



THE PREMIER
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
B3J 2T3

January 28, 2020

Mr. Wayne Mason
Councillor
District 7 Peninsula South Downtown
Halifax City Hall
1841 Argyle Street, 4th Floor
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5
Via Email: Wayne.Mason@halifax.ca

Dear Councillor Mason:

Thank you for your letter regarding the QEII New Generation project and your support of this important investment. The redevelopment of the QEII Health Sciences Centre is an opportunity to reshape the way health care is delivered to Nova Scotians for years to come. It is the largest health care infrastructure project in our province's history and I am proud of the work being done.

I appreciate you have some questions regarding the construction of a parkade on Summer Street. I understand the department has offered to meet with councillors and has tried to reach you directly. There is some misinformation out there about the project. It is important you have the correct facts when speaking publicly. That is why I am referring your questions to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR). As you know, this is the department responsible for the project and its staff has been in regular contact with staff at Halifax Regional Municipality, including in a letter to Halifax Regional Municipality's CAO last week.

That said, I wanted you to be aware the tender for the parkade has gone out today. Parking is critical to this project. More than 14,000 people visit the QEII Health Sciences Centre every day. The parkade will replace the existing structure on Robie Street which is coming down to make room for the new health care facilities. About 800 parking spaces will be lost. I think we can all appreciate people need a place to park in order to access important and necessary medical services while this work is happening.

It is also important to note the parkade is being built on an existing parking lot owned by the province. It is not being built on space being used for recreation. The province is in discussions with municipal staff about buying a small parcel of land. The purchase would not displace the Bengal Lancers or interfere with the use of the Wanderers Grounds. It is my hope municipal staff has been sharing that information with these tenants. TIR will be doing the same.

Thank you once again for your interest in the QEII project.

Sincerely,

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier