



Participating Organizations: CALACS : Centre francophone d'aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel d'Ottawa; Catholic Immigrant Centre (CIC); Centre Espoir Sophie; Centretown Community Health Centre; Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres of Ottawa; Cornerstone Women's Shelter; CUPE Child Care Local 2204; Ethiopian Community Association; Immigrant Women Service of Ottawa (IWSO); Harmony House Women's Shelter; Association Karibu Canada; LAZO (Latin American Women's Organization); Lowertown Community Resource Centre; Minwaashin Lodge, Aboriginal Women's Support Centre; Canada Nepalese Solidarity for Peace; Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women; Ottawa Community Immigrant Service Organization (OCISO); Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre; Ottawa Somali Women's Organization; Somali Community Advancement and Integration Centre; Rwandese Community Association; Southeast Ottawa Centre for a Healthy Community; TAPP (The Antipoverty Project); The Well / La Source; Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health; Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre; Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments (WISE)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)
Initiative:une ville pour toutes les femmes (IVTF)
www.cawi-ivtf.org
 City of Ottawa, www.ottawa.ca, phone: 311

Our Views Matter!

Diversity of Women Influencing the City of Ottawa



Produced by:

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

In collaboration with: the City of Ottawa and Community organizations committed to Gender Equality with funds from Status of Women Canada, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres of Ottawa, 2007

City Government Matters!

Decisions that affect our every day lives are made by three levels of government: Federal, Provincial and **Municipal**.

Our municipal government, the City of Ottawa, has all or partial responsibility for many services:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing and Shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> Police and Crime Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Funding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment and Financial Assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transit and Roads |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of Green Spaces and the Environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Library | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paramedics | <input type="checkbox"/> Water and Sewage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Department | <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage and Recycling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Term Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Child care |

Which of these services are of concern to you and your community or organization?



Women Have A Lot To Contribute

Women have particular insights to bring in helping city leaders to create quality services, because we see what is needed as we...

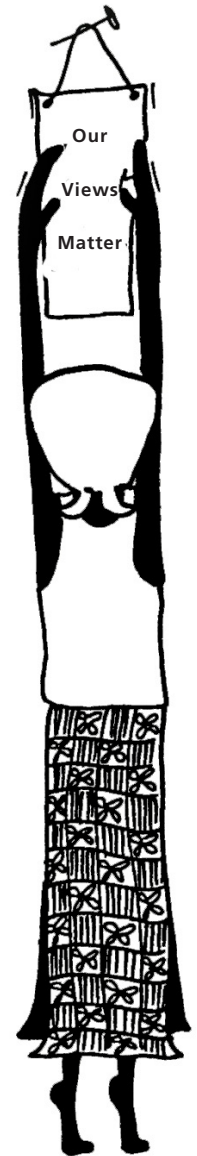
- Care for Families,
- Volunteer in our community,
- Provide and receive services.

We Can Make a Difference

There are success stories of women in Ottawa speaking up and being heard by city staff and politicians.

We can build on these experiences and then pass our learning on to our communities.

We have both a right and responsibility to do so.



Is there an issue you and your community want to see addressed by the City of Ottawa?

To Get Started:

- Consider the possible solutions to the problem.
- Find out how the City of Ottawa might address this.
- Visit the City Web-site: If you don't have a computer, ask a friend to help you..

Go to www.ottawa.ca
Click on City Hall.

You Will Find:

- City staff and their departments.
- Committees and their area of responsibility.
- Reports on issues.
- Consultations open to the public.

Ask other community organizations who work on the issue.



There Are Many Ways to Make Your Views Known



- Inform your City Councillor**
Call, e-mail, fax or write him or her.
Set up a meeting with him or her.
Thank your Councillor when they vote in your favor.
Invite a Councillor to your events.
Invite a Councillor to your community or organization.
- Present at a Standing Committee**
- Speak to a citizen Advisory Committee**
Ask for their support.
Apply to be a member.
- Talk with City staff**
- Participate in Public Consultations**
- Organize a vigil or rally at City Hall**
- Circulate a petition**
- Put your views in the Media**
Write a letter to the editor.
Arrange an interview with the media.
- Participate in municipal elections**
Ask a question at a candidate's meeting.
Organize a candidate's meeting.
Support a Councillor running for office.
Run for office, become a Councillor!!!

Learn How City Government Works

Mayor

City Council

24 MEMBERS (MAYOR PLUS 23 COUNCILLORS)
EACH COUNCILLOR REPRESENTS A WARD
MEMBERS ELECTED FOR 4 YEAR TERMS

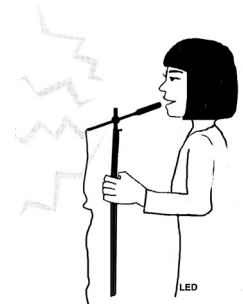
- Usually meets on 2nd and 4th Wednesday
- Check the city web-site for upcoming agenda and to view videos of past Council discussions.
- Not sure who is your Councillor?
Visit city web-site to find your ward.



