



March 2024

Hon. Lawrence MacAulay
Minister Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Sent by email to Lawrence.macaulay@agr.gc.ca

Re: Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa

Dear Minister MacAulay,

Heritage Ottawa supports the historic and ongoing importance of the research done at the Central Experimental Farm (CEF), so important to agriculture in Canada, and for food security in a changing world. The CEF is a National Historic Site of Canada, designated in part because of its nationally significant ongoing research. All of this is now at risk.

We are disturbed by recent property developments approved by the City of Ottawa in proximity to the Farm which threaten to impact its research capacity negatively, through unwarranted and ultimately disastrous shading of much of the research fields. Other threats to the research capacity of the CEF may well emerge in the future.

First, we encourage AAFC to **engage with the City of Ottawa** in a constructive way to find measures that will allow low-impact development in proximity to the Farm while accommodating the needs to intensify the city and to provide much-needed housing. We understand that AAFC is in conversation with the City to this end. Please work with the City to assure that the Official Plan protects the CEF appropriately as a research institution. We request that representatives of heritage, greenspace and agricultural advocacy groups participate in any working group established between AAFC and the City of Ottawa.

Second, we need to **engage Canadians** and especially those in the National Capital Region on the value of the CEF, since it is public engagement that will secure its future. We recommend a partnership with AAFC and the not-for-profit sector to create a robust program of public education for citizens of Ottawa, the agricultural sector, the environmental sector, the heritage sector, and all Canadians.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Advocacy Committee,
Heritage Ottawa

Cc

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