

PLAN FOR CANADA'S CAPITAL

SUMMARY



**A Second Century of
Vision, Planning and Development**

1999



National Capital
Commission

Commission
de la capitale nationale

Canada

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to introduce the summary of the 1999 *Plan for Canada's Capital* — the federal government's lead planning policy document for the National Capital Region. The Plan will help prepare for the challenges of the coming years.

The Plan's message is clear: in the midst of economic, political, social and technological changes, the best features of today's Capital are to be preserved and enhanced for future generations of Canadians.

The *Plan for Canada's Capital* has been prepared by the National Capital Commission (NCC) on behalf of the federal government. The Plan is designed to provide high-level strategic advice to the federal government for the next 50 years. The Plan explains the federal government's perspective on the vocation of its land base in the National Capital Region.



We view Capital planning and development as a responsibility shared by all governments, communities, the private sector and individuals throughout the National Capital Region and across Canada. The Plan has therefore benefitted from an extensive consultation program that contributed many ideas to its development. I invite you to explore this summary of the *Plan for Canada's Capital*, and welcome your involvement in bringing this exciting vision of the future to fruition.

Thank you for your interest in planning Canada's Capital.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcel Beaudry". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Marcel Beaudry
Chairman, National Capital Commission



1) BACKGROUND

About the *Plan for Canada's Capital*

The *Plan for Canada's Capital* is the federal government's lead policy statement on the physical planning and development of the National Capital Region (NCR) or the Capital over the next 50 years.

This plan is an update to the 1988 *Plan for Canada's Capital* (A Federal Land Use Plan).

This update has been prepared to address situations that have emerged since the mid-1990s or that may become important in coming years — opportunities and issues not anticipated in the 1988 Plan. These include:

- the impact of continued changes in the roles and size of the federal government;
- the need to harmonize planning policies prepared by lower-tier governments and federal government agencies;
- the continuing challenge of creating a symbolic Capital; and
- the influence of sustainable development on planning practice.

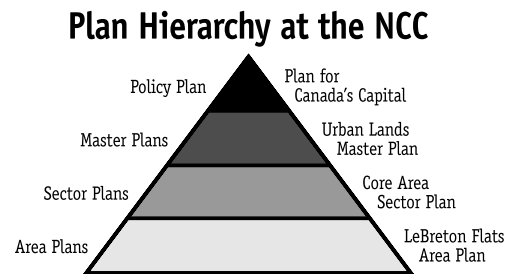
In this context, the Plan is designed to:

- communicate the federal government's vision for the Capital;
- provide a concept and principles, goals and policies to guide land use decisions in support of the key functions of the Capital;
- identify the lands and land uses required for the Capital's future needs;
- guide accommodation decisions for federal departments;

- reinforce the relationship between Gatineau Park, the Greenbelt and lands in the Urban Area;
- guide more detailed land use planning of federal lands in the Capital; and
- direct the federal government's land and investment strategy in the Capital.

The Planning Framework

The National Capital Commission (NCC) uses a framework of land use plans, depicted as a pyramid in the illustration below.



The *Plan for Canada's Capital* is called a policy plan, and it sits at the apex of the pyramid. The broad goals and policies of a policy plan are refined in the next level of plans, which are called master plans. Master plans have been prepared for Gatineau Park (1990) and the Greenbelt (1996). A third master plan is to be prepared to guide federal land use interests in the Urban Area. The objectives and policies of master plans are further refined into sector and area plans; these are often geographical subsets of master plan areas.

The National Capital Commission

The *Plan for Canada's Capital* has been prepared by the NCC, a federal Crown corporation, on behalf of the Government of Canada. Planning Canada's Capital has been the responsibility of the NCC and its predecessors since 1899. The NCC operates under the *National Capital Act* (1988), which confers unique responsibilities upon the NCC to plan, develop and improve the Capital, and to organize and promote the public programs that enrich the cultural and social fabric of Canada. This mandate translates into three main goals that guide the Plan:



The NCC owns and/or maintains 97 kilometres of parkways, 77 bridges, 152 kilometres of recreational pathways, and over 720 residential, commercial, agricultural, and other leased properties.

