

Speaking Notes for Mr. Marcel Beaudry,
Chairman of the National Capital Commission
on the occasion of the

ANNUAL INTEREST GROUPS MEETING WITH
NCC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, May 3, 2006
Christ Church Cathedral Hall
420 Sparks Street, Ottawa

Good evening and welcome to our annual meeting with interest groups and the NCC's board of directors.

I would like to begin by thanking you for taking the time to join us this evening and for sharing your ideas with our board of directors. We value your continued participation in our various projects. This meeting has been taking place for five years now, and I can honestly say that each meeting has been very valuable to us.

As you may know, the ideas presented during our annual interest groups meeting are considered during our annual strategic planning process. Your ideas, some of which are shared with federal partners as well as with the tripartite committee – comprised of the mayors of the cities of Ottawa and Gatineau – will assist us in achieving our mandate and in our continued efforts to build a great Capital for all Canadians.

Every year, many positive actions result from this meeting. Last year we heard 13 presentations and I would like to take a few moments to provide you with an update on the numerous actions undertaken as a result:

- The Somerset West Community Health Centre was invited to be part of the LeBreton Flats Working Group to represent affordable housing during the next phase of planning of this mixed-use community.
- A historical study was undertaken to better understand the past of the Moore Farm Estate and substantial investments have been made to stabilize the buildings and to prepare them for a future tenant. A workshop was also held with interest groups to discuss a potential vocation for this site. The results of this workshop have influenced the recently launched public proposal call for the Moore Farm Estate.
- We have increased and extended our financial contribution to the Ottawa Pathway Patrol and have offered an equal contribution to the Gatineau pathway patrol. We recognize the great importance of their presence in our communities and have committed to an annual contribution for the next five years.
- A number of initiatives were implemented to renaturalize areas of Leamy Lake Park, such as planting trees, removing invasive species and reducing the areas where the lawns are mowed.
- We confirmed our support in seeking a heritage designation for the Ottawa River.
- We are currently working with Transport 2000 and VIA Rail Canada in the context of commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Ottawa Train Station this year. Some interesting activities are planned to mark this important milestone.
- As for Gatineau Park, we have completed the first phase of the Park's Ecosystems Conservation Plan. We established a committee of experts from various fields to advise Park managers throughout the development of this Plan. The firm Del Degan Massé and Associés won the public competition process to complete the Plan. The NCC expects to invite members

of the scientific community and environmental groups to a workshop in the Fall to obtain input on the development of the Conservation Plan.

- Last year, we increased our patrols in remote areas of Gatineau Park, particularly in the western sector of the Park.
- We have also been working closely with representatives from the rock climbing community to identify areas where rock climbing can occur on the Eardley Escarpment and areas that will no longer be accessible for this activity. These adjustments are necessary to ensure the protection and regeneration of the natural ecosystems on the Escarpment until the findings of the Ecosystems Conservation Plan are available.
- The NCC has continued the dialogue with representatives of the mountain biking community and looks forward to continued cooperation on educating trail users within Gatineau Park.
- We also recently published a Summary of the Gatineau Park Master Plan, which is available here this evening or on our web site, along with the Master Plan and the Public Consultation Report.
- And finally, over the past year, we have explored a number of options to identify a legislative framework that will provide us with the necessary tools to protect and manage the Park. As you may know, an act was recently tabled before the Senate in this regard. This is a topic that will undoubtedly be considered as part of the NCC's mandate review as announced by Minister Cannon a few weeks ago.

The NCC is committed to fully cooperate with the Minister and the government in this proposed review. I view this exercise as an opportunity to ensure that the NCC's mandate corresponds to today's reality. I strongly believe that the work of this organization is highly regarded and valued by all Canadians.

As you know, the NCC was selected this year as one of the Top 100 Employers in Canada and as one of the Top 10 Employers in the National Capital Region. As Chairman of an organization of more than 450 dedicated employees, I am extremely proud of our accomplishments and those of our predecessors.

I am also very happy to share with you that the NCC recently received the 2006 Award of Excellence from the Canadian Institute of Planners for Canada's Capital Core Area Sector Plan. Our plan, judged on excellence, innovation, impact on the profession, implementation potential and overall presentation, was selected from among 55 entries in this year's award program.

This project involved an extensive consultation process which some of you were part of. I would like those among you who participated in this process and for contributions to this important planning exercise.

Earlier this year, Mr. John Abel, NCC Director of Design and Land Use, was elected to Fellowship in the College of Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. This is a well deserved recognition for John's outstanding career and contribution to the architectural profession.

I would like to restate that we at the NCC remain committed to working closely with you and with Canadians. I believe our ultimate goals are the same – to continue to make Canada's Capital Region a great place which we can all be proud of.

In closing, I would like to thank our Executive Management team and our board members for their ongoing support and for being with us this evening.

And now, we are interested in listening to your ideas this evening.

Thank you.