



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMPLETION OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION MANDATE REVIEW REPORT

Review Panel calls for significant renewal of the Crown corporation

Canada's Capital Region: Today, at a news conference held in Gatineau, Québec, the National Capital Commission (NCC) Mandate Review Panel submitted its report to the Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and Minister responsible for the NCC. The mandate review, called for by the Minister in April, focused on three key elements of the Crown corporation: its functions and activities, its governance and its funding.

In the report entitled *The National Capital Commission: Charting a New Course*, Panel Chair Gilles Paquet and panel members Guy Benoit and Barbara L. Farber concluded that the NCC remains an important institution in the National Capital Region. However, important changes to the organization and its circumstances are required.

Nothing short of a major transformation of the NCC is required to ensure that Canada's capital remain a world-class capital, one of which all Canadians can be proud, and one that will be the envy of all international guests, said Gilles Paquet.

The report includes thirty-two recommendations, many of which aim to address the numerous irritants and constraints that have been identified in recent years and that were brought to the attention of the Panel during the consultation period.

Key recommendations proposed by the Panel include the opening up of NCC Board and Advisory Committee meetings, the end to the sale of surplus lands and a new way of doing business that includes an endorsement of the Government's proposed splitting of the roles of Chair of the Board and the CEO. The Panel also recommends that the NCC adopt a new 'culture of consensus' and proposes that the renewed NCC include the position of Associate CEO to ensure healthy external relations along with an enhanced Ombudsman position to help solve problems.

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Minister Cannon thanked the Panel for their work and on having produced their recommendations in such a short period of time.

I look forward to reading this report and will study your recommendations carefully. I will respond to the report as soon as possible, said Minister Cannon.

The NCC Mandate Review began in August and included a 60-day consultation period. Having gathered information from numerous sources, the Panel then spent over four weeks preparing the report. In his remarks today, Professor Paquet thanked all those who participated in the review process.

We were extremely pleased with the enthusiastic response to our call for input and the generous collaboration of so many stakeholders, said Gilles Paquet. ***It is clear to the Panel that the Capital and the role of the NCC as steward of the Capital region is a topic of great interest and importance to many.***

The report was also made public today to allow the NCC and all stakeholders and interested parties to review the document. ***The National Capital Commission: Charting a New Course*** is available on the NCC Mandate Review website at www.nccmandate.ca.

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Media Contacts:

Laurie Peters
NCC Mandate Review Secretariat
(819) 934-9538
petersl@tc.gc.ca

Catherine Loubier
Director of Communications
Transport Canada
Minister's Office
(613) 991-0700

The attached Backgrounder is the Foreword excerpted from the NCC Mandate Review Panel's Report, *The National Capital Commission: Charting a New Course*.

