

From: Brockington, Riley <Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca>
Date: Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 1:37 PM
Subject: River Ward - Ottawa Centre Survey Responses
To: Brockington, Riley <Riley.Brockington@ottawa.ca>
Cc: Eagle, Carol <carol.eagle1@ottawa.ca>

Good afternoon,

Earlier this month, I contacted federal election candidates in Ottawa Centre, or their representative, to seek their vision and commitment on two specific questions.

The questions I asked are as follows:

Question 1: The Alexander Community Centre is the main city facility in the Alexander neighbourhood of Carlington. It is 52 years old and serves a large socio-economic and diverse population. The community seeks to engage in an extensive consultation that will identify what we would like to see in a renovated and expanded community centre. The total cost for this project is estimated to be between \$4-5 million.

Given the on-going challenges with local poverty, crime issues, sufficient recreational opportunities for youth, programming for all age groups at least six days a week, need for summer camps, etc, will you commit to work with me to see this renovation through, particularly to acquire a one-third to one-half contribution from the federal government?

Question 2: The Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa's jewel in the crown, was recently in the news for having some of the cleanest air in the City. The Farm was established in 1886 as the central research station for the federal Department of Agriculture. The Farm continues that scientific focus as the location for laboratories and research plots for the Ottawa Research and Development Centre. The Central Experimental Farm is also a National Historic Site of Canada and home to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada headquarters. Given the importance of the Farm to Canadians for the research that is conducted, will you lead a campaign to ensure that the Farm is not only designated a National Historic Site, but that legislation is passed to enshrine the lands as we know them from any future development. Will you commit to protecting the Farm lands?

Below, you will find the unedited, unaltered replies from the candidates who responded. I made every candidate aware that their replies would be publicly disseminated before election day. You may share this information as well.

Sincerely,

Riley Brockington
City Councillor, River Ward

Chris JONES

Answer 1: In answer to your first question, yes I would undertake to work with you to secure federal dollars to renovate the Alexander Community Centre. I am a strong believer in providing recreational and sporting opportunities to our fellow citizens, and especially youth-at risk, to enhance their quality of life.

Answer 2: On the second question my answer is also affirmative. I am an habitual user of the Farm lands, riding my bike through them on almost a daily basis in the spring & summer months. I know directly of their health benefits and the fact that they provide a set of "lungs" for the residents of Ottawa. Stopping development in the Farm lands and also enshrining them as a national historic site would be a firm conviction of mine should I be elected. My platform speaks directly to the need to avoid the ecological costs of further tract housing development and the associated sprawl and single occupant vehicle use that it brings in its wake.

Marie-Chantal LERICHE

Answer 1: Councillor Brockington, thank you for extending the invitation to work with you on this great project.

I am familiar with Carlington as I lived there for a period of time and my church was located on Laperriere. I know from Carlington residents the amount of work and the time you and your team have invested to improve the living conditions of this community. I am encouraged to hear that you frequently consult and listen to Carlington residents and advocate on their behalf to meet their needs and improve their lives. For this, I want to thank you.

I commend your commitment to answering the needs of such a diversified community with the renovation and expansion of the Alexander Community Centre. I believe this project will positively impact the local community as well as River Ward overall. I will certainly work with you and the community to obtain federal government funding for this renovation and expansion. There are so many federal programs and initiatives available that I am certain something can be done.

Given the issues and challenges facing Carlington, such a project is much needed. You can count on my support and my commitment to work with you and the community to make this project happen.

Answer 2: Councillor Brockington, I understand the concern that is yours and of thousands of constituents in Ottawa-Centre. The farm has 500 precious acres of land dedicated to critical agricultural research.

To answer your question more fully, I would need to sit down with you and discuss all the parameters. Is it your intent to target only the part of the land that will not be used to build the hospital? Would it include the portion proposed by the City of Ottawa for rapid transit?

I always seek to build consensus and achieve a win-win situation whenever possible. I would work with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Minister of Public Services and Procurement, as well as any others who would be able to assist in protecting the Farmlands. I join you in desiring this valuable resource be able to continue with its critical work and to be available to future generations of Canadians.

Catherine MCKENNA

Answer 1: We were elected in 2015 on promises to invest in infrastructure to move Canada forward, and we have followed through on that promise, approving 4800 projects across the country, including investing \$187 million in more than 180 cultural and recreational facilities. I am always happy to work collaboratively with local councillors on projects that improve the lives of the residents of Ottawa Centre. If re-elected, I look forward to sitting down with you to talk about what can be done to move the Alexander Community Centre project forward.

Answer 2: Our Liberal platform is committing to introduce legislation on federally-owned heritage places. Current legislation offers little direction on how heritage places are designated and preserved, which can put these important places at risk. The Experimental Farm is an important part of the history of Ottawa and a National Historic Site, and I am looking forward to seeing the preservation of the Experimental Farm, and all other National Historic Sites, being better defined in legislation.

Merylee SEVILLA

Answer 1: As someone who during my undergrad worked in a Summer camp that was federally funded, I know and have seen the positive impact funding into these programs and services has on the community at large. I would work with you and the stakeholders to ensure that proper consistent funding is acquired. One way that this will be accomplished is through ending Corporate Welfare and Foreign Aid which would allow the Federal government to have nearly \$15 billion to share amongst provincial and city programs. Funding is not just one way of contributing to the Alexander Community Centre and the neighbourhood, because I believe we need proper services, proper training and investing in these will get us one step closer. We need to educate people, we need to promote these services and encourage families and communities to get involved. Especially those who haven't been involved or are to afraid to participate.

Answer 2: As the People's Party of Canada I would commit to protecting the Central Experimental Farm and to ensure that no body, public or private is able to build on the lands. It is important that we protect the green space and allow for research but to promote green space in the city. Legislation must be established to protect the land that no future governments or bodies is able to find loop holes to retract or change such policies. It is also important to ensure that the community have proper stake in the green space too.

Emilie TAMAN

Answer 1: Absolutely. Functional and accessible public spaces such as community centres are crucial in building a safe and healthy community. We live in a wealthy city, and it is no secret that the Carlington community is underserved when it comes to public spaces and municipal services. We need to rectify this immediately, while ensuring community members are extensively consulted so they can have access to community spaces that meet their needs, and where they can come together.

I will proudly work with and advocate for federal funding for a renovated and expanded Alexander Community Centre, based on consultations with the community. I will also fight to ensure the development and renovations of the community centre is not simply handed over to developers to do as they wish, but that the community is a part of the process at every step.

Answer 2: The Central Experimental Farm is crucial to our city's identity and serves an important national purpose in facilitating research. I'm committed to protecting the farm's National Historic Site designation and prevent any future development on the land. We have let developers run amok in our city, giving them permission to develop over our history and culture, such as the Chateau Laurier fiasco, and we must be able to stand strong against developer influence. I will advocate alongside municipal and provincial elected representatives to ensure the Central Experimental Farm is fully protected.

Our platform also highlights the need to develop a system of urban national parks, and I see this as an innovative approach to not only protecting but also enhancing our riding to encourage more green space. As MP, I will proudly look for ways to protect and enhance the Central Experimental Farm, and parks funding could be one of those ways.

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