



# 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 unsurrendered 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](mailto: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?
  - AS someone who traveled a lot, technology is power. I have travel to Japan, Thailand and some parts of China (where it is mandarin based) and I don't speak Japanese, Thai or much Mandarin. But with technology such as google translate, wechat, google maps, it has become such a powerful tool to help me.
  - For Chinese people, Wechat is King. We cannot live without it. However, a lot of seniors are still learning to use wechat. I think it would be good for the Chinese community to develop technology classes to teach those who need to learn how to use wechat, google translate, google maps so they can have an understanding of how to travel to Minto Complex with what bus.
  - On a twice a year basis, we should have an meeting with the Chinese community to update them with pictures (as they are most effective in communication) how to get to where with what bus. If they don't know, which Wechat group to ask in.
  - I would like to coordinate the younger generation with the older generation as they both can learn from each other, in terms of culture and technology.
  
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?
    - To be honest, they shouldn't have even shortened or cancel the bus routes until the LRT was running. There should have been an overlap, so it doesn't cause any of these issues that is costing the residents. I would advocate the bus be back and running until the LRT is running for at least a few weeks to ensure it is 100% working. Sometimes it can be running for a week then issues come up. But then bus would be cancelled. There should be at least a 3 week overlap between bus cancellations and LRT. I do believe they are looking to expend the LRT from Baseline to Barrhaven which is excellent news.
  
  - 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?

There are a lot of Chinese residents in the Gloucester-Nepean ward but there is a lack of meetings for the Chinese community. I would like to hold more activities that brings together the community where ideas and discussions can be held to get feedback from them. It would be good to work with the Chinese Associations and groups to have translators there for those who do not speak English so everyone's voices can be heard. I can speak fluently in Cantonese and toisan however my Mandarin is a bit lacking.
  
  - c. What will you do to ensure that OC Transpo's services are more affordable and accessible for low-income folks?

We have one of the most expensive transportation fares for residents in Canada with the least amount of transportation access. It's not balanced. It's

unfair for those who are low-income. Transportation is a huge cost for families. I personally understand this as my family used to be considered low-income, it is a burden. I hope to get a tax break for those who are low-income on the bus fares.

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?

I would work together with the Casino to discuss about not specifically targeting Chinese with their ads. It is a bit too specific in the demographic range. It is unhealthy for the community and families when gambling is a major issue that can tear families apart, as I have personally witnessed the negative consequences of gambling. Moreover, working with the Chinese community to create more activities. As I know that there is a lack of recreation in Ottawa hence seniors and other Chinese just head straight to Casino after work or during holidays.

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?

This is one of the reasons which I am running for city council; is to promote diversity and encourage other minorities to run in the future. Currently, I am the only Chinese woman running in the whole city; despite how many Chinese residents are in the city yet there is not a single representation in the council. I hope that it will promote others who want to run in the future and be more involved in the city councils, have the courage to and with the support of the Chinese community in Ottawa.

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?

- a. To me, I love Chinatown and grew up going to Chinatown as I have been here since 1995. I watched chinatown grow to where it is now. But I think this question is for the Somerset ward/Mayor?
- b. However, I would like to see some more Chinese retailers in the Barrhaven/ Ward 22 area as there are so many Chinese residents here. There should be some Chinese grocery stores and more restaurants or even something similar to a PMALL (not as big of course). We have the land for it, we just require the developer and retailers for it. I know there are a lot of home business in Barrhaven operated by Chinese residents in their basements, and if we have a more marketplace hub in the community, it would be beneficial for everyone.