

City for All Women Initiative (CAWI) Initiative : une ville pour toutes les femmes (IVTF)

Accomplishments and future recommendations for the City for All Women Initiative community-city partnership

Deputations to HRSS Committee, May 5, 2005

In support of : City for All Women Initiative
Initiative; une ville pour toutes les femmes

Députation présentée par :

- **Kim Trottier**, Centre francophone d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel d'Ottawa (CALACS francophone d'Ottawa)
- **Fantu Melesse**, Ethiopian Community Association in Ottawa
- **Kim Trottier**, Centre francophone d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel d'Ottawa (CALACS francophone d'Ottawa)
- **Jacqueline Nyiramukwende**,
Rwandese Community Association, Women's Committee
- **Valerie Collicott, WISE, Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments**

Kim Trottier, Centre francophone d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel d'Ottawa (CALACS francophone d'Ottawa)

«Nous devons ouvrir des portes et veillez à ce qu'elles demeurent ouvertes afin que d'autre puissent y entrer.»

Bonjour, mon nom est Kim Trottier du Centre francophone d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel d'Ottawa (CALACS francophone d'Ottawa). L'énoncé et l'image de la diapositive suivante, démontrent clairement le succès de cette initiative pendant la dernière année.

En tant que femme francophone, travaillant à l'intérieur d'un centre francophone, je possédais très peu de connaissances concernant la prise de décision au sein de l'Hôtel de ville ou même comment influencer celle-ci. Si nous voulons nous assurer que les besoins des femmes auprès desquelles nous travaillons soient répondus, il devient crucial que nous sachions comment le système fonctionne.

J'ai participé à la formation *Le lobbying au féminin* commandité par l'*Initiative : une ville pour toutes les femmes*. Nous avons travaillé de près avec un groupe de femmes très diversifié provenant de tous les secteurs de la ville afin d'acquérir les connaissances et de mettre en pratique nos habiletés. Ce fut très important pour nous d'avoir eu l'opportunité de réviser Le Rapport sur les

Directives Budgétaires ainsi que d'avoir pu contribuer au Budget municipal de 2005. Je sais que : Notre point de vue compte!

En tant qu'organisme oeuvrant auprès des femmes, spécialement des femmes francophones, nous avons dû en faire davantage avec très peu de financement pendant les dernières années. Il fut difficile pour les employées et les bénévoles de trouver le temps de faire connaître nos inquiétudes auprès du Conseil municipal. C'est avec le soutien de nos réseaux tel que l'*Initiative : une ville pour toutes les femmes*, que nous avons été encouragées à porter nos préoccupations de l'avant.

Nous demandons non seulement d'appuyer nos recommandations, mais aussi de nous entendre lorsque nous cognerons à vos portes et d'écouter les points de vues que les diverses femmes auront à vous partager dans l'année à venir. Les femmes, ainsi que les hommes, ont beaucoup à apporter afin d'assurer la qualité de vie pour tous les résidents et résidentes de notre ville.

Ce fut une implication importante pour la ville d'Ottawa de maintenir son partenariat avec nous ; nous anticipons de grandes opportunités pour toutes les femmes de travailler avec la ville afin de créer une ville saine pour tout le monde.

Kim Trottier,
CALACS, Centre francophone d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel d'Ottawa

« Nous devons ouvrir des portes et veiller à ce qu'elles demeurent ouvertes afin que d'autre puissent y passer. »

Bonjour, My name is Kim Trottier and I work at CALACS, Centre francophone d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel d'Ottawa. This quote and the accompanying picture in the slide speak clearly to the success of this initiative over the past year.

As a francophone woman working in a francophone woman's organization, I had very little knowledge of how decisions are made at City Hall or how to influence them. If we are to ensure that the needs of the women with whom we work are addressed, it is critical that we understand how the system works.

I was a participant in the Lobby Training sponsored by the *Initiative; une ville pour toutes les femmes*. We worked together with a very diverse group of women from across the city to learn and practice skills. To have the opportunity to review the Budget Directions Document and be able to have input into the 2005 Budget was very important. I know now that, Notre point de vue compte!

As women's organizations, especially Francophone women's organizations, we have had to do more and more with fewer funds in recent years. This has meant that staff and volunteers find it difficult to make the time to make our concerns known to City Council. With the support of networks like la *Initiative; une ville pour toutes les femmes*, we have supports to take our concerns forward.

We urge you to not only support these recommendations to support the *Initiative; une ville pour toutes les femmes*, but to hear us when we come knocking and listen to the views that diverse women bring to your attention in the coming year. Women, as well as men, have a lot to bring to creating quality of life in our city.

