

Alexandra Bridge Replacement Project  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
600-55 York Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5J 1R7

April 22, 2022

Re: Alexandra Bridge Replacement Project; Reference # 83444

The Alexandra Bridge Replacement Project would replace the existing Royal Alexandra Interprovincial Bridge that crosses the Ottawa River and would connect Sussex Drive and Des Allumettières Boulevard with a new three-lane bridge. As an advocate of the protection and health of the Ottawa River watershed since 2001, Ottawa Riverkeeper would like to ensure that the impacts of the aforementioned project are recognized and would like to suggest potential actions to be considered to mitigate any damage that may result from the Alexandra Bridge Replacement Project.

Ottawa Riverkeeper is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting the health and future of the Ottawa River and its tributaries. We work with individuals, community groups, and all levels of government to promote river stewardship and collective action on issues that affect our ability to safely swim, drink, and fish from our local waterways. Ottawa Riverkeeper fulfils its mission by raising awareness, educating, inspiring action, disseminating science-based information, and encouraging responsible use of the Ottawa River for the enjoyment and benefit of all.

The summary of the project discusses numerous measures that may be taken to address any anticipated impacts on the river. As we await the Environmental Protection Plan associated with this project, our main concerns are focused on the construction phase and the possible impacts on the water quality and aquatic species in this section of this river. Ottawa Riverkeeper believes that:

- the Environmental Protection Plan needs to take into consideration a wide variety of species present, not only those with protected status but also include those that are recognised as vulnerable or threatened;
- monitoring activities should be taken throughout the seasons leading up to the beginning of the decommissioning/construction phase to fully capture the current state of the river and its ecology through different seasons;

- regular monitoring throughout the Project and its completion is required to track any impacts and mitigate for these within an appropriate period of time;
- opportunities to improve shoreline biodiversity should be incorporated within the project to increase near shore habitat for fish, birds, and reptiles, and build flood resilience; and
- explore how development has impacted the river and identify improvements to the habitat and/or spawning areas in this part of the river that would begin to address these impacts.

Ottawa Riverkeeper encourages Public Services and Procurement Canada and the National Capital Commission to consider the long term impacts of the Alexandra Bridge on the Ottawa River. We remain optimistic that appropriate action will be taken to minimise any additional stresses on the river with the bridge replacement project while looking for opportunities to mitigate for existing habitat loss or degradation. We look forward to learning how the recommendations above are incorporated in the Environmental Protection Plan along with other steps that may be taken to ensure minimal negative impact on the Ottawa River throughout this project..

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Laura Reinsborough

Ottawa Riverkeeper and CEO