- **Developing a Meeting Place** — to make the Capital Canada’s meeting place and to encourage the active participation of Canadians in the evolution of their Capital;

- **Communicating Canada to Canadians** — to use the Capital to communicate Canada to Canadians and to develop and highlight Canada’s national identity; and
- **Safeguarding and Preserving** — to safeguard and preserve the nation’s cultural heritage and the Capital’s physical assets and natural setting for future generations.

Preparation of the Plan

The Plan was developed from 1995 to 1999. Its preparation involved continuing research, a review of policy issues in the National Capital Region, a strategic environmental assessment, consultations with departments and agencies of all levels of government and public consultation.



The Plan offers planning direction that reflects ideas from, and the interests of:

- the Canadian people;
- residents of the NCR;
- the Government of Canada, in particular federal departments and cultural agencies with land and property holdings in the NCR;

- provincial, regional and local governments; and
- diplomatic missions and international non-governmental organizations with a presence in the Capital.



Public and agency consultations were held over a three-month period on a draft plan and on strategic environmental assessment from early June to the end of September 1998. Many comments from these consultations were incorporated into the final plan. A public consultation report documents the consultation comments and the NCC response to them, as well as resulting revisions to the draft plan. The strategic environmental assessment was also revised as a result of the consultations.

The *Plan for Canada’s Capital* also includes ideas generated by plans and policies produced by the NCC over the past 10 years — for example, the Greenbelt and Gatineau Park master plans, the Confederation Boulevard Strategy, and the Parliamentary Precinct Plan. The NCC’s public programming and interpretation objectives are also reflected in this Plan.

Finally, the Plan reflects the federal government’s commitment to harmonize its planning policies with those of our regional government counterparts. As a result, it incorporates many of

the key planning goals and policies from the regional plans recently

prepared by the Region of Ottawa-Carleton (ROC), the Communauté urbaine de l’Outaouais (CUO), and the Municipalité régionale de comté des Collines-de-l’Outaouais (MRC).

Federal lands comprise over 11 percent of the total land area in the National Capital Region.

2) PLANNING CANADA'S CAPITAL

The Capital's unique roles and functions require planning, and often ownership, of lands by the federal government.

Functions of the Capital

The Capital is the symbolic heart of the nation and its political centre. It is the site of crucial political decision making, yet it is also a stage of the nation's culture and history where the past is illuminated, the present displayed and the future glimpsed. The Capital is the administrative base of the federal government's operations. These national political, cultural and administrative functions are unique to a national capital.

The Political Function

The Capital is the seat of Canada's federal government, and the Capital's political function is a manifestation of the federal system of government. The political function is fulfilled through the accommodation of those institutions, facilities and events that are required for the federal parliamentary process. Other key roles include formal affairs of state, representation, discussion and reconciliation of national interests, representation of Canada to the world and the formal representation of the international community in Canada.



The Cultural Function

The cultural function of the Capital represents the achievements, cultural identities, customs and beliefs of the Canadian people. This occurs

through the accommodation of those institutions, events, attractions, symbols, parks, pathways and associated facilities that are required to present the nation's human and natural resources and to display Canadian history, creativity and knowledge, as well as cultural values, aspirations and traditions. The Capital also expresses the importance and significance of the nation's natural environment.



The Administrative Function

The administrative function of the Capital has many dimensions, including housing the headquarters for many federal departments, wherein decision-making processes are managed and research and development activities are carried out by federal departments and agencies. The planning challenge is to provide the facilities required to ensure the effective and efficient operation of the federal government.



Federal lands and infrastructure also help to provide a suitable host environment that supports the national and international image of the Capital, and that also contributes to the health and vitality of the region.

Planning Principles

Capital planning needs a solid foundation that addresses the unique character and needs of a national capital and that is based on sound urban and regional planning principles.

Sustainable Development

The Plan is guided by the concept of *sustainable development*, which is supported as a policy by the federal government. Sustainable development meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It requires making decisions and taking action in an integrated manner to

Sustainable development emerged as a concept from the United Nations Commission on Environment and Economy, chaired by Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Brundtland. Its report, "Our Common Future," was released in 1987.

promote a vital and dynamic economy; a community that fosters individual well-being, health and safety; and a naturally diverse ecosystem that functions well.

With sustainable development as an umbrella principle, Capital planning principles and Regional planning principles provide the basis for this Plan.