It is a real step forward that the City of Ottawa maintained this partnership over the last year; we look forward to greater opportunities for diverse women to work with the city to create a liveable city for everyone.

Merci

**Fantu Melesse,
Ethiopian Community Association in Ottawa**

Good morning, Endemin Aderachew

My name is Fantu Melesse. I am President of the Ethiopian Community Association in Ottawa and I was a participant in the Lobby Training.

"We must open doors and we must see to it they remain open so that others can pass through".

These are the words on a poster that we received at the graduation of our lobby training. Some of you were there. For new Canadian women, these words are very important.

Many of us come from countries where we did not have the opportunity to participate in the democratic process. For some of us, it was because as citizens, we were not allowed to express our views freely, while for others, it was simply because we were women.

For us to become involved in municipal decision making, we not only have to realize we have a right to speak, but that we have something important to say. Then we have to understand how the system works.

Participating in the Women's Lobby Training gave us more energy to stand up and address our issues to different politicians.

As we networked with the diversity of women across the city, we discovered we have similar concerns regarding the specific challenges that women face in

accessing good employment, safe and affordable housing, quality child care and a network of services for ourselves and our families. Women have specific insights to bring to good city planning.

Since Ottawa is a diverse community, it is good for politicians to know the needs of their population. If the city wants to be sure it hears from immigrant women, as well as immigrant men, it needs to take special care to make sure that will happen.

I urge you to support the partnership and call upon city managers and staff to work with the City for All Women Initiative to integrate gender and diversity into city planning. Thank You.

**Valerie Collicott,
WISE, Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments**

Good morning, my name is Valerie Collicott, I am the Policy & Administrative Coordinator of Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments – WISE. We work with communities and the city to conduct safety audits to make our transit way and city streets safer. We see the importance of gender inclusive planning. When the streets are safer for women, they are safer for everyone.

As a member of the Regional Coordinating Committee to End Violence Against Women, we have seen positive outcomes when the city works in collaboration with women's organizations and takes women's specific needs into account. Two successes worth mentioning are the Criminal Justice Roundtable Against Violence Against Women and the Victim's Abuse Policy of the Employment and Financial Assistance program. Likewise, we are pleased to see that women and gender equality are now part of the Community Grant Funding criteria. It is these kinds of gender inclusive policies and planning that help to create a more equitable and inclusive city.

No planning is gender neutral. Women and men experience cities differently. Whether we look at roads, public transit, housing, employment or income support, it is important to take into account the different needs of women and men and among diverse populations. To look at these differences at the planning stage, it is possible to prevent social problems and make efficient use of resources.

As the City of Ottawa renews this partnership, it is joined by the other cities. Over the past two years, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has produced resource materials on creating women-friendly cities. The City of Toronto Working Group on the Status of Women and Gender Equity is a task group of a Mayor's Roundtable. In Vancouver, City Council recently established the Women's Task Force to develop a gender equality policy and a gender equality plan for the City.

The Human Resources Plan of the City of Ottawa points to specific areas in which women's specific needs should be addressed, but there is no action plan and very little mention of gender in city plans today. By renewing this partnership, we can hope to enable city and community to work together to implement gender inclusive practices and strategies. And, in that way, help to fulfill the goals of Ottawa 20/20. Thank you

**Jacqueline Nyiramukwende,
Rwandese Community Association, Women's Committee**

Good morning, my name is Jacqueline Nyiramukwende; I am the women's representative for the Rwandese Community Association.

I participated in the development of a guide for ensuring the inclusion of diverse women in consultations. You will find a draft of this booklet in the folder given you today.

In our discussion, we realized the most cost-effective use of limited resources is to ensure the full-diversity of women and men are taken into account in consultation and planning. It is not enough to say that 'citizens' will be consulted. It is necessary to ask who those citizens are and insure the inclusion of women and other equity-seeking groups.

It also means recognizing there are differing needs between women and men; and differences among women. For example, women are more likely to experience poverty, earning only 71 cents to what men earn, while women of colour, aboriginal women and women with disabilities earn even lower salaries.

We urge you to support the recommendations so as to help bring this understanding of gender and equity to city planning.

Finally, we wish to thank Councillors on this Committee as well as managers from Community and Protective Services and Corporate Services for working with us this past year.

As you may know bread and roses are an international symbol for women working for equality around the world.

We thought it appropriate to give each of you a rose to say that we don't only want bread, meaning good jobs and affordable housing, but we want roses too. These roses represent the opportunity to make our views known and be included in decisions made by the City of Ottawa.

Thank you for helping to make this a reality.