



Jim Watson
Mayor Maire

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January 26th, 2022

The Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation,
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y4
minister.mto@ontario.ca

RE: Support for Ottawa Energy Evolution Strategy

Dear Minister Mulroney,

Climate change is the biggest threat facing our generation, and ambitious action to fight it presents significant economic opportunities for all Canadians. The urgency of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and implementing climate adaptation measures is well-understood scientifically and documented by the 2021 International Panel on Climate Change “Code Red” report. The latest science shows—and our residents are demanding—that we do more to fight climate change and protect their health, and on a faster timeline.

Municipalities realize the importance of their position to catalyze climate action. In October 2020, Ottawa City Council unanimously approved the Energy Evolution Strategy, an ambitious plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Ottawa to zero by 2050. Reaching this target will require unprecedented action and investment. It also estimates a yield of \$12 billion in net returns to the community over the life of the investments, along with health and resiliency benefits. This colossal work cannot be done without support from senior governments.

The City of Ottawa urges the Ministry of Transportation to support GHG reductions by:

- **Funding Ottawa’s zero emissions Concept Transit Network;**
- **Funding and enabling policies for public EV charging infrastructure; and**
- **Consider a high-occupancy toll lane to support climate action.**

The transportation sector accounts for approximately 45% of Ottawa’s community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. The Energy Evolution Strategy identified the following actions:

- Reducing the 24-hour mode share for cars by 19% and increase the mode share for transit, walking, and biking by 7%, 5%, and 7% respectively by 2050;
- Building the Concept Transit Network with zero emissions vehicles; and



- Assuring that 90% of new vehicles are zero emissions by 2030.

These actions will build on the commitment to convert all buses and O-Train engines in Ottawa to electric over the next 15 years. By working with municipalities, the Ministry of Transportation can remove barriers to the realization of municipal GHG targets and the resulting health and financial benefits to taxpayers.

Steve Willis, General Manager for Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development, would be pleased to meet with your Deputy Minister to discuss more thoroughly how we can work together to achieve our shared goal of a healthy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson'.

Jim Watson

Mayor

City of Ottawa

CC: Laurie LeBlanc, Deputy Minister of Transportation

Carol Saab, Chief Executive Officer at FCM

Michael Savage, Mayor of Halifax and Chair of BCMC

Jamie McGarvey, Mayor of Parry Sound and President of AMO

Stephen Willis, General Manager, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development,
City of Ottawa