

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?

I would support a hiring priority for individuals able to speak and read minority languages that are prevalent in the catchment areas of our recreation centres, and, as our City grows, it will be critical to ensure written materials are available in languages commonly spoken in our neighbourhoods.

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?

I have pressed for service changes that will restore the previous level of service pre-delay. Post-delay, some routes will likely require transfers which are common in large cities, but those should always be subject to review.

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?

While I have used my office budget to retain interpretation services when doing, for example, my well-received pop-up office hours when doing those in communities with a prevalence of Chinese speakers, I would require further office budget to do more. I believe the City should make available interpreters and translators in each of our city's non-English and -French languages that are commonly spoken. This will become even more important as our city grows.

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

This term of Council, we made available the Equi-Pass and Equi-Fare that provides a steep discount for low-income residents. There is room to bring those prices down further if Council approves it. Overall, I believe, have advocated for, and will continue to advocate for putting more of the cost of operating OC Transpo and Para-Transpo on the tax base, reversing the 55/45 target split between fares and taxes in order to bring prices down.

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 have been a vocal advocate for diversity and inclusivity, and frequently amplify the messages of our community allies in addressing hate and racism in all its forms. I will continue to do so.

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 don't have a quick answer to this question. Fundamentally, there are systemic issues of racism that our entire community and leadership must address. More specifically to my role, ensuring that

consultation and engagement is done in as inclusive fashion as possible to provide leadership opportunities to every Ottawa resident.

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?

I have been one of Council's most vocal advocates for inclusionary zoning, working with colleagues from across the province to promote it. In the next term of Council, we will debate how to use that new tool, and I will be seeking to ensure we apply it as broadly as possible.

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