

Chinese Canadian Collective

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?

ANSWER

One of the greatest assets of Ottawa is the collaborative nature in which all cultures interact. The many community centres across the City are excellent opportunities to enhance the quality of life through hosting and promoting a variety of activities and general interest events. We can improve community outreach with our partners to ensure the success of our youth and respect for our seniors. I would work to ensure that all staff and volunteers in areas of high concentration for the Chinese community are able to effectively communicate with the community in English, French and the generally spoken language of the area.

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?

ANSWER

While it is unfortunate that LRT Phase 1 has been delayed (time TBD), the City must make sure that there is minimal impact to the community. Consultations must be had with organizations, associations and community groups to hear concerns from those areas possibly affected by changing bus routes.

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 ?

ANSWER

Simultaneous translation for public meetings should be encouraged so as to negate the language barrier in public consultations.

2. OC Transpo

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

ANSWER

OC Transpo affordability is an issue. A review of current practices within Ottawa and other similar-sized municipalities should be undertaken. While level of service needs to be balanced with cost, transit cost geared to income makes sense.

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?

ANSWER

The Chinese culture has a rich background that should be appreciated and respected in every aspect. While organizations should be applauded for reaching-out to specific cultural groups through advertisements in their respective language, there needs to be a balance when such targeted messaging promotes gambling. I would like to see a proportion of advertisements (in appropriate language) helping to educate and offer support for those who are affected by chronic gambling.

The last part of this question is open to much discussion. I would like to think that everyone (regardless of background or identity) has equal opportunity for employment, education and every other amenity offered to citizens of Ottawa. I welcome the opportunity to become even more actively engaged in many of the

community associations to further understand some of the challenges that Chinese Canadians 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?

ANSWER

An inclusive multilingual culture and work environment at City Hall should honour diversity and accessibility. From being actively engaged in many cultural and community associations, I would like to encourage and motivate others from various backgrounds and cultures to take an active interest in municipal politics. As someone who is already known as a collaborator and mentor to students, startups and small business owners, I welcome the opportunity to mentor others on the merits of entering public office.

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?

ANSWER

Chinatown is one of Ottawa's most important areas for cultural exchanges. The character and livability of the area is one of the reasons why it has gained such popularity. Gentrification is a necessity that further propels that part of town into the future. My priority is to honour family values while contributing to modernize a sustainable future.

Developers need to be held accountable for affordable housing. When areas are developed such that older businesses/lower income housing is removed, I would like to see an equal number of options proposed so that those in affordable housing are not inconvenienced. While the City has a process in place for issuing business permits and zoning, I would like to see increased community engagement and collaboration to ensure that the history and 'heart' of neighbourhoods are not lost.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,
Jarrod Goldsmith

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