



**DATE: November 21, 2018**

**TO: Board members of community associations of Ottawa**

**FROM: CAFES - Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability**

**RE: Advocacy for Priorities and Strategic Initiatives of Next Term of Council**

**Dear Board Members of our Fellow Community Associations,**

On Saturday November 17 2018 Old Ottawa South Community Association (OSCA) hosted a meeting of the CAFES network. It was well attended with over 40 people from over 30 different community, residents' or citizens' associations and coming from 13 different wards of the city.

We feel hopeful. There is a feeling that the outcome of the recent municipal election in Ottawa has strengthened the capacity of our City Council. Analysis of the winning candidate responses to the pre-election survey by Ecology Ottawa shows a high degree of consensus across environmental issues of concern. But will the newly elected and re-elected local politicians follow up on these words?

Soon the new Term of Council Priorities and Strategic Initiatives will be set out. Indeed city staff and the Mayor's Office have already begun working on this direction-setting document for 2019-2022 – something that many of the new councillors may not even be aware of. The just-ending term of council was guided by a strategic plan that has 7 priorities and 65 strategic initiatives!

The members of the CAFES network feel that it is desirable for all councillors – new and re-elected; urban, suburban and rural – and their constituents to engage with the process determining the new term of council strategic priorities.

Towards this end, CAFES has worked on identifying strategic priorities and initiatives that are timely, needed by this city and hence require the leadership of our newly elected Council. Please find the results of our deliberation below. All of these proposals were put forward by members of CAFES and then strongly supported (by process of vote) at our November 17 meeting.

We would urge that:

- your board review our proposals at your next meeting,
- identify which proposals are well aligned with the priorities of your community association, and then
- take them forward to your Ward Councillor, either in writing or in a meeting.

Thank you very much for taking up these important issues. We look forward to receiving your feedback, copies of your messages to councillors or word of meetings you have held.

In the spirit of local democracy, active citizenship, and protection of our environment,

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Note 1. List of Community, Residents' & Citizens Associations represented at Nov 17 2018 CAFES meeting:

- Action Sandy Hill
- Bell Air CA
- Bridlewood CA
- Burritts Rapids CA
- Carlingwood CA
- Centretown Citizens CA
- Champlain Park CA
- Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association
- Climate Hub Ottawa
- Ecology Ottawa
- Fairlea CA
- Federation of Citizens Associations of Ottawa
- Glebe CA
- Glebe Annex CA
- Greater Avalon CA
- Lowertown CA
- Manor Park CA
- Old Ottawa South CA (host)
- Old Ottawa East CA
- Ottawa Community Resource Centre
- Ottawa Stewardship Council
- Ottawa South Eco-Action
- Overbrook CA
- Rideau Roundtable
- Riverview Park CA
- Sustainable North Grenville
- Uniting for Children & Youth
- Waste Watch Ottawa
- Westboro CA

Other Participant: Nu Grocery - sponsor of a waste-free community meeting

<b>Proposed for Inclusion in the 2019-2022 City of Ottawa Term of Council Priorities</b>			
	<b>Term of Council Priority: Climate Action</b>	Become a smart world-class green capital city, resilient in the face of climate change, and a leader in the transition to a low carbon economy.	
<b>Proposed for Inclusion in the 2019-2022 City of Ottawa Term of Council list of Strategic Initiatives</b>			
<b>Environment</b>	1.	Comprehensive Waste Management Strategy, Consultations and Action	A comprehensive strategy is overdue since 2014. Public consultations should underpin finalization of a new strategy which is currently under development by staff. Actions early in the term of council will make this process more credible and should target Ottawa's relatively low diversion-from-landfill rates.
	2.	Ban on Single Use Plastics	Cities across Canada are taking serious actions on single use plastics including plastic bags (banned in cities including Montreal, Victoria, Fort McMurray), plastic straws (banned in Vancouver), plastic cups and take out containers (under review in TO).
	3.	Implementation of Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)	The 20-year Urban Forest Management Plan was approved by Council in June 2017 with broad-based public support. It requires human and financial resources for implementation in budget 2019. Semi-annual status reports to the Environment and Climate Protection Committee should track deliverables.
	4.	Review of Tree By-Laws	Ottawa's two tree protection by-laws were slated for review in 2015. This is a critical deliverable (also under UFMP) that should be completed early in the term of council.
	5.	Street Tree Protection and Renewal Program	Ottawa's inner urban street trees and canopy have been in serious decline for a decade due to disease, age, intensification and infrastructure renewal. A replacement policy and renewal program for canopy trees is needed.
	6.	Significant Woodlands and Rural Forest Protection	The Significant Woodland Policy was adopted by Council but is under appeal. It covers both urban and rural areas, using different criteria for the determination of significance in each. The appeals will be heard in the summer of 2019. The City has developed guidelines for the implementation of the Policy with the help of a stakeholder working group. These deal with how to conduct environmental assessments for development projects in and around significant woodlands and introduce new criteria which address the social and economic benefits of woodlands, in addition to ecological criteria.

