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NEWS RELEASE

Friday, Oct. 17, 2008

Eugene Melnyk comments on proposal to refurbish Ottawa's Frank Clair Stadium

OTTAWA – Earlier today, the partners who were granted a conditional CFL franchise revealed their proposal to refurbish the city-owned Frank Clair Stadium and redevelop Lansdowne Park.

Eugene Melnyk, owner of Senators Sports & Entertainment, has issued the following statement:

"Today's proposal gives our community another alternative to consider in resolving the city's future for a multi-purpose outdoor stadium. Today's option will provide healthy and constructive debate on a vitally important issue for our city.

Most in our community will agree that a world-class stadium is a must. We're Canada's capital and the only G7 capital without a properly functioning outdoor stadium. It's not a question of if, but when and where can we build it. And just as important, how can we ensure the structure is a long-term financial success for our community.

Proper, modern-day stadium planning must take into consideration a number of key variables, including access to public transit, a site development plan to manage high vehicular traffic, access to a minimum of 7,500 parking spots, experienced large-scale facility operators, and a fully integrated organization with a proven track record of attracting and maximizing the diverse range of sporting and entertainment opportunities fitting of a world-class venue.

I'm confident the City of Ottawa and our community will carefully and fully evaluate these and many other factors as it plans the future location of our city's stadium.

In 2003, I had the good fortune of working with the City of Ottawa and community leaders to ensure our Ottawa Senators and Scotiabank Place would remain in Ottawa forever. I am also pledging my full commitment, and that of Senators Sports & Entertainment, to work with the City of Ottawa to find the right, long-term solution for a new world-class outdoor multi-purpose stadium for our community."

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