

A City for All Survey to All Candidates

City for All Challenge

2018 Ottawa Municipal Election

As a candidate running for Ottawa City Council in 2018, we want to know where you stand on the issues important to the communities and organizations engaged in Making Voices Count and Women Reducing Poverty Together – Maamawe. Results of this survey will be posted on www.makingvoicescount.ca, social media and widely distributed to help people choose the Mayor and City Councillor they will elect.

Let us know where you stand.

Making Voices Count works with City decision makers to create a city for all. It is driven by residents, the Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres, City for All Women Initiative, and community partners.

Women Reducing Poverty Together – Maamawe brings together organizations working with women and women with lived experience of poverty to bring an intersectional gender lens to poverty reduction.

We envision a City for All where:

- everyone has access to affordable transit so they can access jobs, services and participate in their communities;
- everyone has an affordable place to call home;
- everyone has access to social services; and
- everyone has opportunities to succeed regardless of race, sex, gender identity, ability, religion and sexual orientation;

We will work with you once elected to make this happen. You are encouraged to answer all the questions. If any are left blank the result will show as “Candidate declined to answer”

Safe and Affordable Transit

In Ottawa:

- In the last five years, transit prices have increased a lot more than the rate of inflation.
- Since 2008, transit fares have increased by 40%.
- Since 2011, OC Transpo ridership has fallen by 6.7%.
- With higher transit fares, some women end up walking in unsafe situations or remain isolated at home.
- EquiPass is a monthly adult pass for people living on low income, but it is still unaffordable for many.

Will you reduce EquiPass fare from \$58/month to \$43/month no later than 2019?

- Yes
- No

Will you freeze transit fares to make them more affordable for everyone?

- Yes
- No

Affordable Housing

In Ottawa:

- Overall shelter use increased by 16% and length of stay increased by 12% from 2014 -2017. This is primarily influenced by the increase in family and newcomer shelter use.
- Up to 21% of single shelter use in Ottawa are single women. This data doesn't include the number of women staying at Ottawa's Violence Against Women shelters.
- There is not enough affordable housing in Ottawa to meet demand, with over 10,000 people on the Centralized Waiting List for social housing in 2017.
- National trends indicate that housing costs significantly increase near rapid transit systems.
- High rent costs place many individuals at risk of homelessness or living in sub-standard conditions. 42% of Ottawa households spend over 30% of their income on rent and utilities.

Will you ensure that the City's plan to reduce homelessness has specific actions, targets and money attached?

- Yes
- No

Will you advocate for at least \$12 million/year of City funding, over and above federal and provincial grants, to build new affordable housing?

- Yes
- No

Will you ensure that 25% of new development is dedicated to affordable housing with a special emphasis on deeply affordable housing within 1 km of rapid transit stations?

- Yes
- No

Access to Services

Ottawa has a growing, aging, increasingly diverse population.

- Social services play a key role to decrease crimes and enhance wellbeing and belonging.
- In the 2017 City Budget, the City-funded social service providers requested \$2.8 million to address growing demands and emerging needs. This shows the size of the problem and the need to increase community funding.

- In a 2018 survey to City-funded social service providers conducted by Social Planning Council, 87% of respondents reported an increase in demand for services, 44% reduced services, 18% turned clients away.

Will you advocate for community and City social services to have sufficient funding to keep pace with the growing demand?

- Yes
- No

Will you raise taxes as needed in order to meet the unmet and emerging needs of our increasingly complex city (i.e. housing, transit, social services)?

- Yes
- No

Inclusive City

People who are Indigenous, immigrants, racialized, living with disabilities and trans are more likely to be unemployed, with lower salaries and less opportunities for advancement.

- In comparison to men, women are more likely to have higher rates of unemployment, over-representation in part-time jobs and higher rates of poverty. On average, women earn 87 cents to the dollar earned by men.

In order to have City staff and managers that are representative of Ottawa's population, will you increase hiring and advancement of people from equity seeking groups including Indigenous people, women, racialized people, LGBTQ, people with disabilities and newcomers?

- Yes
- No

City Council has voted to study the creation of a Women's Bureau in the City. Will you support the creation of a Women's Bureau to ensure gender differences are taken into account in City decision making?

- Yes
- No