



## Women's Eyes on the Draft City Budget 2013

### What concerns us:

- **Elimination of the “Non-renewable Community Project Funding”** that provides small grants (\$20,000 maximum) to community organizations to address emerging issues. This funding plays an important role in supporting projects that engage residents and address gaps in services. At a time when it has become increasingly hard for organizations to find funding, loss of this fund will have an impact on the health of our communities.
- **Cuts to discretionary benefits available to Ontario Works and ODSP recipients and low-income residents** through the municipal Essential Health and Social Supports program. The City would no longer fund: Funeral Services (cremations and burials maintained); assistance devices including: prosthetics, mobility aids, hearing aids and respiratory supplies, air conditioners, vaporizers; and funds for food or clothing over and above what the province sets as basic allowance rates for Ontario Works and ODSP.



**Why are these cuts happening now?** The Ontario government cut funding this past year for discretionary benefits, downloading it onto cities to cover or not. The City assumed the cost this last year, but projects there will be insufficient funds in 2013.

### How can there be enough City funds to maintain “Non-renewable Community Projecting Funding” and these vital discretionary benefits?

**Raise taxes by 2.5%.** Council agreed that they would raise property taxes up to a maximum of 2.5% but the draft budget proposes raising property taxes by only 2.09%. **Investing in our city's social services is a good investment.**

### How you can make your views known on these issues:

- Present a 5 minute deputation at Community and Protective Services, Thursday, Nov 15, 9:30 AM, Andrew Haydon Hall, City Hall. You can book a spot by calling Marc Desjardins at 613-580-2424, ext 28821 or by emailing him at [Marc.Desjardins@ottawa.ca](mailto:Marc.Desjardins@ottawa.ca).

- Support CAWI and others presenting on these issues by attending the committee meeting. We can provide you with a peach scarf to wear to show your support.
- Contact your [City Councillor](#) or the [Mayor](#) by phone or e-mail to share your concern on these issues. (Remember you can always leave a message on their phone.) City Council votes on the budget on November 28<sup>th</sup>, but it is best to reach your Councillor before the date of the Standing Committee that they sit on, ask them to increase the taxes to 2.5% to be sure these expenses can be covered. See Committee list attached.



**Our Views Matter! Notre point de vue compte!**  
**City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)**  
**Initiative: une ville pour toutes les femmes (IVTF)**