



The Chinese Canadian Collective

Municipal Elections Questionnaire

About Us

The Chinese Canadian Collective is an Ottawa-based organization dedicated towards examining Chinese Canadian experiences, issues, and representation. The collective hosts community events and digital media campaigns in the city to meet its goals.

As settlers of Turtle Island, CCC acknowledges the colonial history and oppression that has shaped this land also known as Canada. CCC operates within the city of Ottawa, which is built on unceded and unsundered Algonquin territories.

Demographics

Chinese Canadians make up approximately 35,000 of the city's population and is the 2nd biggest ethnic minority in Ottawa. It is also one of the fastest growing Chinese Canadian hubs in the country.

Municipal Impact

Municipal policy impacts the everyday lives of Ottawa residents and marginalized groups. We have created a questionnaire focusing on issues in the Chinese community to inform voters on candidates' policies and give a voice to our concerns.

The questionnaire is being sent out to all mayoral and city councillor candidates who have publicly listed emails. We will be publishing our received answers on our social media platforms to inform voters of candidates' policy.

We are asking candidates to respond in short answer with a recommendation of a 150 word count per response. Please submit your answers by email to chinesecanadianco@gmail.com by Wednesday, September 26 @ 5pm. We look forward to your responses.

Questionnaire

1. Many newcomers and marginalized folks, including Chinese seniors and families, use and frequent community centres to stay active and involved. Some community centres are located in neighbourhoods with high concentrations of the Chinese community such as the Kanata Recreation Centre, Richcraft Recreation Complex (Kanata), Minto Recreation Complex (Barrhaven), Walter Baker Sports Centre, Plant Recreation Centre, McNabb Community Centre and more. How will you ensure these community centres are accessible to [those who do not speak or read the dominant languages](#), being English or French?
2. OC Transpo
 - a. This fall, numerous bus routes were changed and shortened to encourage LRT transfers. The LRT has since been delayed to Winter of 2019. Shortened routes like that of the [#11](#) that passes through Somerset St. West and the Chinatown area impact the Chinese community, including seniors, where additional transfers and shortages may affect their accessibility to and from destinations. What will you do to address these issues while the LRT is delayed and while the LRT is operating?
 - b. How will you engage customers whose dominant language is not English or French in public consultations regarding issues such as bus route changes, [town halls](#) and [customer feedback](#)?
 - c. What will you do to ensure that OC Transpo's services are more affordable and accessible for low-income folks?
3. Current [Rideau Raceway casino ads](#) are targeting the Chinese community in Ottawa with orientalist graphics and advertisements written entirely in Chinese characters. Gambling is a social activity ingrained in Chinese culture and is also a common problem within the community. How will you ensure that the community is not being unfairly targeted for gambling? What will you do to also challenge the stereotypes and racial bias that is prevalent in the city and that Chinese Canadians continue to face?
4. Post-amalgamation, the City of Ottawa has [never had a Black, East or Southeast Asian councillor on city council](#). What will you do to ensure that marginalized groups have the same opportunity and chance to be involved in municipal politics as others do?
5. Chinatown has been experiencing gentrification for years. Newer development is pushing out lower income families and local businesses, changing its landscape and affordability. Chinatown is not only a home to many, but a hub for those from the Chinese community living in other wards to come together to reconnect with food, family and history. How will you ensure that affordable housing and suitable businesses remain while retaining the history and heart of the neighbourhood?