Capital Planning Principles

Capital planning principles distinguish how capital planning complements, yet is distinct from, generic urban and regional planning practice. Capital planning principles comprise:

- **Symbolism.** The Capital is a national symbol and a window on Canada. Canadians should recognize themselves and their country in the events, activities, commemorations, displays and physical design of the Capital throughout the entire year. Integration of the Capital aspects of the Ontario and Quebec portions of the NCR is also promoted.



- **The Beautiful Capital.** The Capital should incorporate standards of design and maintenance befitting its unique image and roles.
- **Capital Stewardship.** Capital lands and buildings, natural features, historical and archaeological treasures and Capital symbols, must be preserved and protected as an enduring legacy for all Canadians.
- **Effective Orientation Services.** Suitable spaces, communications and orientation services are needed to enhance visitor enjoyment of the Capital's attractions and programs throughout the year, and to promote the Capital as a meeting place for Canadians.
- **Safety and Comfort.** Lands and buildings owned by the federal government should contribute to a safe, convenient and aesthetically pleasing environment.

- **Communicating Canada.** Lands and buildings should promote an understanding of the Capital and the nation through interpretation, animation and outreach.
- **Environmental Stewardship.** The Plan indicates a federal leadership role in applying best practices to land stewardship, natural resource management and the protection of ecosystems of Capital significance.



Sir Wilfrid Laurier

- **Accessibility.** Government policy requires that, wherever possible, persons with disabilities have the same level of access to and use of a federal department's facilities as the general populace does.
- **Integrated Transportation and Communications.** The Capital should be accessible through a balance of transportation modes consistent with sustainable transportation principles. Evolving forms of communication should be employed.

Regional Planning Principles

Regional planning principles signal the federal government's understanding of and support for planning directions by the regional governments in the National Capital Region.

- **Cooperation in Planning.** The federal government will endeavour to harmonize its planning processes and policies with those of other levels of government.
- **Efficiency.** The Plan supports development that will make the most efficient use (and adaptive re-use) of land, infrastructure and public services and facilities.
- **The Liveable Region.** The Plan seeks to assist efforts to maintain a high quality of life in the region and supports policies appropriate to a northern climate.



Terry Fox

- **Economy.** The Plan recognizes the need to plan, develop and manage federal assets in a sustainable manner that facilitates a strong, integrated and diverse regional economy.
- **Capital Core Priority.** The Plan seeks to maintain and enhance the Core Area of Ottawa and Hull as a focus for economic, cultural and political activities in the NCR.
- **Accessibility.** The Plan encourages affordable, accessible and integrated transportation and communication networks within the NCR, and between the Capital and the rest of the world.

Ottawa-Hull has the third largest francophone community in North America (after Montréal and Quebec City).

3) VISION FOR CANADA'S CAPITAL

Imagine Canada's Capital 50 years from now. What kind of place will it be?

The Capital of today is the result of remarkable plans produced over the 100 years since 1899 by visionary planners — individuals such as Frederick G. Todd, Edward H. Bennett and

Colonel By was one of the Capital's first planners. The plans he developed in 1828 set aside large parcels of land for the defensive fortification of the Capital at the entrance to and along the Rideau Canal. Later, these parcels became the sites of the Parliament Buildings and segments of the parkway network.

Jacques Gréber. The past century of planning and development has created a place of pride for Canadians, a capital which combines the beauty of its natural setting with the symbolic buildings and spaces that pay tribute to Canada's history.

What about the next century? How will the Capital continue to grow as a meeting place and seat of our national government?

The future Capital will remain a place where city and nature meet, a green space of rolling hills, powerful rivers and dramatic forests. Its rivers have seen the Aboriginal peoples, explorers and voyageurs pass on their way to the interior or to the sea. Its lands have been shaped by the arrival of European settlers, who harvested the immense forests and created farms and small towns in the wilderness. The lakes, hills and valleys of Gatineau Park, and the working farms and rural landscapes of the Greenbelt are timeless reminders of the natural and early cultural history of the Capital Region.



Pink Lake, Gatineau Park

With imagination, we can see how, in the future, the natural settings and vistas of the Capital will continue to shape the experiences and the lives of visitors and residents alike. As imagined by the first planners of the Capital themselves, the natural landscapes and perspectives are integrated with the urban and built landscapes of the Capital to form dramatic backdrops for national events, festivals, and daily life for visitors and residents alike.

