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NEWS RELEASE

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Eugene Melnyk comments on Major League Soccer's Decision to Award Expansion Team to Vancouver

OTTAWA – Eugene Melnyk, owner of Senators Sports & Entertainment, has issued the following statement with regards to Vancouver having been awarded an MLS franchise:

“Greg Kerfoot, Steve Luczo, Jeff Mallett, Steve Nash and the entire Vancouver Whitecaps organization are to be congratulated on becoming the 17th team to join Major League Soccer. This is an exciting and historic day for Vancouver's soccer fans. Having a second Canadian team join the ranks of MLS is a real testament to the continued growth and popularity of soccer in our country.

I know first-hand how committed Commissioner Garber is to expanding Major League Soccer's footprint in North America, including Canada. The league's focus on expansion will remain strong and, as such, I remain as committed as ever to bringing Major League Soccer to the nation's capital. At the moment, our efforts are solely focused on supporting the City of Ottawa with its current review of our stadium proposal.

The city's review and its conclusions are paramount in taking our expansion discussions with Commissioner Garber and MLS to the next level.

Ottawa is a world-class city that deserves a world-class stadium, and I want to help our community make this dream a reality. I am looking forward to the day when I can stand on the soccer pitch in our city's new world-class stadium and be joined by more than 20,000 passionate fans to officially welcome Major League Soccer to Ottawa.”

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