



November 6, 2025

Hi everyone,

I want to have a real and honest conversation about Lansdowne 2.0. As many of you know, I like facts, not rhetoric or slogans. I have sat through all the delegations and Q&As in various committees and have watched or participated in community meetings on this issue. I also met with some of the advocates on both sides, so I feel confident in my understanding of the file and its nuances. I also have a close family member who is disabled so I am sensitive to accessibility issues and have been my whole life.

I do appreciate everyone who has written to be about Lansdowne 2.0. It is a major city project, and the site hosts several professional sports teams. There is a lot of money involved, and this is a big decision, so it makes sense that we spend time thinking about it.

There have been many comments trying to turn this into another “Porsche Dealership” debate. If you remember in 2022, one of the issues during the election was a Brownfield subsidy on Montreal Rd that was given to a car dealership on Montreal Road. The program was presented as giving millions to millionaires, but the same program with my amendments lead to 5000 affordable housing units being approved for construction since 2023 across the city, 2700 of which are in ward 12. (If you want more details on this see my [community newsletter](#)).

I’m not suggesting that there are no issues with Lansdowne 2.0. There are many. This is in no way a perfect plan or project. But there are also major financial consequences to punting this decision down the road as former Mayor Watson did in 2014. The arena and north stands will continue to deteriorate, and a future council will have to deal with it, and just as it would have been considerably cheaper to fix in 2014, it will be far more costly 10 years from now. There is no other arena in Ontario of the same age as TD Place, except for the Brantford arena which is being rebuilt now.

I urge you to read this great [Q & A on Councillor Marty Carr’s site](#), especially points 9, 21, 26 as well as the accessibility points starting at 31.

It thoughtfully debunks the claims that we can use the money for this project on other projects or programs. That can’t happen under this kind of financing. It points to the various engineering studies that discuss the terrible condition of the site and also talks about the claim that has been made that it will cost taxpayers “half a billion dollars” and explains how this isn’t accurate.

The project is expected to cost the city \$4.3 million annually for 40 years to invest in a city asset worth \$418.8 million. This will add \$8.14 per household in annual property taxes. To compare, curbside waste pickup is \$234.00 per household.

I also know that many of you are concerned about the future of women's hockey. The City could spend the estimated \$200 million to add 2000 seats for a total of 9500 seats as the PWHL requested, however, if the Charge continues to have the same success they've been seeing, and their audience continues to grow in size, they could graduate to playing at an NHL sized arena (the Canadian Tire Centre, or the future Lebreton site). The Minnesota Frost, New York Sirens, PWHL Vancouver and PWHL Seattle are all using NHL sized arenas (16 000+ capacity) for their games.

Finally, there has been considerable talk that Lansdowne 2.0 will require additional transit support, and although both the arena/event centre and north stands will have less seats than currently the case, there is a motion on Friday to address these concerns.

If you want to deep dive on both sides, these are some of my favourite delegations.

- Laurie Giomaria, a bartender at Gia's bar in the arena, [starts at 7:55, here](#). She discusses the leaky roof, and having to get many buckets to collect rain water, as well as the lack of loading dock and accessible elevator
- The [venue manager at 42:00, here](#).
- Carolyn McKenzie, [at 23:00, here](#).
- [Wendy Gittens, CEO of Wheelchair Basketball Canada, at 7:09, here](#).
- [Marnie Peters 1:23:30](#)
- [Kyle 'Super Kyle' Humphry at 2:20:50, here](#).
- [Ian Lee 20:00 \(his point about the air rights is good\)](#).
- [PWHL](#)

Let me know if you have questions and I will do my best to answer. For the people asking how I will vote, I have not finished watching Audit committee from Monday, but there will likely be items on the agenda I will vote for and others I will vote against (there are several items to vote on). You can review the motions currently on the agenda and other councillors may add additional motions before Friday's vote on the city website (email me if you need a copy).

Sincerely,

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