Imagine the heart of the Capital as a unified space for working, living and celebrating Canada. This space, with its core on Parliament Hill, includes the Ottawa River basin, the shore lands and the islands (Chaudières and Victoria), the northern part of LeBreton Flats, the sweep of the ceremonial Confederation Boulevard and the heart of Ottawa-Hull itself. Imagine the extensive and diverse built heritage of this area, the urban parks,

scenic parkways, public spaces and monuments sustained and improved through the creation of new public spaces and vistas of the "Hill."

Imagine the beautiful and busy heart of the Capital, ringed by the Gatineau Hills, the urban parks and the Greenbelt, safeguarded for the benefit of all of Canada's citizens. Imagine pleasant and clear sailing along



National Gallery of Canada, Confederation Boulevard

the Ottawa River from Montréal to the Capital and on to Témiscamingue, boating further north along the Gatineau River, and arriving at the Capital via the internationally recognized heritage Rideau Canal corridor. Imagine a capital city that reflects both the great history and the exciting reality of 21st century Canada. As we begin the next century of Capital planning, this is the vision which has inspired the new *Plan for Canada's Capital*.

4) KEY INITIATIVES

The key planning directions proposed in the Plan include the following:

- a Capital that communicates national pride and fosters national unity
- a continued emphasis on the political, cultural and administrative aspects of the Capital with priority on institutions and events in the Core Area
- the long-term vitality of the Capital Core Area — specifically the North Shore in Hull, the islands, LeBreton Flats and the Parliamentary Precinct Area — as a priority



- the continuing role of Confederation Boulevard as the primary focus of public programming and capital investment
- enhancement and protection of the region's ecosystems and its green image through the designation of a system of natural heritage areas, and protection of valued ecosystem components
- enhanced recreational and programming links between the Core Area, Capital urban green spaces, the Greenbelt and Gatineau Park
- the provision of spaces and infrastructure required to facilitate public programming, national celebrations and events
- the location of national cultural institutions, diplomatic missions and national agencies in the Core Area, in areas supported by public transit and on prominent sites along selected segments of the Capital Parkway network

- a physical presence in the Capital for Canada's provinces and territories, Aboriginal peoples, diplomatic missions and international non-governmental organizations
- urban design that befits the image of the Capital and contributes to a pleasant, safe and stimulating urban environment
- the preservation and conservation of the Capital's cultural and natural landscapes, and historical and archaeological resources of Capital interest
- continued and enhanced access to shore lands and shorelines for public use
- management of the Capital Parkway network as multipurpose, scenic roadways that link Capital settings and destinations

In the 1998 "In Touch" survey of visitors to the Capital, 63 percent said that it was "essential" to recognise the contributions of the provinces, territories, and Aboriginal people in the Capital.



- continued improvement of the Capital Pathway network
- improvement to the quality and appearance of Capital "arrivals" and scenic "entries" to the Capital
- extended navigation along the Ottawa and Gatineau Rivers, and
- commitment to harmonization and cooperation among the various agencies and authorities involved in the planning and development of land use and transportation in the NCR.

5) THE CAPITAL CONCEPT

A key goal of the Plan for Canada's Capital is to provide a sense of place in a Capital that represents Canadian values and hopes for the future. The Vision for Canada's Capital described in Section 3 is interpreted here in physical terms.

Over the next 25 years, Canada's Capital will evolve as a large metropolitan urban area surrounded by, and connected to, a network of open spaces, parks and natural areas.



Rideau Canal

As future visitors approach the Capital, some will pass through and experience the Greenbelt and Gatineau Park, each providing examples of Canadian landscapes and our shared natural heritage. Visitors to the Capital will arrive by road, rail, air and water. Some will travel along the Ottawa River, navigable from Montréal to Témiscamingue. Others will arrive via the historic Rideau Canal, rich in history and one of the best examples of an operating 19th-century canal. Those travelling along highways, scenic roads and parkways will find signage, banners,

design and landscaping to herald their arrival at a special destination — the nation's capital. The gateways of the Ottawa International Airport and the train and bus terminals will provide displays of Canadian culture and information about the Capital.



