

Monday, August 7, 2023

To: Colette Gorni, Lead Planner, City of Ottawa / Colette.Gorni@ottawa.ca
Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor, City of Ottawa / Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca
Jeff Leiper, Chair Planning Committee, City of Ottawa / Jeff.Leiper@ottawa.ca

Dear Planner Gorni, Dear Mayor Sutcliffe, Dear Councillor Leiper:

As a retired CEF Soil Research Scientist, I am writing to implore the City of Ottawa to give science primary considerations in establishing the guidelines and restrictions on high rise developments at 1081 Carling Avenue.

The highly reputable agri-food production systems of Canada are underwritten by some of the world's best scientific research much of which originated at the CEF. An important principle behind successful science is to understand and to minimise the impact of uncertainties. To introduce the highly variable shading effects to the longstanding crop and soil research plots at CEF adds a level of uncertainty which completely undermines the integrity and validity of the research output from the affected plots for all future time. Inserting such a human-caused change to the results of the research experiments would completely negate the usability of the research which is engaged currently in research to mitigate the impacts of human caused climate change.

It is acknowledged that the housing made available by requested high rise development is a vital need in Ottawa at this time. Yet, that need must be weighed against the potential food benefit from the long-term knowledge gained by the CEF research. A more thorough understanding of climate change on our food supply and the development of plants able to tolerate the changing climate will have an impact for many more people beyond Ottawa. It is now obvious that choosing an optimal development plan for 1081 Carling Avenue will be extremely difficult. I am certain the current research colleagues at CEF fully understand the challenges and would be pleased to assist in finding the plan that offers the best possibilities for all participants.

City of Ottawa Officials, please give extremely high value to the importance of food production research on the Central Experimental Farm and don't hesitate to seek assistance from the fellow research scientists whose research would be affected by the ultimate plan.

Yours respectfully,

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CC. Laine Johnson, Councillor College Ward
Chandra Arya, MP Nepean