

# **IT'S TIME to Create a City for All**

**Ottawa City Budget 2015**

## **IT'S TIME to let Your Councillor know your views**



On March 11<sup>th</sup>, City Council will make decisions on our City Budget that will affect our every day lives in the city. What will this budget mean for people living on limited incomes? **See these concerns and sample questions you can ask your City Councillor by phone or e-mail.**

**Join us on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to have a visible presence in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 110 Laurier W. where we will say to Council, "IT'S TIME" to create a city for all keeping in mind those who are the most at risk of not accessing services.**

We will offer you a "**IT'S TIME**" symbol to wear so they know we are together. Tell your friends, come show your concerns.

- **Rising Transit Fares**

The rising cost of transit fares makes it increasingly difficult for people on low-income to access services, jobs and afford basic needs. City Council is proposing an increase of 2.5% (new fare: \$3.45 for cash fare, \$3.20 regular ticket).

It's time to freeze fares, or expand the community pass to people on low-income. It's time to revisit the policy of 45/55 - that of every dollar spent on bus operations, 45 cents is paid with taxes, and 55 cents is paid through fares.

**Sample Question:** What will you do to make sure that transit is affordable for people on low-income? It's time to revisit the policy 45/55 as it is making transit unaffordable for many transit users? (Give your own example)

- **Cuts to Services to the Homeless**

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, four centres serving the homeless will be unable to provide current services they deliver to the most vulnerable in our city (Odawa, Centre 507, The Well, Cornerstone). Loss of these services is leaving some of the most vulnerable in our community without the support they need. These cuts have

taken place because of a shift in funding from the federal government to a focus on housing, “Housing First”. The City needs to allow for an overlap period so that the most vulnerable clients of the services being phased out can be supported in the transition to “Housing First” services.

**Sample Question:** I understand four centres are to lose funding for their current services to the homeless due to a shift in federal funding priorities, which puts at risk the most vulnerable in our city. Can you find dollars in this year’s budget to enable these four centres to operate during this transition period?

- **Play Structures in Parks at Risk**

The proposed budget does not provide enough funding to maintain park play structures and keep them safe. For many families on low-income and recent immigrants, these parks are their backyard. If there are not enough funds in the budget, perhaps this is a reason to raise taxes by more than the proposed 2.5%.

**Sample Question:** Will you consider raising the property taxes in order to have enough funds to keep our parks safe and friendly for the children and their families in our communities?

## It’s Time to Create a City for All



### **Making Votes Count Where We Live**

**Coalition of Community Health and  
Resource Centres,  
[www.coalitionottawa.ca](http://www.coalitionottawa.ca)**

**City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)  
[www.cawi-ivtf.org](http://www.cawi-ivtf.org)**