



March 2024

To the Hon. Stephen Guilbeault
Minister, Environment and Climate Change
Sent by email to stephen.guilbeault@pc.gc.ca

Re: Climate Change & Heritage Properties

Dear Minister Guilbeault

Heritage Ottawa is the foremost not-for-profit organisation advocating for the conservation of heritage properties in the National Capital. We wish to raise with you the climate change implications attached to the conservation of nationally significant historic sites. In all three of these instances, the Government of Canada has a unique opportunity to show leadership in mitigating the impacts of climate change in the built sector. We hope you will act upon this opportunity.

1. Central Experimental Farm. The CEF has been studying the impact of climate change on agriculture for over 40 years. It is also a national historic site of Canada, designated in part for its ongoing research. Recently, developments proposed in proximity to the CEF threaten to shadow the research fields, and thereby negatively impacting the quality of this essential research. We urge you and your cabinet colleague, the Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, to do more to protect this site, so essential to Canada's agricultural sector, and to the welfare of all Canadians.
2. 24 Sussex. It is a sad circumstance when a structure which is a Classified Federal Heritage building has been so neglected that its demolition is being seriously considered. The best use of a heritage property is to be used. Please do not consign this structure, with all the embodied energy that it represents, to landfill. Please set an example to all Canadians by conserving this structure as a showcase of environmentally-appropriate heritage conservation.
3. The Alexandra Bridge. Public Services and Procurement Canada has determined that this bridge cannot be upgraded to meet standards for interprovincial, truck-bearing bridges, despite the fact that trucks do not and cannot ever use this crossing. The bridge has been recognized as significant by the Canadian Society of Engineers. No studies

have been conducted to determine if this bridge could simply be stabilized to support active transportation. This structure carries 40 percent of the active transportation between Ottawa and Gatineau, but only 9 percent of the vehicular traffic. Please work with your cabinet colleague, the Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, to look for ways to use this bridge for active transportation, and do not consign it and its embodied energy to landfill.

Heritage Ottawa and others admire and respect the work that you are doing on climate change issues in Canada. We urge you to consider these three nationally significant heritage properties as opportunities to showcase good decision-making with respect to climate change and heritage conservation.

Leslie Maitland,

Advocacy Committee, Heritage Ottawa

Cc:

Mayor Sutcliffe

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay, Minister, AAFC

Stephanie Beck, Deputy Minister, AAFC

Karen Durnford-McIntosh, Director General, AAFC

Councillors: Leiper, Brockington, Devine and Johnson

Yasir Naqvi, Member of Parliament, Ottawa Centre

Tobi Nussbaum, CEO, National Capital Commission

Eric Jones, Friends of the Farm

Phil Mount, Food Systems Research

Dr. Patricia Kell and Chris Wiebe, National Trust for Canada

Robert Brinker, Federation of Citizens' Associations

Dr. Christina Cameron

Hugh Winsor

Katie Ward, National Farmers' Union

Agricultural Institute of Canada

Canadian Federation of Agriculture

Ontario Soil & Crop Association

Canadian Society of Soil Science

Sandra Garland, Fletcher Wildlife Garden

John Zvonar, Canadian Society of Landscape Architects

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