

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?

Ottawa's community centres are wonderful meeting places, where neighbours can connect and engage in their community. As you rightly note, however, there are challenges in accessing services for people who do not read or speak English or French. Each community's needs are different, and I believe the City's recreation staff should begin a consultation process with the Chinese Canadian community (and others!) to ask what their community's needs are with respect to community centres and find out how these needs could be met. Some communities might request that Leisure Guides be translated into other languages, while others might feel that a more comprehensive orientation to the community centre, conducted in their language, would be beneficial to encourage involvement and engagement. It is incumbent on City staff to serve the needs of the residents of Ottawa, and the City staff should follow the lead of the community in determining the best way to ensure access to our vibrant community centres for all Ottawans.

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?

OC Transpo has made significant investments in improving services for suburban commuters through the LRT, but I think that seniors and people with low incomes haven't been the highest priority. As a regular user of OC Transpo, this matters to me. I have already seen positive steps being taken by current councillors, who have asked OC Transpo to reconsider the service reductions in light of the delay in the LRT. I think it should be taken a step further - it's important for councillors to be the voice of their Ward's residents

at City Hall, and the councillor for Somerset Ward should be strongly advocating to retain service on popular routes like the #11 and the #14.

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?

Much like the above, I think that it's incumbent on city services, including OC Transpo, to reach out to community groups and follow their lead when it comes to engagement. This could be as simple as translating bus schedules into other languages, or it could involve having employees and community members act as 'wayfinders' when it comes to the bus service. Each community will have different needs, and it would be a mistake for the City to impose a 'one size fits all' approach to improving accessibility for non-English and non-French speaking residents. On a recent walk through Chinatown, I noticed that OC Transpo has started to use signs in multiple languages in some of our neighbourhoods that have a large proportion of residents who don't speak or read English or French - it's a small step, but I think it's a step in the right direction.

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

Affordability and accessibility are important features of a public transit system, as they can be a lifeline for people with low incomes. With that in mind, OC Transpo should consider expansion of the EquiPass program to include more people, and potentially an additional fare-free day for seniors to ensure that their services are affordable for all. I also think that OC Transpo should look at other Canadian cities, including Calgary, that have implemented a 'fare free zone' in the downtown core to encourage ridership and accessibility on public transit. The residents of Ottawa have invested significantly in OC Transpo, and our transit authority should ensure that they're providing accessible and affordable service in return for this investment.

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?

As I mentioned, I have been an OC Transpo user for many years, and I have noticed that occasionally there are approved ad campaigns that are insensitive and inappropriate. I haven't seen the current Rideau Raceway ads, but I looked them up, and I understand your concerns. Advertising isn't specifically the domain of the Ottawa City Council, and in the past the Mayor and council have been limited in their ability to remove ads that comply with the Advertising Standards Council. This was the case with anti-abortion ads back in 2016, and with so-called "9/11 Truthers" ads in 2013. I would support the City sending some type of written feedback to advertisers when members of our community raise concerns about the content of the ad, encouraging the advertiser to proactively respond to these concerns and change the content. I also think that a City Councillor can be useful in helping residents of the ward have their voices heard. This includes providing support when residents of the ward want to approach the media or the company that created the advertisements to explain why the content is offensive. I note that Ms. Yee's editorial in the Ottawa Citizen articulated the issue very well, and as your city councillor, I would strongly support the residents of my ward in speaking out against this insensitive advertising campaign.

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?

It is true that City Council has not had a Black, East or Southeast Asian councillor since amalgamation, which contrasts sharply with our vibrant, multicultural city. I think that city councillors should make strong efforts to engage with marginalized groups to ensure that not only are their voices being heard, but that we help support community members to get involved and consider running for positions on the school board and council. People in marginalized groups, including people who are low income or members of visible minorities or people who are recent immigrants to Canada may feel uncomfortable putting their names forward to elected office. We need to connect with them, find out what their needs are, and find ways to help them understand the contributions they can make to their communities and help them to access support from organizations such as Equal Voice and others who are working to improve diversity in politics.

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?

Chinatown is a rich and vibrant part of our community and social fabric. We are fortunate to have such a place in Somerset Ward rich in heritage and culture for all of our community to enjoy. For our Chinese community living in the neighbourhood and who come from across Ottawa to use it as a hub to reconnect with food, family and history, we must ensure that Chinatown as a distinct business and residential district is protected, to preserve and maintain this vibrant history, heritage and businesses for years to come.

We can do this through special zoning, and look to Vancouver, for example, on how they recently sought to protect and preserve their Chinatown's "special qualities", - "including smaller buildings with narrow storefronts, spaces for businesses and culture, and housing for families" through zoning. Development needs direction - and without it, we end up with unfettered gentrification and buildings that are just too tall. Through community consultations and zoning we can provide direction and promote the right type development for the benefit of the community for years to come!