Recreational pathway

An extensive network of recreational pathways, parkways and parklands will help define residential communities. Much of the shore lands of the Ottawa River, the Rideau River and Canal and the Gatineau River will be accessible to the public, and will provide spaces for wildlife habitats and year-round recreation. The recreational pathway system and the network of parkways and scenic entries will connect destinations in the Core Area of Ottawa-Hull with those elsewhere in the Urban Area, Gatineau Park and the Greenbelt, and with destinations throughout and beyond the NCR. Interpretation and public programming activities, services and amenities will support public enjoyment of the Capital's protected natural environment.



Gatineau Park

The natural qualities of **Gatineau Park** as a representative sample of Canadian Shield country and the wilderness component of Canadian heritage will be protected. Recreational activities, interpretation of conservation topics and historical sites, commercial facilities and events compatible with its preservation of the Park will ensure that it is used without losing its natural beauty.

The **Greenbelt**, a diverse rural mosaic of farms, working forests, natural areas, research establishments and recreational areas, will continue to provide a fitting and symbolic setting for the capital of a country rich in agricultural and forest resources. Visitors to the Greenbelt will be able to experience and learn about the rural lifestyle that has been so important to Canada's past. The Greenbelt will provide rural visitor attractions, farm vacations, interpretation areas and an extensive network of recreational pathways.



The **Urban Area** will provide a rich symbolic setting for the seat of national government, as well as accommodation for key federal departments. It will be the focus in the Capital for expressing Canadian culture, history and values. Within the Urban Area, the system of parkways and scenic entries, along with the rivers and the historic Rideau Canal, will lead the visitor to key Capital destinations in and around the Capital. The Rideau Canal will remain a key venue for recreational activities and an important

component of the visitor experience. Access between Gatineau Park and the Core Area will be enhanced.

The **Core Area** will be the preferred location for headquarters activities of most federal departments and agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations. The Core Area will serve as the main stage for communicating Canadian culture and history, and hosting national events, ceremonies and celebrations.



The magnificent buildings and monuments of **Parliament Hill** will be made more accessible to pedestrians. Views and vistas of the Parliament Buildings and of the Ottawa River, and pedestrian access to the Ottawa River will be improved.

Confederation Boulevard will be fully developed to become the focal point of the nation's cultural heritage, including most of the national museums, the National Archives of Canada, the National Library of Canada, the National Gallery of Canada and the National Arts Centre. Other national cultural institutions, such as the Canadian Museum of Nature, the Canada Aviation Museum and the Canada Science and Technology Museum, will be more closely linked to the Boulevard.



U.S. Embassy

With the construction of the American Embassy, the Sussex Drive section of Confederation Boulevard will become an even stronger focus for diplomatic missions, non-governmental organizations and public programming with an international theme (e.g., “Canada and the World”). This part of Confederation Boulevard could become an **international district**.

The Ottawa River shoreline and the **islands** will be revitalized to make the most of their natural beauty and programming potential within an urban setting. **LeBreton Flats** will be developed to provide sites for national cultural institutions, major meeting spaces and mixed uses to the south. The industrial heritage of the Chaudières and Victoria islands could be restored and interpreted as part of a complex of activity spaces, green areas and mixed uses. The eastern end of Victoria Island could become an interpretation centre for Canada’s Aboriginal peoples that complements related programming provided at national cultural institutions.

The majority of federal employees in the NCR will continue to work in the Core Area.

Several large-scale **employment nodes** (e.g., Tunney’s Pasture and Confederation Heights) located in the inner suburbs and linked to the Core Area by parkways, scenic entries and recreational pathways, will continue to accommodate those federal departments and agencies with special location needs. These nodes will be integrated with the adjacent communities and public transit systems. Other lands in the Urban Area considered surplus to departmental needs could be redeveloped to meet the region’s need for housing, economic development or recreation.



Downtown Hull

Toward the end of this planning period, a new crossing could be constructed across the Ottawa River to link communities in the Outaouais and Ottawa-Carleton, and to facilitate access to visitor destinations and federal office accommodations. Existing cross-river bridges would be renovated or replaced to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians and high-occupancy vehicle lanes.



