



Rideau Canal National Historic Site of Canada
34 Beckwith Street South
Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2A8

18 January 2021

Attention: Allison Hamlin, Planner
Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development Department
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West, 4th floor
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
Email: Allison.hamlin@ottawa.ca

Subject: Site Plan Control Application - Revision
File: D07-12-20-0158
Addition to Chateau Laurier Hotel
1 Rideau Street, Ottawa

Dear Ms. Hamlin,

Parks Canada appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the revised Site Plan Control application submitted to the City of Ottawa, which proposes a new design for the rear addition to the Chateau Laurier Hotel.

Parks Canada's perspective on this project reflects three distinct roles that we play. First, we are the federal government's lead on the protection and presentation of nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage, including national historic sites, a designation held by the Chateau Laurier. Secondly, we are responsible for the management of the Rideau Canal National Historic Site and World Heritage site. A key component of this property is the Ottawa Locks, located immediately adjacent to the proposed development. Finally, as the government agency responsible for coordinating implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Canada, Parks Canada has a lead role in addressing any concerns the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and its advisors may raise concerning World Heritage sites in Canada.

With respect to the current proposal, Parks Canada appreciates the work done by Larco Investments in collaboration with Heritage Ottawa to create a new design for the development. Heritage Ottawa concluded that the preponderance of Indiana limestone cladding with copper



and bronze elements in the new design is in keeping with the materials of the historic hotel, which, along with the opening up of views into the courtyard and the subtle delineation of the massing of the two pavilions into three sections that align with the hotel, form a contemporary design that meets the requirements set out in the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. Similarly, Parks Canada finds that the work undertaken to date responds to many of the concerns raised previously regarding the potential impacts to the heritage value of the property. The new design is more consistent with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, a key guiding tool for heritage conservation.

In its role as advisor to the World Heritage Committee on cultural heritage, the International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has raised concerns in correspondence with Parks Canada on the potential impact of the new development on the views from Ottawa Locks. A Cultural Heritage Impact Statement, dated November 2020, has been completed by ERA Architects Inc. for the new design proposal. However, this statement does not clearly articulate how the new design will impact the dominating view of the Château Laurier at the Ottawa Locks location. It would be warranted to have this key view of the Château Laurier included in an updated visual impact assessment to gain greater understanding of the impact of the addition within the setting of the Rideau Canal property. Parks Canada would be pleased to assist with this work.

Based on the material available for review, Parks Canada was not able to confirm what impact the development would have on drainage. Alterations to the site should not result in changes in water drainage towards the Ottawa Locks that could potentially threaten the stability or integrity of its cultural resources, in particular the retaining wall on the property boundary between Ottawa Locks and the Château Laurier, or the functioning of lock operations. We would appreciate having confirmation on this point.

Thank you for the opportunity for Parks Canada to provide comments on this revised application.

If you have any questions or concerns in relation to Parks Canada's input on this application, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at patricia.kell@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kell
Executive Director, Cultural Heritage
Parks Canada Agency