

Chinese Canadian Collective 2018 Ottawa Election Questionnaire

The Chinese Canadian Collective is an Ottawa-based organization dedicated towards Chinese Canadian experiences, issues, and representation. It 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.

Chinese Canadian Demographics 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 provide short 150 word answers per response. Please submit your answers by email to chinesecanadianco@gmail.com by Wednesday, September 26 @ 5pm. We look forward to your responses.

Chinese Canadian Collective chinesecanadianco.weebly.com chinesecanadianco@gmail.com

1. Many newcomers and marginalized folks, including Chinese seniors and families, use community centres to stay active and involved. Some 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 am keen on installing electronic multilingual auto-translation/communications kiosks at key sites throughout the city!

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 must create rational longterm transit plans, and stop juggling bus numbers, schedules, and routes...because people really value simple consistency of services to get to work, school, and appointments. I'll promptly personally make 100% sure public transit (including vital #11) is pragmatically accessible throughout the city!

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?

Fluent full-time City of Ottawa Specialists would be hired to executively represent our foremost minority languages. Instilling website and live/automated phone modern technology auto-translation "bot" communications services.

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

Low to no income folks, could receive OC Transpo monthly renewable passes good for free non-peak hour travel.

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?

Firstly, I applaud the Chinese Canadian Collective for its proactively firm, tactfully informed leadership toward this issue. It is 'gauche' for capital Ottawa to have handled this as it has, regardless of how other cities choose to do things. There should be a fair advertising cap in Ottawa on how much gambling firms can spend yearly, plus clear rules on what type!

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?

Create a City of Ottawa website Hierarchical Top Executive 'Who's Who' Photo Chart that instantly transparently unveils current city staff demographic realities. Citizens shouldn't need to perform forensic investigations to reveal who that staff is. I am a believer in ultimately ensuring that top available talent is hired for jobs.

In a 'perfect world' our population would in my mind be a smooth multihued visual blend. I would ensure that citywide advertisements habitually utilize images that is truly representative of all existent races, plus I would tactfully advocate that public and private companies have hiring practices that are inclusively reflective of that.

Many minorities have long somehow managed to being represented on City Council. The key to being elected politically besides name recognition, plus a having huge bank account and big money donors...is having the ability to optimally create diverse people networks, and clearly primarily communicate in the English language.

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 neighbourhood's history and heart?

In my opinion, Chinatown merits a Community Entrepreneurship Recreational Friendship Hub Building...the longterm sustainability question is, how large?

The Chinese Community and City of Ottawa should get together to help define a longterm sense of where the most likely future Chinese and "Asian" population is headed...plus how and why; in order to help define Chinatown's generally optimal borders/region...towards respectfully foreseeing its desirably needed esthetic degree of architectural height and multi socio-economic housing density.