

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR MUNICIPAL & FEDERAL  
COOPERATION ON DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENT AND REVITALIZATION EFFORTS**

BETWEEN **CITY OF OTTAWA**  
(hereinafter called the “**City**”)

AND: HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF CANADA,  
as represented by the Minister of Public Works and Government Services  
(herein after called Public Services and Procurement Canada or “**PSPC**”)

**WHEREAS** the City of Ottawa and the Federal Government have a shared interest in building and maintaining Canada’s Capital city;

**WHEREAS** the federal government, represented by the Minister for PSPC, has a mandate to restore and modernize Crown buildings and grounds in the Parliamentary Precinct, while ensuring the Precinct remains a destination that is safe, open and accessible for residents, enhances the visitor experience and supports vibrant business activity;

**WHEREAS** PSPC is currently redeveloping the city block bounded by Metcalfe, Wellington, O’Connor and Sparks Streets, known as ‘Block 2’, to transform aging heritage buildings and vacant parcels of land for modern parliamentary accommodations with renovated retail space along the Sparks Street Mall;

**NOW THEREFORE** in consideration of PSPC’s commitment to sustained collaboration with the City in building a vibrant capital city and to mitigating as much as possible, the impact of construction activities on commuters, residents, businesses and the tourism sector throughout construction, the parties agree to the following:

1. Wellington Street will be open at all times to one vehicular lane in each direction and one segregated cycling lane in each direction.

2. Should the cycling facilities on Wellington need to be detoured between Metcalfe Street and O'Connor Street, that cyclists are still permitted (via super sharrows) on Wellington Street through this section and that the super sharrows remain clear and visible at all times. PSPC will be responsible for installing these super-sharrows (green and white) and their maintenance over the duration of the detour, should the sharrow markings show signs of wear.
3. In addition to the City's contribution of \$1 million for the Sparks Street Public Realm Plan functional and detailed design, PSPC agrees to a financial contribution of up to \$750,000, plus applicable taxes towards a professional services contract for the functional design work of the six blocks of Sparks Street, and the detailed design of Blocks 2 and 4, in support of the eventual full implementation of the Public Realm Plan. The terms of the transfer of funds is to be executed via a separate Letter of Agreement which will be executed within 14 days of signing of this Memorandum.
4. PSPC will continue to provide annual financial contributions to the City of Ottawa in support of the Sparks Street Mall Authority and the Sparks Street Business Improvement Association in support of their ongoing destination development and programming activities and remains open to discussing opportunities for further support for targeted and specialized events, where appropriate.
5. PSPC and the City will meet quarterly in the context of advancing the Sparks Street Public Realm Plan to discuss initiatives aimed at the sustained improvement of the economic vitality and vibrancy of the street, which may include but is not limited to, leasing of the Government of Canada units facing the Sparks Street Mall, improving ground level façades, signage and reinstating ground level retail through ongoing and future redevelopment projects.

## **6. BACKGROUND**

The City of Ottawa and PSPC jointly share responsibility for the economic resilience of Sparks Street in downtown Ottawa. This shared responsibility is reinforced through the establishment of the Sparks Street Mall Management Board (also known as the Authority), where PSPC and the National Capital Commission (NCC) hold governance authority over the operations of Sparks Street Mall, a City-owned street. Additionally, their collaboration is evident in land use planning, most recently with the joint funding and approval of the Sparks Street Public Realm Plan (PRP) in 2019, by the City, PSPC, and the NCC.

Over the coming decade PSPC will be undertaking several building renewal projects in support of the ongoing modernization and rehabilitation of the buildings and grounds of the Parliamentary Precinct; to the benefit of parliamentarians, visitors and residents. While this work will be temporarily disruptive to the public realm, mobility, and to some of the businesses along Sparks Street, these projects also provide an opportunity to implement the shared vision for the public realm on Sparks Street as agreed to by the three organizations through their endorsement of the PRP. The outcome will be a rejuvenated street that all Canadians will be proud of.

The Block 2 redevelopment project led by PSPC presents an opportunity to finalize the Public Realm Plan's functional and detailed design for Sparks Street; to provide certainty for the reinstatement requirements for the right of way abutting the Block 2 ; and to plan for the renewal of the additional blocks that comprise Sparks Street as funding and construction coordination advances through other projects in the area.

## **7. ADMINISTRATION**


- 7.1. Date of effect and duration** – This Memorandum of Understanding is effective upon its execution and will remain in place for the duration of the Block 2 Redevelopment Project, the end of which will be marked by issuance of the Building Code occupancy permit, currently estimated for the early 2030s
- 7.2. Amendment and Termination** – This memorandum of understanding may be amended in writing by mutual consent of the authorized officials from

the City and PSPC. This memorandum of understanding may be terminated by either party by giving 30 days written notice to the other party.

**7.3. Application and Responsibilities** – This memorandum is non-binding while establishing a consensual agreement between the authorized officials from the City and PSPC to build and maintain a vibrant capital city through collaboration. It does not replace or supersede the authorities granted to either party via supporting legislation; all decisions are subject to the requisite and respective approval processes of the City and Canada.

**CITY OF OTTAWA**

Date: 03/13/2025

  
Vivi Chi (Mar 13, 2025 08:36 EDT)



I have the authority to bind the corporation

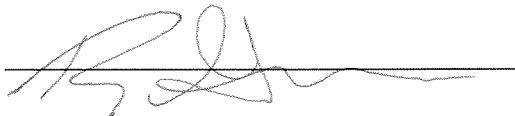
Vivi Chi

General Manager, Planning, Development and Building Services

**HIS MAJESTY THE KING IN RIGHT OF CANADA,**

as represented by the Minister of Public Works and Government Services

Date: 2025-03-13



Jennifer Garrett

Assistant Deputy Minister