

PRESS RELEASE
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Where is the community in the proposed changes to the urban plan?

Gatineau, Aylmer Sector - April 27, 2020 - The La Croisée Community Association expresses its views on the proposed changes to the urban plan and by-laws. In this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, the City of Gatineau invites its citizens to discover, during an online consultation, important changes proposed to the urban plan and by-laws for the Aylmer and Hull sectors. The online consultation will take place on Tuesday, April 28, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. At this time, the link to view this consultation is still not available.

The La Croisée Community Association wishes to express its disappointment with the City of Gatineau's decision to hold online consultations on major changes to urban planning during this period of quarantine due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The City of Gatineau may be lagging behind in its timetable for developing its Master Plan and to compensate, there is now an additional burden of research, required internet access and time constraint with no opportunity for citizens to gather. This scenario increases the risk to the normally trusted outcomes of participatory democracy.

Understanding that citizens are stakeholders in the development of their community, the La Croisée Community Association believes better outcomes are possible through a common agenda framework. The visions and ideas of the people who actually live in the community can be legitimately brought forward and integrated into the planning process. Knowing the preliminary Master Plan for the community of La Croisée Community was also underway, a community survey was completed in February and presented to the City. However, we find that the new permitted land use zoning grids, dated April 7th, now reflect an unacceptable lack of accuracy and little possibility for healthy, environmentally sustainable, community living. Our land use, now restricted to housing, may destroy all natural heritage for 16 unit apartment/condos complexes six storeys high. There is a shocking lack of designation of recreational space, forest and wetland preservation along with removal of the Gatineau Golf Course. These are all major concerns for our citizens reflected in our community survey.

The La Croisée Community Association does not speak on behalf of residents without convening and establishing a legitimate consensus. However, we strongly encourage all citizens to participate in the online consultation, to learn, ask questions and provide their comments through the City consultation survey and email address provided by May 3rd.

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