

Women's Eyes on the City Budget 2007

The decisions City Council makes in the coming weeks will have a great impact on the lives of our families, organizations and communities. We have reviewed City Council's decisions on the Budget Directions that are now being used by city staff to draft the budget. We ask City Council and residents in Ottawa to consider the following concerns when reviewing the draft budget to be released on February 7th. Each of us have an important role to play to let our City Councillors know what we believe is most important to ensure a healthy and inclusive city. Visit www.ottawa.ca to know how.

A Gender Equality Lens on the Budget

To consider how the full diversity of women and men would be differently affected by a budget, we are looking at it with a "gender equality lens". This means asking the following questions:



- How will women and men; girls and boys be affected differently?
- What impact will it have on specific groups of women who may be at greater risk of exclusion (Aboriginal, francophone, visible minority, immigrant, seniors, youth, low-income, persons with disabilities)?
- Does it support programs and services that promote an inclusive city and quality of life for all?
- Will the reduction or elimination of a service result in women carrying an extra load in unpaid work, as primary caregivers and community volunteers?

On how the City raises funds - Revenues:

- **Change how cities are funded:** The City of Ottawa does not have a spending problem; it has a revenue problem. Ontario is the only province to fund services like housing, childcare, and community health with property taxes. Property taxes are no longer sufficient for funding all that cities have to do. We cannot afford the steady rise in our property taxes that we pay directly as homeowners or through our rent increases. We wish to work with the Mayor and City Council to take immediate action to call on the provincial and federal government to identify better ways to fund cities. Until this is fixed, we cannot keep property taxes down at the expense of deteriorating quality of life.
- **User Fees:** We oppose increases in user fees that make services inaccessible for low-income citizens, for example recreation fees. We know what this has meant for families in Ottawa. As mothers, we recognize that when our youth are doing physical activity, they are more healthy, self-confident and engaged; which is key for crime prevention. We know that many low-income women will put their health last, when a recreation fee means less money for meeting family needs. Subsidies are often difficult to access.

- **Transit Fares:** Women, especially immigrant, Aboriginal, low-income women, senior and women with disabilities, rely on public transit, not only to go to work, but to ensure their families access services and education. Low-income families already find it difficult to pay the monthly bus pass, especially in large families. Don't keep taxes down by making those who rely on public transit pay higher fares; while those with cars do not experience higher fees.

How the city spends its money:

- **Maintain Service Upgrades:** We are pleased that Council directed city staff to develop a draft budget that will include the needed upgrades to services that Council approved in 2006. We ask Council to ensure this remains in the budget, in particular: 1) funds to Ottawa Community Housing Corporation for long-needed maintenance; 2) Francophone subsidized childcare spaces; 3) continuation of Ontario Disability Pass Discount. All of these are critical for enabling a healthy and safe place to live for the full diversity of women and men in our city.
- **Keep Childcare a Public Service:** Community and Protective Services Department is to consider alternative ways of delivering childcare. Alternative service delivery or 'outsourcing' means turning over government services to the private sector. What would this mean for the childcare of our children? We do not want an erosion of standards to the care and to the jobs of the childcare providers.
- **Maintain Staffing Levels Needed for Quality of Service:** Reduction in city staff can reduce quality of service as city staff become over-worked. In particular, we are concerned that staffing levels be maintained in Human Resources where adequate staffing is needed to ensure the Employment Equity Program moves forward.
- **Maintain Social Services:** We are pleased that Council directed staff to include in the budget the \$22 million that funds community groups providing services, like child care, crime prevention, health services, community health and resource centres and the arts. Even this amount will result in service cuts due to rising costs. Further cuts are not sustainable.

We thank City Council for taking steps to ensure that our city continues to promote a quality of life for all the women and men of our city.

City for All Women Initiative (CAWI) / Initiative : une ville pour toutes les femmes (IVTF) is a partnership between women from diverse communities, community organizations, academics and the City of Ottawa. Our aim is 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. We assist the City of Ottawa in using a Gender Equality Lens in planning and decision making.

Making Your Views Matter

2007 City Budget

City Council is soon to make some important decisions that will affect the quality of life for you, your family and community.

On February 7th, City Council will release the draft budget for 2007. You will have a little more than two weeks to let your Councillor know what you think before they vote on the budget February 26-28th.

Will it make a difference?

- Living in this city, you have experiences of what is needed to have a healthy and safe community.
- Councillors need to hear from you to make good decisions.

So what can I do?

FIRST, find out what is in the draft budget which is to be released in City Council on February 7th

- Go to City Hall to sit in the public gallery of Council Chamber and watch.
- Watch City Council live on Rogers 22 or on the city web-site, www.ottawa.ca.
- Visit the city web-site to read the draft budget after February 7th.
- Listen for comments on the radio.
- Watch for articles and comments in the newspaper.
- Visit www.cawi-ivtf.org to read CAWI's concerns.

SECOND, consider what is most important to you.

THIRD, let your Councillor know your views

Don't know the name of your City Councillor? To find out who is your councillor, visit the City's website at www.ottawa.ca. Click on this link to access the City's map of all the wards http://www.ottawa.ca/city_hall/mayor_council/wards/city_wards_en.html. You can also call the City at 3-1-1 to ask assistance.

Ask a question at a Councillor-sponsored consultation, February 12-16.

Call your Councillor to ask the time and place of the one for your ward.

Send a message by PHONE, LETTER or E-MAIL



By phone, you can call during the daytime to talk to staff or call in the evening to just leave a message on the machine. **It's that easy!**

A sample message:

My name is _____. I live in your ward, my phone (address) is _____ (OR I represent _____ organization who works in your ward). I am calling (writing) to give you my input on the 2007 City's Budget.

(state your key concern, why you think this point is important and how it affects you, your organization or community)

I look forward to hearing from you on how you will vote on these issues.
Thank you.

Present a statement to City Council, February 19-23. Visit the web-site for the contact to schedule your 5 minute presentation, www.ottawa.ca.

Watch how your Councillor votes, February 26 – 28th.



Our Views Matter! Notre point de vue compte!

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Councillors' Public Consultations - 2007 City's Draft Budget

Last updated January 31, 2007 by City for All Women Initiative

Saturday February 10th

Ward 3- Barrhaven: Councillor Jan Harder (613-580-2473)
Walter Baker Sport Centre, 100 Malvern Drive from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
** **Mayor Larry O'Brien may be present**; confirmation available Tuesday, **February 6**
by calling his office 613-580-2496.

Monday February 12th

Ward 13- Rideau-Rockcliffe: Councillor Jacques Legendre (613-580-2483)
Manor Park School, 100 Braemar Street at 7:00 pm

Ward 16- River: Councillor Maria McRae (613-580-2486)
Jim Durrel Recreation Centre, 1265 Walkley Road, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday February 13th

Ward 1- Orléans: Councillor Bob Monette (613-580-2471)
Ward 2- Innes: Councillor Rainer Bloess (613-580-2472)
Ward 11- Beacon Hill-Cyrville: Councillor Michel Bellemare (613-580-2481)
Ward 19- Cumberland: Councillor Rob Jellett (613-580-2489)
**Wards 1,2,11 &19 All together at the Orléans Client Service Centre, 225 Centrum
Blvd at 7:00 pm

Ward 5- West Carleton-March: Councillor Eli El-Chantiry (613-580-2475)
Kinburn Client Service Centre, 5670 Crap Road at 7:00 pm
** there is also a meeting on February 15th, 2007

Ward 8- College: Councillor Rick Chiarelli (613-580-2478)
Ward 9- Knoxdale-Merivale: Councillor Gord Hunter (613-580-2479)
**Wards 8 &9 Both at Sir Guy Carleton High School, 155 Centrepoint Drive at 7:00 pm

Ward 10- Gloucester-Southgate: Councillor Diane Deans (613-580-2480)
363 Lorry, Greenberg Community Centre at 7:30 pm

Ward 12- Rideau-Vanier: Councillor Georges Bédard (613-580-2482)
Patro Community Centre, 40 Cobourg Street at 7:00 pm

Ward 18- Alta Vista: Councillor Peter Hume (613-580-2488)
Canterbury High School, 900 Canterbury Avenue from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Ward 22- Gloucester-South Nepean: Councillor Steve Desroches (613-580-2751)
Southpoint Community Centre, 1220 Stoney Drive, at 7:00 pm
** there is also a meeting on February 15th, 2007

Thursday February 15th

Ward 4- Kanata North: Councillor Marianne Wilkinson (613-580-2474)
Kanata Senior Centre, 2500 Campo Drive from 1:00 to 3:00 pm

** there is also a meeting in the evening with other councillors

Ward 4- Kanata North: Councillor Marianne Wilkinson (613-580-2474)

Ward 5- West Carleton-March: Councillor Eli El-Chantiry (613-580-2475)

Ward 6- Stittsville-Kanata West: Councillor Shad Quadri (613-580-2476)

Ward 23- Kanata South: Councillor Peggy Feltmate (613-580-2752)

**Wards 4,5,6 & 23 All together at Holy Trinity Catholic High School, 180 Katimivik
from 7:00 to 9:00pm

Ward 7- Bay: Councillor Alex Cullen (613-580-2477)

Woodroffe Elementary School, 235 Woodroffe Avenue from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Ward 14- Somerset: Councillor Diane Holmes (613-580-2484)

First United Church, 397 Kent Street at 7:00 pm

Ward 15- Kitchissippi: Councillor Christine Leadman (613-580-2485)

Churchill Seniors Recreation Centre, 345 Richmond Road at 7:00 pm

Ward 17- Capital: Councillor Clive Doucet (613-580-2487)

Glebe Community Centre, Main Hall at 7:30 pm

Ward 22- Gloucester- South Nepean: Councillor Steve Desroches (613-580-2751)

St. Jeromes Elementary School, 4330 Spratt Street at 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

Monday February 19th

Ward 20- Osgoode: Councillor Doug Thompson (613-580-2490)

Greely Community Centre, 1448 Meadow Drive at 7:00 pm

Unconfirmed Date

Ward 21- Rideau-Goulbourn: Councillor Glenn Brooks (613-580-2491)

Ottawa City Council 2006-2010

Send mail to:

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