

# 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?**

City services should be made accessible to all residents of our city. As the nation's capital, we need to continue striving for more languages and cultural markers to be visible and accessible when residents access our recreation centres.

We can improve our active offer of services through a variety of practices that increase inclusion and belonging for all. For example, as an employer, the city of Ottawa needs to ensure hiring practices that lead to leadership roles that are filled by people who are better reflective of our rich multicultural community. Also, as you may know, the City of Ottawa offers interpretation services. I will make good use of these services in order to allow all members of the community to use our community resources such as community resource centres and recreation centres.

I support so much of City for All Women's Initiative's (CAWI) work, including their Equity and Inclusion handbook found here: <http://www.cawi-ivtf.org/publications/equity-and-inclusion-lens-handbook-2018>. And specifically, their current call for an inclusive city and meaningful access to services.

## 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?**

There has been a lack of public consultation as well as poor planning on behalf of OC Transpo in recent years. The recent changes to local bus routes have created longer commutes, unreliable service and left many riders frustrated. I intend to work diligently with the Transit Commission and OC Transpo's planning department to ensure that local bus routes reflect the needs of the communities which they serve. Our transit system needs to be practical and reliable, including buses and the LRT.

**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 ?**

Again, city services should be made accessible to all residents of our city. I believe a city councillor should know their ward well enough to understand which language services need to be made available for public consultations. I will make use of the City's interpreters to ensure everyone can be heard. I will also strive to make information available to as many communities as possible, using my own budget to translate important documents when necessary.

**c. What will you do to ensure that OC Transpo's services are more affordable and accessible for low-income folks?**

A practical, reliable and affordable public transit system is vital to the health of our city and the well-being of its residents. Our current transit fares are too high and the cost of the EquiPass is also out of reach for many low-income folks. As councillor I will work with the Transit Commission and OC Transpo staff to lower bus fares in general, lower the cost of the EquiPass and make the application process simpler and more straightforward.

We also need local bus routes that reflect the needs of the riders in the communities where they travel. I will ensure that such decisions and planning include public consultations with current transit users.

**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?**

The orientalist targeting of members of the Chinese community by the Rideau Carleton Raceway is unfortunate and exploitative. Problem gambling affects the Chinese community over twice as much as the general population and casinos, including the RCR, have built a business model around this. I would support increased Chinese language support through Ottawa Public Health for those impacted by gambling addiction. Prevention based services are crucial here, and among other municipally available tools, culturally informed supports through Ottawa Public Health for those impacted by gambling related difficulties are required.

To the second part of your question, recently a brave resident in the west end posted her horrible experience of racism to Facebook, building awareness of the lived realities of Chinese Canadians in Ottawa. Chinese residents shouldn't have to put their traumatic experiences on display for decision makers to respond. However, these egregious incidents have a way of galvanizing supports. I would look to your expertise as to what might be current priorities for remedies to racial bias and racism lived by residents in our City.

**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?**

I agree that council needs to be more diverse in order to adequately represent the residents of Ottawa. One of my goals as councillor is to amplify the voices of marginalized communities. As a woman, I hope to improve the balance of gender on council. I support the creation of a Women's Bureau at City Hall; women experience the city differently than men, and most often rely on public transit and social services. A city that considers women's lived experience will be beneficial for everyone.

I will also support future policies that encourage diversity and inclusion at City Hall.

Again, I support the efforts of CAWI, who has done exceptional work for meaningful grassroots engagement of racialized women in our city. Attending community conversations such as "Supporting a Diversity of Women to be elected to City Council" (with cawi-ivtf.org and empowernetwork.org) and Righting Relations (with cawi-ivtf.org and countless racialized community leaders), I'm learning that this important issue requires a long-term multipronged commitment. Some interesting strategies used in

other cities to increase diversity in council are ranked ballots, extending permanent residents a vote, and significant investments in mentorship programs. I look forward to hearing your recommendations on ways to continue meaningful engagement with members of Chinese communities.

**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?**

Established, thriving urban neighbourhoods such as Chinatown are subject to infill developments and expensive new builds in a way that is not always respectful of the neighbourhood's residents and their needs. It is important to me to respect the needs of current residents and business owners in such neighbourhoods to prevent the consequences of gentrification.

I am weary of the numerous re-zoning applications that council receives. It is important to consider the existing landscape and affordability of an area before approving re-zoning that will affect how accessible and liveable it is. The concerns of the residents should be heard before council makes those decisions. Also, I am supportive of the implementation of Inclusionary Zoning, where new builds of 10 units or more would be required to allocate 25% of their units to affordable housing. This would ensure that some affordable housing is included in new developments.