



A City Budget for All

What's in the Draft Budget 2019?

What and how to ASK City Council?

Version of February 20, 2019

The City budget funds important services we use everyday. Take a look at what residents and community groups in Making Voices Count see in the Draft Budget 2019 and consider what message you would like to send to City Council.

Here is how:

You have until March 6th when City Council votes on the Draft Budget 2019 to:

1. Contact the [Mayor or your City Councillor](#)
2. Email budget@ottawa.ca
3. Tweet @ottawacity using the hashtag #ottbudget
4. Call 3-1-1(TTY: 613-580-2401). Rural residents call 613-580-2400
5. Make a five-minute presentation to Standing Committees, Boards and Commissions. See the dates of standing committee meetings covering issues that matter to you:

February 14 – Planning Committee (\$15 million city capital fund for housing)

February 20 – Transit Commission (EquiPass/EquiFare)

February 21 – Community and Protective Services Committee (Community Funding, Affordable Housing, Recreation, Childcare, Ontario Works, Long Term Care)

To register in advance of the meeting, please consult the meeting schedule in [eAgenda](#) and inquire with the listed contact person or call 3-1-1. Presenters are encouraged to provide a copy of their presentation electronically in advance of the meeting.

For more information on the City Budget 2019 process and other committee meetings, visit city [web-site](#).

Making Voices Count (MVC) works with city decision makers to create a City for all. MVC is driven by residents, the Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres, City for All Women Initiative (CAWI), and community partners. MVC builds on the momentum of the previous Making Votes Count project. For more information, visit www.makingvoicescount.ca.



City's Social Infrastructure	What's in the Draft 2019 City Budget?	Sample Statements/Messages	Our Concerns / Questions to Council
<p>Community Funding</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Budget 2019 proposes to maintain social services by adding \$478,000 (2% for cost of living adjustment). • A total investment of \$24.9 million is to support social service agencies that provide access to the basics including food programs, day programs, counseling and support services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2017, social service agencies, funded by the City, reported a need of \$2.8 million to meet increasing demands, but the City's sustainability fund provided only \$500,000. • Social services play an important role to crime prevention. The Budget does not recognize this growing demand for social services even though it does allow for growth in Ottawa Police to address crime. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why isn't there increased funding projected for the community funding while Ottawa Police, Transit, and Paramedic Services project increases? Is the City committed to funding projections that address the growing demand for affordable housing? • We'd like to work with the Council to ensure a long term sustainable investment in social infrastructure in the next Term of City Council Priorities and the Long-Range Financial Plan.
<p>Affordable Housing</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Budget 2019 proposes \$15 million of city capital funding to create more affordable housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great news! In response to a community wide call to address Ottawa's housing crisis, the City announced \$15 million capital funding in the Draft City Budget 2019. • To tackle the affordable housing crisis, we need a long term investment. • Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative has over expenditures of \$5.7 million in 2018 for shelters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why isn't there increased funding in the operating budget for housing while Ottawa Police, Transit, and Paramedic Services have increases? • Is the City committed to funding projections that address the growing demand for affordable housing? • Why is the City under budgeting for Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative in 2019?
<p>Equity and Inclusion</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Budget adds \$210,000 to staff and support a Women and Gender Equity Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are pleased that the City recognizes the importance of investing in Women and Gender Equity Strategy in the Draft Budget 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We'd like to work with the Council to ensure the success of implementing Women and Gender Equity Strategy.

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<p>Affordable Transit</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipass is going up by 2.6% and will cost \$59.75. • Equifare is going up by 2.9% and will cost \$1.8 per trip. • There are some increases in service in suburban areas. • The budget increases staffing for Para Transpo customer support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are pleased that the City adds service in suburban areas and staffing for Para Transpo customer support. • 2.6% increase to Equipass makes it even more unaffordable for many. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the actual budget for EquiPass/EquiFare in 2018? • Would you freeze the EquiPass/EquiFare?
<p>Ontario Works</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no growth from 2017 to 2019 for 3 programs (Municipal Low Income Benefit, Home Support, Addiction Services). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City projected a 5% growth in Ontario Works caseload increase in 2017 and 2018 while the funding for related programs is not increased. • There is no projected caseload increase in the Draft Budget 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the actual caseload increase in 2017 and 2018? • What is the projected caseload increase in 2019? • What is the average ratio per case coordinator? • Employment programs forecasted cost for 2018 is \$2.83 million yet 2019 budget is same as 2018 at \$2.06 million. Why is there no growth in the budget from 2017 to 2019 to address the caseload increase?

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<p>Hand in Hand Program</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no clear indication of budget for the Hand in Hand program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand in Hand program ensures residents on low-income can take part in recreation and culture activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What were the actual expenditures for Hand in Hand program in 2018? • Was the program overspent in 2018? If so, by how much? • What is the budget for 2019?
<p>Childcare</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal and provincial governments invested significant amount of money in 2018 to eliminate waitlist, consolidate child and parent centres and provide fee subsidies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2017, the City set aside capital development charges of \$3.8 million to create a childcare centre. • It is unclear where those dollars went. • Removing childcare from the Development Charges By-law is resulting in a loss of \$2 million to childcare sector over four years. • There is no increased funding for childcare services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many children are still on the waitlist for subsidized and non-subsidized space? • How has \$3.8 million for child care from development charges been spent? • Will City Council commit to reinstating the childcare development charges in the 2019 Development Charges By-law review? • Why isn't there increased funding while OPS, Transit, and Paramedic budgets have increases?
<p>Long Term Care</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City adds \$1.2 million in long term care to cover increased costs for front-line service and support staff. • Forty-six full time employees are added. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are pleased that the City increases staffing for long term care to better support our senior residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the City now meeting or exceeding the regulatory requirements for long term care staffing?