TO Q1 IS DISAGREE OR STRONGLY DISAGREE]
Why do you disagree / strongly disagree? (*limit of 1,000 characters*)

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the goals and commitments for the second major theme, entitled “Picturesque and Natural,” are presented in a clear and concise manner? (Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Don’t know)

4. [ASK ONLY IF ANSWER TO Q3 IS DISAGREE OR STRONGLY DISAGREE]
Why do you disagree / strongly disagree? (*limit of 1,000 characters*)

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the goals and commitments for the third major theme, entitled “Thriving and Connected,” are presented in a clear and concise manner?
(Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree, Don’t know)

6. [ASK ONLY IF ANSWER TO Q5 IS DISAGREE OR STRONGLY DISAGREE]
Why do you disagree / strongly disagree? (*limit of 1,000 characters*)

7. If you could change one thing in the plan, what would it be and why? (*limit of 5,000 characters*)

1. Where do you live?

- National Capital Region (NCR): Ottawa–Gatineau
- Ontario (other than NCR)
- Quebec (other than NCR)
- Atlantic provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador)
- Prairies (Saskatchewan, Manitoba)
- Western provinces (British Columbia, Alberta)
- Northern territories (Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut)
- Outside Canada
- Prefer not to answer