	7.	Policy for the Management of City-owned Ecologically Significant Properties	The City owns thousands of acres of undeveloped land, some of which is ecologically significant. The City currently does not have a policy for managing its ecologically significant land with respect to human use, conservation practices, impact on aquifers, and stewardship.
	8.	Acquisition of Conservation Land	The City needs to continue to allocate funds for the acquisition of ecologically significant land, particularly those areas identified in its Natural Heritage priorities map. Ottawa's allocation can be stretched 3X by partnering with national organizations that have access to federal funds and private donors.
	9.	Implement a "no net loss" policy for the retention of the City's total wetland area.	Define a baseline area of PSWs and of non-PSWs greater than 1 hectare in size and commit to retain this area. Wetlands may only be eliminated if new wetland area is created or an existing area is enlarged.
	10.	Implement Low Impact Development (LID) in new developments.	A consolidated guideline is required for Low Impact Development for new developments. Conservation Authorities are promoting LID as a proven method to managing stormwater at its source. LID is a landscape-based approach that improves watershed health. Southern Ontario (Toronto, Credit Valley) has significant experience that Ottawa can draw upon. Developments will be greener and can accommodate higher density with the elimination of stormwater management ponds.
	11.	City to engage in the process to oppose Chalk River Nuclear Waste Storage and Rolphton Nuclear Decommissioning proposals and engage with water protection and risk mitigation	To date City of Ottawa (unlike municipalities on Quebec side of Ottawa River) has not engaged on these two potentially risky nuclear waste proposals upriver. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is leading the processes regarding both projects and the City of Ottawa is an important prospective intervenor with standing.
	12.	Bee-Friendly City: protecting pollinators and their habitats	There are currently 19 Bee Cities across Canada and there is an established framework and set of key measures and actions that Ottawa can adopt to protect pollinators and their habitats.
	13.	Bird Friendly Guidelines and Urban Design	In 2018, the City of Ottawa began developing bird-friendly design guidelines to address the serious threat to bird populations posed by the use of clear and mirrored glass in our built environment. These guidelines must be adopted and applied to new municipal, commercial and residential structures throughout the city. Existing high-risk municipal structures, including transit stations and shelters, community centres and libraries, should be retrofitted to mitigate collisions. Finally, planners, the building

			industry and homeowners must be made aware of the importance of preventing collisions to support local biodiversity.
	14.	Promotion of Local Food Production and Community Gardens	The City has an important role to play in the promotion of a healthy, sustainable, food secure community, providing support for the development of community gardens and enabling residents to grow their own food. Linkage to National Capital Commission programs and land also beneficial.
Climate Protection	15.	Completion and Implementation of Energy Evolution (EE) Strategy	The Energy Evolution Strategy (Phase 1 on renewable energy, complete, phase 2 on buildings, transportation and waste, underway) analyzes pathways for Ottawa to a lower carbon economy with economic benefits. This work, also called “Ottawa’s Community energy Transition Strategy” will be Ottawa’s principal roadmap for climate action. The EE work requires completion, funding and implementation. EE
	16.	Climate Resilience and Adaptation Plan	The 2014 Air Quality and Climate Change Management plan (Ottawa) as well as the Compact of Mayors (to which Ottawa is signatory) requires the City to produce a Resiliency and Adaptation Plan. This is a key deliverable for municipal climate action. Green infrastructure and stormwater management are directly linked to this plan.
	17.	Climate Test for Comprehensive Asset Management	An infrastructure climate test or lens has two components: the GHG mitigation assessment (measures the anticipated GHG emissions impact of an infrastructure project), and the climate change resilience assessment (employs a risk management approach to anticipate, prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a climate change related disruption or impact.) A consistent climate lens methodology has been elaborated by Infrastructure Canada and is available for use by provinces and municipalities to provide meaningful insights into the climate impacts of individual projects and encourage improved choices by project planners.
	18.	Use Local Improvement Charges (LICs) mechanism for Program to finance home energy retrofits, renewable energy and energy storage	The October 2012 amended Ontario LIC financing regulation 322/12 allows municipalities to use LICs as a financing tool to cover capital costs for a wide range of improvements on private properties, including energy efficiency and renewable energy. Toronto has been piloting this providing loans to homeowners which are then repaid via the property tax bill and transferable in case of sale of the building.

Economy & Finance	19.	Study: Economic Benefits, Risks and Opportunities for Ottawa from shift to low carbon economy	The Economic Development Updates for Ottawa and work of Invest Ottawa are well positioned to look at how the coming shift to a lower carbon economy can impact and benefit the region. This is linked to smart city development, building on Ottawa's strengths in R&D and IT, and capacity and appetite in Hydro Ottawa to lead on local distributed energy development.
Transportation	20.	Vision Zero Action Plan	Vision Zero seeks to eliminate harm to any road users including drivers, passengers, pedestrians and cyclists with the premise that no loss of life is acceptable. It promotes results-driven policies and practices with focus on failsafe design. Vision Zero originated in 1994 in Sweden.
	21.	Task Force to Increase Public Transit Ridership	Ottawa's public transit ridership has been declining year on year -- a trend that needs to be reversed if massive investment in public transit is to be justified. A focussed, multi-stakeholder and fresh effort is needed to assess the situation and find the way forward. The status quo is unsatisfactory.
	22.	Five Kilometre Connectivity Plan for LRT	Upon completion, LRT will bring 70% of Ottawans within five kilometres of a station. If more Ottawans took light rail, we reduce congestion, road expenditures and greenhouse gas emissions. To realize these benefits we need to connect Ottawans to LRT stations by transit and active transportation. Currently, the city only looks at connections to LRT stations using a narrow radius (600 to 800 metres).
	23.	Expansion of Active Transportation Network and Active School Travel	Active transportation has benefits ranging from public health, to environmental, social/community, and local economic benefits. Opportunities and priorities for expanding active transportation vary greatly across localities. City of Ottawa can profitably work with community associations to identify these.
Governance	24.	Expand Open Data Initiative and Transparency	To revamp the Open Data portal as a leading edge repository of usable, up-to-date, freely available data made more understandable to all through data visualization. Each Department to commit to an annual data publishing plan and data governance plan, developed in collaboration with civil society stakeholders.