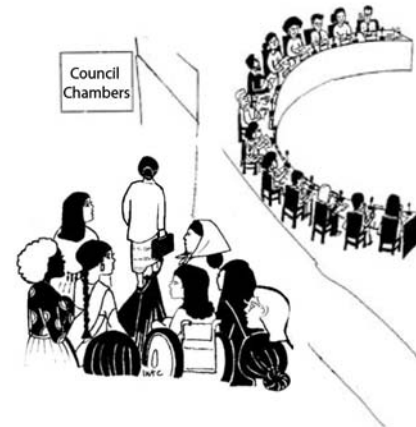


Women's Eyes on City Budget 2009

Women across the city joined with community groups to let Council know our concerns on the budget.

Good News! City Council listened to many of the concerns expressed by our phone calls, letters and presentations in consultations.



Were your concerns heard? What will the results mean for our city in 2009?

Women's concerns:	City Council's decision:
<p>City proposed: Cut funding for 700 subsidized childcare spaces. Concern: Without access to subsidized childcare spaces, single mothers or working families who are living at or below the poverty level would be less likely to find or keep jobs. This could lead to more residents relying on welfare.</p>	<p>Good News! Council maintained funding for the 700 subsidized childcare spaces.</p>
<p>City proposed: Cut newly allocated francophone childcare spaces. Concern: These spaces are needed in order to create more equitable access to childcare for francophone families.</p>	<p>Good News! No cuts. Keep Watching – In 2009, the city will review the childcare services.</p>
<p>City proposed: Cut \$2 million in public health programs for school based nutrition and nursing for long term care facilities. Concern: Children and elderly will not receive the public health care they need.</p>	<p>Good News! The amount cut in Public Health was reduced to \$200,000 and was cut where it will not affect direct service.</p>
<p>City proposed: Defer half a million in the Community Sustainability Funding that was to help community agencies with inflationary costs and new funding pressures. Concern: At a time when community agencies are asked to do more, they would have fewer funds to pay rising costs.</p>	<p>Good News! It was not deferred, so half a million will go to community agencies to help cover rising costs this year.</p>
<p>City proposed: Cut bus routes and reduce evening/weekend service. Concern: Many women, especially immigrant and Aboriginal women, rely on them to get to work or school at irregular hours.</p>	<p>Good News! Bus routes and their hours were maintained. Bad News! With the strike, there are no buses for now!</p>

Women's concerns:	City Council's decision:
<p>City proposed: Increase bus tickets by 7.5% in January; this increase was already planned but was not to take place until July. Concern: The increase in bus fares is already out of reach for many. Don't make it harder by moving up the date.</p>	<p><u>Bad News! Good News!</u> There will still be an increase of 7.5%, but it will not take place until April.</p>
<p>City proposed: Students over 24 will no longer qualify for student passes. Concern: Many new Canadians and low-income residents going back to school at a later age would find transit fare unaffordable.</p>	<p><u>Bad News!</u> Student bus passes will have an age limit of 27 years of age.</p>
<p>City proposed: Defer \$1,750,000 for the Tenant Resource Centres and housing support workers to the 2010 budget, so no new spending in 2009. Concern: These services are greatly needed in order to support tenants in social housing.</p>	<p><u>Good News-Bad News!</u> This spending is deferred until 2010, so no spending in 2009.</p>
<p>City proposed: Cap rent supplement programs at 2008 funding levels. Concern: This capping would reduce the amount of rent supplements available and possibly reduce the number of units that are subsidized.</p>	<p><u>Bad News! The rent supplement will be capped at 2008 funding level.</u></p>
<p>City proposed: Substantial cuts to arts and culture Concern: Quality of life in our City would be affected and income generated from Arts would be lost.</p>	<p><u>Good News!</u> The 2009 Budget maintains the City's commitment to its Arts Investment Strategy and Festival Funding.</p>
<p>City proposed: Raise recreation fees. Concern: Recreation is becoming unaffordable for many women and our families. This has a negative impact on our health and well-being.</p>	<p><u>Bad News!</u> Recreation fees will rise by 2% and 4% for different services. <u>Good News! The City of Ottawa is developing a Master Recreation Plan this year, where they will examine their fee policy. We have an opportunity to make our views known!</u></p>
<p>City proposed: Raise property taxes by 4.9%. Concern: If this is not enough, then property taxes should be increased by more than 4.9%. It is a worthwhile investment in our city's public services.</p>	<p><u>Good News-Bad News!</u> In order to keep the tax increase at 4.9%, some user fees were increased and some services were reduced which places a greater burden on those who need the services most.</p>
<p>Concern: We don't have a spending problem; but a revenue problem. Ontario is the only province where cities fund social services from the property taxes. We want to work with a Council that will provide strong leadership in calling on the Federal and Provincial governments to provide more money for cities.</p>	<p><u>Make your views known:</u> Let your <u>Councillor</u> and the <u>Mayor</u> know you want to work with him or her on this issue.</p>
<p>For more information: see City of Ottawa media release and visit People for a Better Ottawa Our Views Matter! - Notre point de vue compte! Produced by: City for All Women Initiative (CAWI) www.cawi-ivtf.org</p>	