



City for All Women Initiative
Initiative: une ville pour toutes les femmes

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT // PAGE 1

ABOUT CAWI

CAWI is a unique collaborative of women from diverse communities, organizations, and academia working with Ottawa decision makers to create a more inclusive city and promote gender equality. Since 2004, CAWI has been making a difference in women's lives, in our communities, our city and beyond.

To work toward our vision of a city where all women are included, CAWI draws upon the knowledge and experience of women across diversity. These women learn from one another to carry out research in the community, collaborate to problem solve, and work with community partners to bring about positive change.

We recognize that as cities assume more responsibility in the provision of services, they are increasingly important in making decisions that affect our everyday lives.

We believe that cities can become better places to live when the ideas and concerns of the full diversity of women are taken into account.

We understand that some women (i.e. Aboriginal, immigrants, Francophones, racialized, women living on low-income and women with disabilities) face additional challenges in having their experiences valued and understood.

AREAS OF WORK

**EQUITY AND
INCLUSION**

**FACILITATION
FOR CHANGE**

**CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>EQUITY AND INCLUSION</i>	<i>PAGE 2</i>
<i>FACILITATION FOR CHANGE</i>	<i>PAGE 2</i>
<i>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</i>	<i>PAGE 3</i>
<i>MILESTONES</i>	<i>PAGE 4</i>
<i>CONTACT</i>	<i>PAGE 4</i>



City for All Women Initiative
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COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT // PAGE 1

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

EQUITY AND INCLUSION LENS

CAWI, in partnership with the City of Ottawa, developed the Equity and Inclusion Lens EI Lens which aims to guide city staff developing practices and policies that are inclusive of people who face barriers to city services and employment (Aboriginal, Francophone, LGBT community, immigrants, people living in poverty, people with disabilities, racialized communities, seniors, women, and youth).

- Developed the EI Lens Handbook and 11 Diversity Snapshots with the City of Ottawa
- Since the launch of the training in 2015: 44 city staff were trained to conduct EI Lens workshop in respective departments. Approximately 400 staff trained and prepared to use the EI Lens

FACILITATION FOR CHANGE

A diversity of women provide facilitation and training to enable groups and organizations to reflect, learn and take action to promote positive change. Participants included Aboriginal women, women living with disabilities, immigrant women, racialized women, women living in poverty, and Francophone women.

Community organizations and agencies across Ottawa utilize the skills of diverse teams of CAWI facilitators to carry out visioning, planning and problem solving.

CAWI's facilitator network promotes positive change within Ottawa's communities and

ADVANCING EQUITY AND INCLUSION IN MUNICIPALITIES

Since 2014, CAWI coordinated a nation project bringing together municipalities and women's organizations to develop "Advancing Equity and Inclusion: A Guide for Municipalities".

- Since 2015, workshops were conducted Lethbridge, AB; Vancouver, BC; Toronto, ON; and Stratford, PEI
- Hosted 2 national partner meetings in Ottawa for 30 participants spanning municipal staff, academics, and community organizations

"CAWI is working to make cities more open and inclusive places for women to live and work build awareness about inclusivity and reflect the diverse nature of the community the city serves." The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Status of Women, Mayor's Breakfast in Honour of International Women's Day

organizations. Facilitators bring their lived experience and perspectives to help others reflect, learn and take action.

Over the course of 2011-2012, CAWI provided training to 75 women through two of 5-month facilitator programs: community engagement facilitation and positive organizational change.

CAWI created a bilingual neighbourhood capacity building guide, "Creating the Change We Want", with Safe People (Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre) for Community Development Framework. Since 2012, 209 participants (residents and service providers) have taken the "Creating the Change We Want" training.





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COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT // PAGE 1



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT **CIVIC PARTICIPATION TRAINING**

Since 2004, a total of 250 women, from diverse backgrounds, have graduated from CAWI's five-month Civic Participation Training. In three of those trainings, participants were recruited by Community Health and Resource Centres from priority neighbourhoods and formed action teams to engage their neighbourhoods in bringing their views forward to City of Ottawa decision makers.

WOMEN'S ACTION FORUMS

CAWI has hosted over 40 Women's Action Forums at City Hall that have enabled women to discuss emerging issues of importance to women in Ottawa (e.g. city budgets, election issues, affordable housing, transit systems, child care). These forums allow participants to hear more about the municipal issues, to share their views about how it affects the lives of Ottawa residents, and to discuss how they can, both individually and collectively, act to address the specific problems identified. In 2016, Action Forums on understanding Islamophobia, changing public services, and anti-Black racism were held

ENGAGING WITH CITY DECISION MAKERS AND THE MEDIA

CAWI has supported women in presenting more than 50 deputations to Committees of City Council, in meeting with their City Councillors, and in conducting interviews with the media on issues that matter to them (e.g. City budgets, election issues, affordable housing, transit systems, childcare).

Women are supported to draw upon their own cultures and creativity to express their views and experiences through multiple mediums: skits,

songs, and videos. Women distribute materials in multiple languages (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Somali).

MAKING VOICES COUNT

Making Voices Count works with city decision makers to create a city for all, particularly those who are low-income. It is driven by residents, the Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres, City for All Women Initiative, and community partners. Making Voices Count builds on the momentum of the previous project, Making Votes Count.

Making Votes Count engaged low-income across the city in getting out the vote for the Municipal, Provincial and federal election.

- City Council voted to reinstate services that were scheduled to be cut in draft city budgets (2004 – 2011).
- City Council voted to use the Equity and Inclusion Lens to conduct a study on the impact of the September 2011 reductions in bus services.
- City Council mandated OC Transpo to work with communities to ensure that the new Presto System for bus of O-train would be accessible for people living on low-income (2012)
- Many low-income residents voted who have not voted before, contributing to Ottawa having one of the highest turnout (2015)
- City Council used EI Lens to eliminate the top-up payment for Para Transpo users (2016)
- Received widespread media coverage for MVC's efforts at City Council to create a low-income transit pass

2016

CITY FOR ALL WOMEN INITIATIVE

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT // PAGE 4

AWARDS AND MILESTONES

2009: CAWI was awarded the United Way Community Builder Award for its work of engaging immigrant women in the democratic process.

2010: CAWI's Director received the Marion Dewar Defender of the Public Good Award, presented by the Social Planning Council for the work of CAWI.

2012: CAWI's Director won the Mayor's Community Builder Award in recognition of CAWI's contribution to the City.

2013: Southeast Ottawa Community Centre presented CAWI with the Community Partner Award for "outstanding contribution to the empowerment of women...and for the work on inclusion and equity."

2014: CAWI celebrated its 10th anniversary

2015: CAWI at FCM Annual General Meeting

2015: CAWI, in collaboration with other municipalities, released "Advancing Equity and Inclusion: A Guide for Municipalities"

2016: CAWI's work is mentioned by Minister of Status of Women, Patty Hajdu, during the Mayor's International Women's Day Breakfast.

**CAWI'S PROGRAMS ARE
MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO
THE GENEROUS DONATIONS
OF OUR PARTNERS AND
DONORS.
CONSIDER DONATING
TODAY!**

PAST AND PRESENT FUNDERS

City of Ottawa, Community Foundation of Ottawa, Canadian Union of Public Employees, C.E.P., Crime Prevention Ottawa, Catherine Donnelly Foundation, Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Ontario Trillium Foundation, PSAC Social Justice Fund, Status of Women Canada, United Way Ottawa.

CONTACT US



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