

# Unions support Lansdowne plan

## Member jobs more important than process, says trades council

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**On the grounds that it could add more than 2,700 jobs during the construction period alone, labour unions around the city are throwing their support behind the Lansdowne Partnership Plan.**

Leaders from 26 unions representing construction trades signed a letter to city council supporting the plan yesterday.

The support comes a day after a group of prominent politicians condemned the sole-source nature of the plan to redevelop the park.

"We're not concerned

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Coun. Bob Monette

about the process. That's a city council decision," said Richard Corcoran, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council. "We're more concerned about our membership and getting jobs."

The \$250-million plan involves completely renovating Frank Clair Stadium and the Civic Centre, building 300,000 square

feet of retail space on the south west quarter of the park, underground parking and some residential development.

Corcoran said there were "nuggets of excellence and quality" in the plan that they support. He said members of the union were not only looking forward to building the facility, but taking advantage of

it after it is finished.

According to the Lansdowne Partnership report, construction of the stadium and arena would create 1,229 jobs. The underground parking complex would create 411 jobs, and the retail mall would create 1,090 jobs.

The total projected direct and indirect labour income generated from building this project is over \$133 million, said Orleans Coun. Bob Monette, with an additional 320 full-time jobs after the project is complete.

"How many councillors who object to this proposal are talking about \$133 million that would be put

right into our economy?" asked Monette. "If we delay this, we will never see this project and its benefits."

If this city council rejects the proposal, Monette said the city would still have to pay \$3.8 million per year just to keep the park in its present condition.

City council will hear public delegations on the plan tomorrow.