Standing Committees

COMPRISED OF CITY COUNCILLORS
CITIZENS CAN PRESENT THEIR VIEWS
MOST DECISIONS ARE REFERRED TO
CITY COUNCIL FOR FINAL APPROVAL

- Agriculture and Rural Affairs.
- Community and Protective Services.
- Corporate Services and Economic Development.
- Planning and Environment.
- Transit.
- Transportation.



City Staff

MANAGERS OF EACH DEPARTMENT
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT
THE DECISIONS MADE BY CITY COUNCIL

- Managers report to a Standing Committee
- See the Administrative Structure on the city web-site to know who are the key decision makers and how to reach them

Advisory Committee

ADVISORY COMMITTEES COMPRISED
OF CITIZENS WHO APPLY TO BE MEMBERS

- Each Advisory Committee reports to a Standing Committee
- Provide advice to City Council
- Meetings open to the public

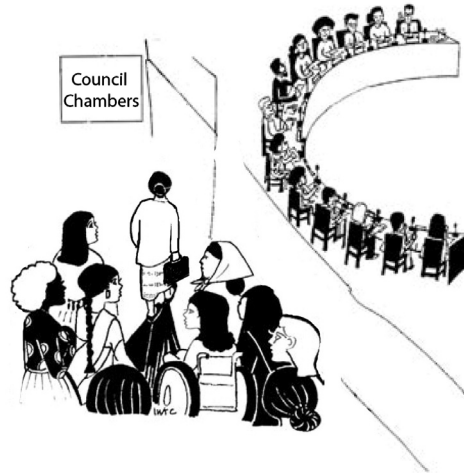


Visit the city web-site at www.ottawa.ca
for more information

Select the City Councillors to Influence

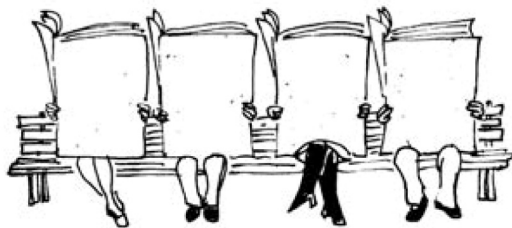
Consider:

- Who is the Councillor that represents your ward.
- Which Councillors sit on the Standing Committee that will address your issue.
- Which Councillors would be most supportive.



To Learn More About a City Councillor:

- Ask other community groups who share your concerns.
- Read the newspaper to see what Councillors say.
- Listen to the radio for interviews with Councillors.
- Watch City Council meetings on Rogers Cable 22 (Cable 23, in French).
- Attend City Council meetings and Standing Committees.



Communicate Your Message From Your Home or Community

Leave a Phone Message

- Call to leave a message for a Councillor.
- If you call after hours, you can just leave a voice mail. It's that easy!

"Hello, my name is and I live in your riding (or my organization is in your riding), I am concerned about ..., important that..., I want you to...."

- Ask your friends to call too.

Mail, Fax or E-mail a Letter

- State the problem, the impact on your community, what you want the Councillor to do and ask them to get back to you.
- It can be short and to the point.
- Ask your friends to write too.



Circulate a petition.

- State your concern and what you want to happen.
- Collect names, addresses and signatures.
- Send it to your Councillor.



Meet With Your City Councillor

8 EASY STEPS

One – Identify the Councillor

Two – Put your team together

Three – Prepare your message

Identify the key messages.

Research key facts and figures.

Four – Call the Councillor's office to book a meeting

Five – Plan your meeting

Six – Meet with the Councillor

Remember you are the expert on your issue.

Introduce your team.

Explain your issues.

Get a commitment.

Thank them.

Seven – Send a thank you letter after the meeting

Remind him or her what they agreed to do

Stay in touch; let your Councillor know what you are doing.

Eight – Record your experience

So you can follow up on what was said and reflect on how to be even more effective the next time.



Present Your Views to a Standing Committee

What is a Deputation?

A deputation is a formal written or verbal statement to make your views known to City Council.

Why Does the City do This?

It is one way for City Councillors to listen to those who elected them. In this way, City governments demonstrate they are open to citizen input.

Where Are They Presented?

Deputations are usually made to one of the Standing Committees. In that way, you make your views known to the Councillors on that Committee.

Why Make a Deputation?

This is a great way to educate City Councillors about your issue and to get your message out publicly. You get your point of view on the public record.

When Can I Make a Deputation?

You can ask to speak to an issue that is being discussed in a Standing Committee. You call the Committee Coordinator to schedule your 5 minute presentation. Bring friends with you to support you.