LeBreton Flats



Victoria and Chaudières islands

6) POLICY ORGANIZATION

The physical expression of the Capital vision is attained largely through the application of Plan policies that guide the management, protection, development and programming of various aspects of the Capital. These policies support the implementation of the Capital Concept, and are organized into three groups with similar Capital characteristics — Capital Settings, Capital Destinations, and Capital Links. While presented here as distinctive elements, in reality, most lands of Capital significance feature two and often all three elements. These elements are complementary rather than mutually exclusive characteristics of lands throughout the National Capital Region.

Capital Settings

This first element provides the visual backdrop and natural setting for Capital Destinations and Capital Links. The Capital's green image and much of its environmental quality are created by Capital Settings. Gatineau Park, the Greenbelt, the rivers and major public spaces are key elements of the Capital Settings. Capital Settings also provide important stages for public programming and commemorations of national significance. The natural charm and attractiveness of the Capital is attributed to this ensemble of Capital Settings.



Capital Destinations

This second element comprises two major groups: *Visitor Destinations*, and *Federal Office and Research Facilities*.

Visitor Destinations include Parliament Hill, Confederation Boulevard, historic sites and monuments and national cultural institutions.



Federal Offices and Research Facilities refers to the places where the federal government's administrative functions are carried out — the federal employment nodes (such as Tunney's Pasture), office buildings in the Core of the Capital, research complexes as well as Parliament Hill.

Capital Links

The third element provides visitors and residents with access to the high-quality experiences found in Capital Settings and Destinations. Capital Links support various forms of motorized and non-motorized transportation, and place an emphasis on the experience of the journey as well as the arrival.



7) POLICY SUMMARY

This section summarizes the policies contained in the *Plan for Canada's Capital*. The Plan should be consulted for specific details.

Capital Settings

In 1995, the Greenbelt's Mer Bleue Bog was designated a wetland of international importance — one of 36 Canadian wetlands listed under the RAMSAR Convention.

Natural heritage areas symbolize Canada's abundance of natural heritage. These areas are to be protected, managed, interpreted and restored as required, as part of an integrated

network; unprotected areas are to be secured through ownership or joint agreements.



Rural lands provide opportunities to learn about Canada's rural and resource heritage. Areas of high-quality soils are to support sustainable farming and forestry management. Research and display of new technologies, and public interpretation of farming and forestry, is encouraged. Rural recreation is to occur on soils of lesser quality.



The **Capital Core Area** is a federal priority. Exchange between the federal and civic parts

of the Core, and across the Ottawa River, is encouraged. Policies encourage public access to the Ottawa River and Parliament Hill, the planning of river shore lands, the islands and south of the Parliamentary Precinct, better access between the Core Area and Gatineau Park, and Aboriginal representation in the Core Area.

Capital urban green spaces include Capital parks (e.g., Major's Hill Park), and Capital corridors (e.g., Western Corridor) that form key elements of the Capital's setting. These areas are to be managed in a sustainable manner for their landscape qualities and in support of public programming (e.g., festivals), with the latter focused in Capital parks. Recreational pathway corridors are to be protected.



Capital waterways and shore lands are accessible, continuous symbols of Canada's natural and cultural heritage. These waterways and shore lands, particularly in the Capital Core Area, are to feature enhanced public access, interpretation and programming compatible with environmental objectives. Cooperation with other governments to deal with stormwater management, erosion and other water pollution is encouraged.

Urban Design creates a sense of place befitting a national capital. Views of the Parliamentary Precinct are to be protected and enhanced. A high standard of design for streets, public spaces and built environments,

particularly in the Core Area, is also encouraged. Improved connections to Capital urban green spaces, museums, Gatineau Park and the Greenbelt are encouraged, as is a recognition of the Capital's four-season climate.



York Steps



Mackenzie King Estate

Built and landscape heritage policies encourage public access to heritage properties, the protection and maintenance of heritage properties that form important parts of the Capital's cultural milieu and the use of relevant federal or provincial standards for properties that leave federal ownership.

Archaeology policies preserve and interpret archaeological resources as a way to tell part of the story of Canada in a manner compatible with their protection.

Capital Destinations — Visitor Destinations

Parliamentary Precinct Area policies seek to plan, protect, and interpret the symbolic and political heart of the nation, and promote this national landmark as a centre stage for national celebrations. Policies protect the visual and natural setting of the Precinct in the context of additional development, public access, events and visitor services.

