



January 24, 2020

The Honourable Stephen McNeil
Premier, Province of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 726, Halifax, NS B3J 1X5

Dear Premier McNeil:

RE: PLANNED HOSPITAL RENEWAL QE2 SITES HALIFAX

I am writing to you today as the Halifax Regional Councillor who represents the district that includes both the Halifax Infirmery (HI) and Victoria General (VG) sites of the Queen Elizabeth Two (QE2) Health Science Centre.

I applaud the needed investments your government is making in health care infrastructure in Nova Scotia. There can be no doubt that this aging infrastructure requires the investments and hard decisions your government has made.

I am very concerned, however, about what I hear are the plans to expand the HI site to include a garage on lands south of the Natural History Museum and possible expansion to the lands to the north.

Statements by members of your government and spokespeople for the Province have been problematic:

- **There are public updates about the project, that information is (and will be) posted online.** I have not found this to be true or consistent. This website has not been updated since April 2018 and this plan does not show any construction required next to the museum.
- **The new parkade is also necessary before construction starts.** This appears to be incorrect, in that it does not acknowledge that page 71 of the master plan states the urban garden site can be use a “temporary surface parking.” The plan as written both identifies sites where parking could be built, and Appendix A starting page 246 clearly states the 3000 parking spots required for both sites can be accommodated on existing land.
- **The new parkade is being built on an existing parking lot and the land is owned by the province. Government is working with HRM to purchase a very small portion of its land.** This may be the case, though based on the site

constraints I do not see how this is possible. We shall see if and when the tender is made public.

- **The new parkade will not impact public use of the Halifax Commons.** This cannot be said when the users of the Common, especially adjacent sports clubs, have not seen the plan.

The HI site is approximately 88500 sq m, give or take, and the north-west corner (where the former Queen Elizabeth High building was located and currently an empty field) could be used to easily support a 15-25 story building, if well designed. All parking could be accommodated above ground its podium. To hear representatives of the government state there is no room to accommodate a 3500-4500 sq m parking garage on the government's 88500 sq m site is troubling.

Premier, residents have the following questions:

- Will there be further encroachments on or over municipal parks and streets?
- What are the plans for the lot of land north of the museum after the temporary parking lot is no longer needed?
- Will there be setbacks and landscaping around the entire HI site respect the general landscaping conventions for the Common precinct?
- When will your government make the current plan available to the public?
- If you proceed with the tender to build a parking garage on the Common, will you reconsider if the adjacent users can demonstrate real and meaningful impacts the proposed parking garage will have on their operations?

I ask you to pause, to make the entire current QEII plan public, to engage with the community, and to have the plan presented to Halifax Regional Council in a public session. Halifax is ready to partner with the Province to leverage our experience, connections and contacts from local planning processes to ensure all community voices are heard, and to explore all potential solutions.

Yours,



Wayne Mason
Councillor | Le Conseiller | Comhairlaiche | Wunaqapeme'
District 7 - Halifax South Downtown
Tel 902.490.8462 | Cell 902.430.7822 | Email waye.mason@halifax.ca

CC: Members of the Legislative Assembly, Nova Scotia
Halifax Regional Council
Board, Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities