

Premier McGuinty Take Back Public Health Costs Now!

The province must upload the cost of services downloaded onto municipalities.
The health of my community depends upon it.

WHY?

All of us rely on public health services like public health nurses, health education, and disease prevention. The City of Ottawa has an important role to play in delivering these services, but it cannot afford to pay for them.

Ontario is the only province where such important social services are paid from local property taxes. The City of Ottawa is currently requesting that the province address this issue by uploading 100% of public health costs and address the funding imbalance in other cost-shared programs, such as child care and long term care.

The province "downloaded" the cost of many social programs onto cities without giving them new ways to raise the funds. It's time the province "upload" by paying the full cost of these services now.

WHY PUBLIC HEALTH?

Cities in Ontario now pay 25% of public health costs. This year alone, Ottawa will pay \$9.7 million for important public health programs.

In December 2007, Ottawa City Council voted to remove public health costs from the City's base budget in 2008 and future budgets. It is calling on the province to take back the full cost in the 2008 provincial budget, which is to be passed in March. This is our opportunity to work with City Council to call for a better deal for our city.

THE PROVINCE HAS MORE MONEY TO PAY FOR IT

Cities deliver 60% of public services, however city governments receive only 8 cents from every dollar Canadians pay in taxes, while the federal and provincial governments receive 92 cents. Cities have to choose between raising property taxes and user fees or cutting important community services, while the federal and provincial budgets have surpluses.

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Uploading public health in the 2008 budget is one step in the right direction.

We cannot rely on property taxes alone; nor can our city continue to raise user fees for public transit and recreation to make ends meet.

WHAT HAPPENS WITH MY POSTCARD?

Sign and deposit your card in the box at the location where you received it. Join us in early March when we will invite the press to go with us to deliver them to Premier McGuinty here in Ottawa.

For more information: City for All Women Initiative. www.cawi-ivtf.org
Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres of Ottawa. www.coalitionottawa.ca
People for a Better Ottawa. www.betterottawa.ca