The East Block and the Library of Parliament are the only structures that survived the great fire of 1916. The stone for the present Parliament buildings is Nepean sandstone, and came from a (now-closed) quarry in the western Greenbelt.



Confederation Boulevard is promoted as the location of Canada's foremost political and cultural institutions, the Capital's official ceremonial route and the focus of Capital programming and interpretation. Its completion is given priority, as is its animation through interpretation, programming, symbols, art, commemorations and so on. Visitor services are also promoted, as are links to adjacent Capital attractions along and off the Boulevard.



Peacekeeping Monument



National War Memorial

Public art and commemorations promote nationally significant Canadians, events or ideas in visible, accessible and symbolically appropriate locations. In decreasing order of priority, commemorations are permitted on Parliament Hill, Confederation Boulevard, along the parkway network and at relevant federal accommodation sites.

National cultural institutions are intended to showcase Canada's cultures, history and achievements in visible and accessible locations. Such institutions are encouraged to choose locations adjacent to Confederation Boulevard along with high-quality design, alternate forms of access (e.g., public transit) and a location where Canada's Aboriginal peoples are celebrated.

Official residences will continue to provide accommodation appropriate to our country's most senior public officials. Public, private and security needs are to be balanced, as is appropriate care in design and management of buildings, interiors and landscapes.

With nearly 400 years of history, the Office of the Governor General is Canada's oldest continuing institution.

Diplomatic missions and international non-governmental organizations are to feature enhanced symbolism, physical presence and accessibility. Lands along Confederation Boulevard (e.g., the international district along Sussex Drive) are viewed as the preferred locations for high-profile diplomatic missions and international organizations.

Over 110 embassies or high commissions are located in the National Capital Region.

Capital Destinations — Federal Office and Research Facilities

General policies promote the meeting of departmental needs, healthy working environments and locations that have regard for regional and local planning objectives. An approximate 75/25 ratio of Ontario/Quebec employment is maintained, with locational priority in the Core, followed by federal employment nodes, regional employment centres and transit-friendly locations.



National Gallery of Canada

Policies encourage adaptive reuse before new construction, alternatives to the automobile, environmentally and community friendly buildings and sites, a public face and more mixed uses in nodes. Development of surplus land is to complement regional and local

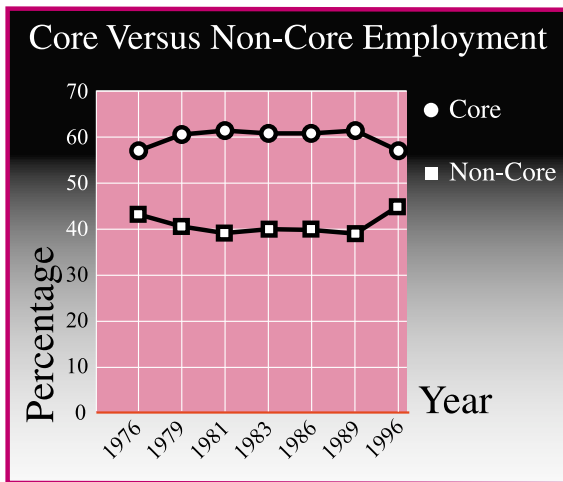
Of the Capital's population of 29,283 in 1871, only 319 were civil servants.

government objectives (e.g., urban intensification, economic development).



National Archives of Canada, Gatineau

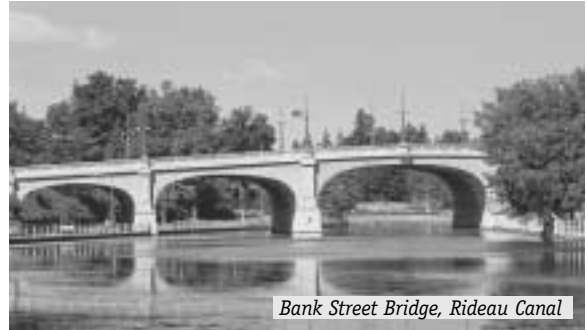
The **Core Area** is considered the preferred location for the majority of federal office employees in the National Capital Region. It is a priority location for high-profile federal departments.



