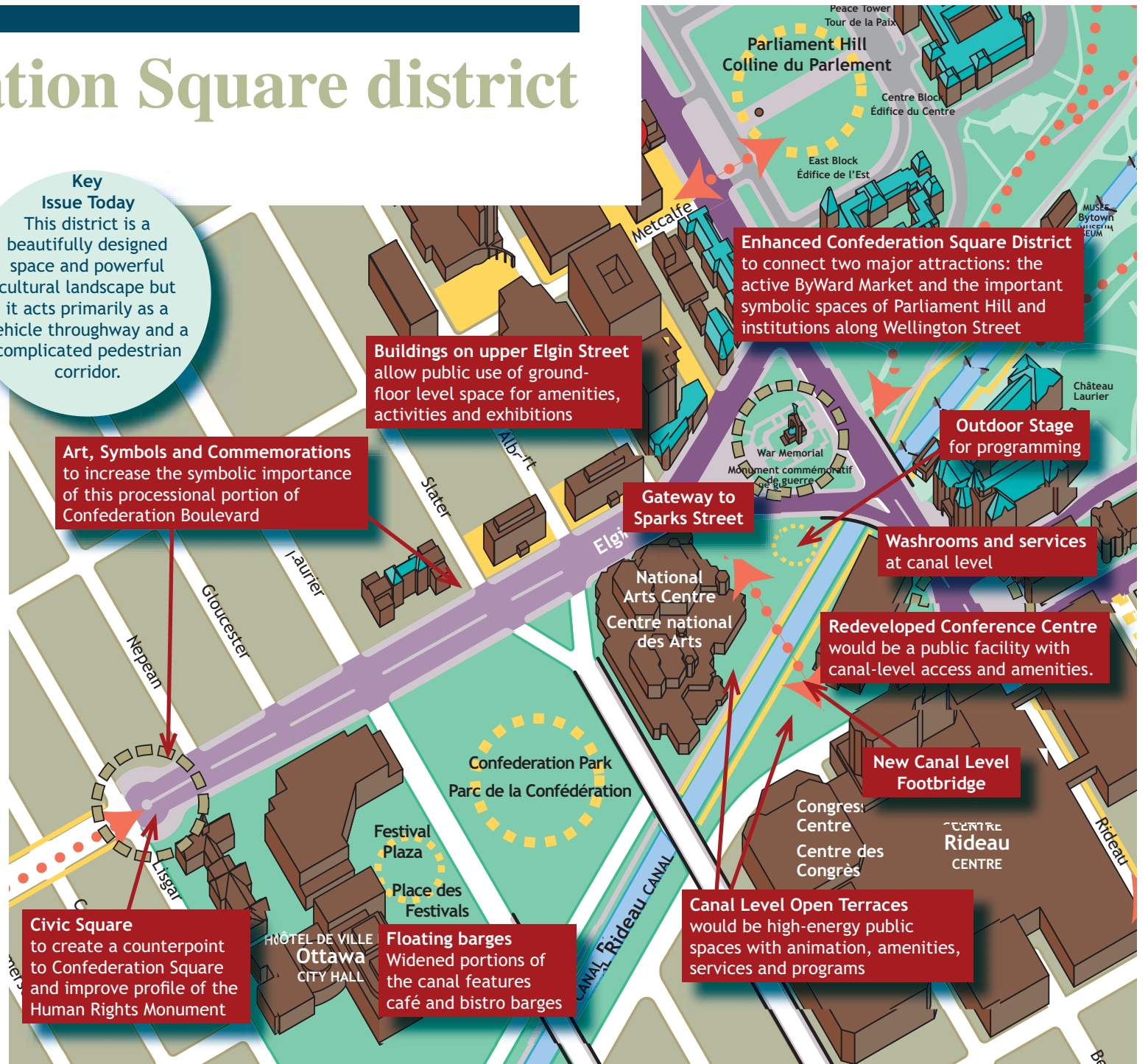


Canal and Confederation Square district

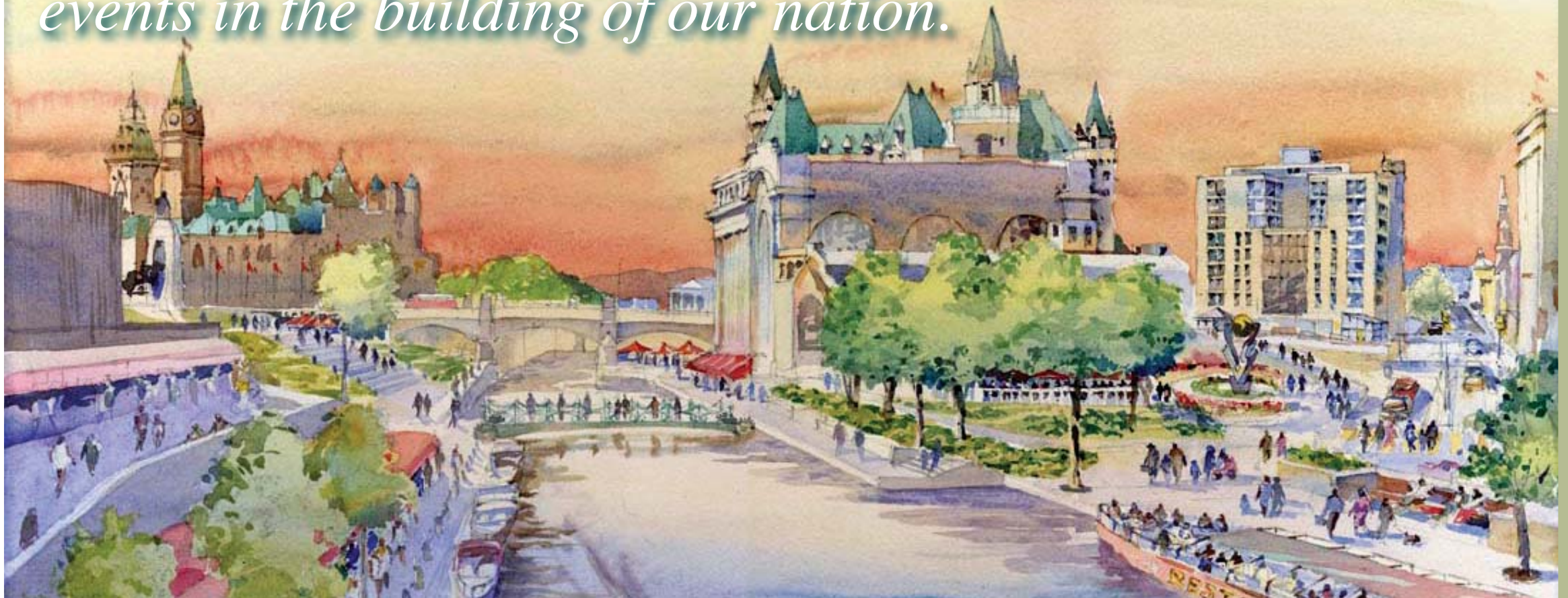
Nation and Capital Building

The Canal and Confederation Square district encourages exploration of one of the richest historical and cultural landscapes in Canada! The visitor is surrounded on all sides by dramatic and captivating vistas that include interesting architecture from every decade since Confederation, centred around the inspiring National War Memorial. This enveloping space is a living, symbolic hub of the nation's history. Day time and evening concert goes spill out of the National Arts Centre, with its rich performing arts presence, and stroll to Sparks Street, the lively ByWard district, and Confederation Park. Decorative embellishments and commemorations along Elgin Street add to their experience. As this district functions at both street and canal level, the experience continues down to the Rideau Canal and along its bordering terraces where artists, performers and interpreters engage visitors with their creative presentations. A swing footbridge provides quick and safe crossing to the historic Union Station which opens out to the Rideau Canal side to offer amenities and access towards the Rideau Centre. Widened portions of the canal have space for both recreational crafts and café barges. Passages beneath Plaza Bridge on both sides of the canal link to the fascinating Ottawa Locks and down to the Ottawa River, and provide alternative pedestrian access to Parliament Hill and Major's Hill Park.

Key Issue Today
This district is a beautifully designed space and powerful cultural landscape but it acts primarily as a vehicle thoroughway and a complicated pedestrian corridor.



These spaces witnessed many key events in the building of our nation.



Future programming for the Canal and Confederation Square district

Artist's concept of canal level activities and programs

- Commemorations and interpretation highlight collective contributions as symbolized by the War Memorial and the Rideau Canal. Small exterior displays or panels interpret the Confederation story, and plaques and maps introduce architectural treasures.
- Tourism businesses and federal partners work together to animate the canal level beneath the square and on open terraces: artists, performers, interpreters and cafés could all find a place here.
- Flower and refreshment vendors make this area more welcoming. Historical re-enactments and literary readings animate it.
- The green space in this district provides extra amenities to appeal to families and serves as an occasional stage for gatherings and celebrations. Signage clearly marks Pathway and Parkway routes, and encourages visitors to explore nearby green spaces.
- The National Arts Centre contributes a rich performing arts presence indoors and out.