

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

**Deputation to Health, Social Services and Recreation Committee (HRSS) on Sept 15, 2005**

**Subject:** Community input into Strategic Plan of Community and Protective Services

**Bonjour Madame Chair and members of the Committee.**

Je m'appelle Nicole Soucy. I am a community member of the Steering Committee of the Initiative; une ville pour toutes les femmes/City for All Women Initiative. We are here today to express our appreciation to Community and Protective Services for having taken our input into account in the development of this three-year Strategic Plan.

The City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)/ *Initiative; une ville pour toutes les femmes (IVTF)*, is a collaborative partnership between the City of Ottawa and diverse women representing women's organizations and equality-seeking groups. Federally funded by Status of Women Canada, this initiative aims to:

**Strengthen the capacity of the full-diversity of women and the City of Ottawa to work in partnership so as to create a more inclusive city and promote gender equality.**

I pass the microphone to Maria Cristina Serje, who will speak to ways in which our input was considered in the development of this Strategic Plan.

Hello, my name is Maria Cristina Serje. I am a Community Developer at Western Community Health Centre and I am active in the City for All Women Initiative.

When the City for All Women Initiative renewed its partnership last May, this Committee and City Council approved the following motion:

**That the City of Ottawa and Community and Protective Services, as the lead department, work with the City for All Women Initiative/ Initiative une ville pour toutes les femmes to ensure that the goal, of implementing practices and strategic plans**

**that increase gender sensitivity and enhance gender equality, is realized.**

Toward this end, the department invited the City for All Women Initiative to provide input into the draft plan. We organized a focus group of women representing diverse communities and organizations who reviewed the plan in detail. Our major concern was that issues of diversity and equality be integrated into the plan.

We provided a written submission of our input and then met with staff to review the response. We were pleased that most of the input was incorporated into the plan. Of particular importance was a statement on equality and inclusion that we feel lays the groundwork for what is fundamental in being able to ensure the needs of the full-diversity of women and men are addressed. We have requested that this same statement be included in the City Corporate Plan.

I am currently participating in the Gender Equality Reference Group. We are city staff and community, working together to developing a Gender Equality Guide to be piloted in the implementation of the CPS Strategic Plan. In keeping with the motion passed by this committee to bring a gender equality analysis to Strategic Plans, we have requested that the Corporate Plan include an action step to implement this piloted guide city-wide.

We know that there is a long road ahead in making gender equality and equality for all citizens a reality. However, our experience of being heard in the development of the CPS Strategic Plan is one important step forward. Thank you to staff and managers of Community and Protective Services for the steps you are taking to undertake planning in collaboration with the community.