

Scripted Questions for Talks with Mayoral Candidates

Thank you for meeting with the FCA board. We see this meeting as an opportunity to build a relationship with you for the coming years.

As you know, the Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa is an umbrella organization, representing community associations and similar groups in the City of Ottawa. It is a volunteer organization that draws participants from its member associations.

Currently, some 70 organizations are members of the FCA, largely made up of Community Associations.

We are a clearing house between the Mayor, Councillors, and city staff, informing our members of current issues and policy changes and bringing their ideas back to city hall. We have monthly general meetings, specialized committee meetings for planning and zoning and transportation.

Knowing this, how do you see the working relationship between the Mayor and the FCA?

Most community groups across the City provide a wide range of social, recreational and education programs for their communities. The provision of these services by volunteer community groups lessens the requirement for the City to provide these services.

A key issue for most community groups is the current state of insurance coverage provided by the City. If you are a community group with a grandfathered provision to provide services on behalf of the City such as a skating rink, the City will pay for insurance coverage.

Newer communities that are not grandfathered may be contracted by the City to provide skating rinks and other recreational services but are not covered by the City for insurance. This has created a great inequity across community groups.

The City is looking at this but has put it on hold until after the election.

Would you support insurance coverage for all community groups which are providing services to the city?

There has been a complete lack of transparency at City Hall, to name the LRT WhatsApp issue as an example.

These communications were kept secret from the commission by City officials and politicians. As well, councillors are being asked to make billion-dollar decisions without proper information nor given time to actually review the material and consult with their constituents.

What exact steps would you take to restore transparency and openness at City Hall?

It's been widely noted that the previous Council was fractious and not as collaborative as many would have hoped.

What can you tell us about your approach to improving governance at City Hall should you become Mayor? What specifically would you do to achieve better results?

During the CAFES debate, Bob Chiarelli recognized the importance of the FCA and said that he would meet monthly with us.

How would you work with the FCA should you win and where do you see the FCA as adding value to the City?

City infrastructure projects are awarded to the lowest bidder, resulting in less quality and questionable design.

Would you support the creation of the office of a chief city architect?