Non-Core Areas are to meet program needs in a manner compatible with adjacent communities. Some areas have special program requirements. Federal employment nodes are to be intensified, reflect high standards of design and feature a greater mix of compatible land uses (e.g., commercial, services) and transit access.

Capital Links

Capital arrivals and scenic entries include major road, rail, air and water links extending in from the edge of the NCR, as well as alternative scenic routes. Most are under the jurisdiction of non-federal governments. Policies encourage cooperation in providing high-quality design and landscaping standards and visitor orientation signage and information (e.g., airport, train station).



Bank Street Bridge, Rideau Canal

Inter-provincial access is focused on facilitating the movement of people and goods between the Ontario and Quebec parts of the Capital. Policies stress the need for cooperation amongst all governments to reduce demand for, determine the timing of, and establish the most appropriate location for, a future river crossing — while minimizing community and environmental effects. Alternative forms of inter-provincial transport are also encouraged (e.g., public transit, bicycle, pedestrian).



Alexandra Bridge, completed 1901

Capital Parkway network policies encourage safe, scenic, comfortable and efficient non-motorized road access to Capital Settings and Destinations. The policies do so by supporting completion of an integrated regional network. This network is to link destinations in the urban area with the Greenbelt, Gatineau Park and rural parts of the Capital. Visitor interpretation and support services are promoted along the network.

Parkways are to be high-quality landscaped corridors free of commercial vehicles (with special provision for public transit, by exception). Non-motorized circulation (e.g., pathways) is encouraged, and visitor-supportive uses are possible, where compatible with visitor and environmental objectives.



Ottawa River Parkway

8) IMPLEMENTING THE *PLAN FOR CANADA'S CAPITAL*

The NCC will use this plan in its role as the planning authority for federal lands in the National Capital Region, and as the guiding policy document for all land use decisions that it makes or influences. The Plan will also serve as a statement of federal and use intent for consideration by the other planning jurisdictions in the NCR.



Construction on Confederation Boulevard, 1999

The success of this Plan will depend on the capability and commitment of the partners responsible for its implementation — that is, federal agencies and departments, other levels of government and other potential contributors to Capital building. Extensive consultation with other interested parties is seen as an essential component of plan implementation and includes a recognition of regional and municipal planning processes and public consultation.

The NCC's master and sector plans, already prepared for large areas such as Gatineau Park, the Greenbelt and forthcoming for the Urban Area, are the main policy planning instruments for implementing the goals and policies of the *Plan for Canada's Capital*. Plans prepared by other federal departments and agencies will also comply with and advance the policies of the *Plan for Canada's Capital*.



Greenbelt

Plan Administration and Amendment

The day-to-day administration of requests to use federal lands in the Capital and the continuing implementation of the Plan will be conducted through the NCC's Federal Land Use, Design and Land Transaction processes. Proposals for the use of federal lands may come from within the NCC, from other federal departments and agencies, or from other interested parties such as municipalities, the private sector, not-for-profit agencies, or individuals.



Gatineau Park

All proposals will be reviewed through the Federal Land Use and Design Approvals and Land Transaction processes for conformity with the policies of this Plan, as well as the objectives and policies of any applicable master, sector, or area plan.

When a proposed land use cannot be supported by the existing provisions of the Plan, an evaluation will determine whether the proposal should proceed or whether the Plan should be amended to allow the proposal.

Proposed amendments may come from the NCC, from other federal agencies and departments, or from other interested parties. Any proposed amendment will be subject to a thorough review carried out under the NCC's Federal Land Use Approval process which, depending on the scale of the amendment, may include public consultations.

In keeping with the spirit of intergovernmental harmonization, local and regional governments are encouraged to recognize the policies of this Plan. The Plan is designed to be reviewed on a five- to seven-year cycle, generally coincident with the plan review cycles of regional and municipal governments. Both public consultation and environmental assessment would be an integral part of a comprehensive review of the *Plan for Canada's Capital*.

Contact

The complete version of the *Plan for Canada's Capital* is available for a nominal charge. Additional copies of this summary, as well as the accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment and Public Consultation Summary are available at no charge. All documents are available, in both official languages, from the National Capital Commission Distribution Centre.

To obtain copies of the above reports or for more information, please call the National Capital Commission at (613) 239-5555, or write to:

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Parliament during the Christmas Lights Across Canada program