



October 26, 2023

Mayor Mark Sutcliffe
Ottawa City Hall
110 Laurier Ave. West
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1

Dear Mayor Sutcliffe:

FCA Opposition to Lansdowne 2.0 Proposals

At its general meeting last Wednesday (October 18) evening, the FCA (Federation of Citizens Associations), representing 70 community groups across Ottawa, voted overwhelmingly to oppose the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal that is being considered at the joint meeting of Finance & Corporate Services Committee and Planning & Housing Committee on November 2, rising to City Council on November 9.

Our members are concerned about the enormous amount of public funds (\$419 million) that is being proposed for a public-private partnership project involving OSEG (Ottawa Sports & Entertainment Group) based on dubious assumptions and uncertain benefits. We believe there are far more important uses of our tax dollars than supporting a private for-profit sports corporation at Lansdowne Park.

The FCA membership, representing community associations across the city (from Orleans to Barrhaven to Kanata), have raised many concerns about the lack of transparency regarding many of the project's financial assumptions, which has yet to be reviewed by the City's Auditor-General. This is not a local Glebe issue as the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal will affect **all** taxpayers as the City will incur over \$300 million of debt and not see the profits from the project's "waterfall" until 2047. We believe the City has other more important priorities for these public funds, like fixing our failing transit system, supporting much-needed affordable housing, and responding to climate change (including flooding).

On this basis we ask that the Lansdowne 2.0 proposal be rejected by Committee and City Council.

Yours truly,

Robert Brinker
President, FCA