

City of Ottawa Budget 2025

Prioritizing Survivors of Gender-Based Violence

How to Register:

1. Community Services Committee Meeting

- Date: November 26th, 2024
- Email to Register: Eric Pelot at Eric.Pelot@ottawa.ca

2. Transit Commission Meeting

- Date: November 25th, 2024
- Email to Register: Eric Pelot at Eric.Pelot@ottawa.ca

3. Ottawa Police Services Board Meeting

- Date: December 2nd, 2024
- Email to Register: Randa Benguedria at randa.benguedria@ottawa.ca

4. Finance and Corporate Services Committee Meeting

- Date: December 3rd, 2024
- Email to Register: Eric Pelot at Eric.Pelot@ottawa.ca

Sample Email to Register:

Subject: Request to Speak at Committee Meeting

Hello [Eric/Randa],

I would like to register to speak at the [Finance and Audit Committee Meeting] on _____. I will be sharing my thoughts on Item 6.1: Draft 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets.

Thank you very much.

[Your Name]

How to Prepare to Delegate:

1. Write and Rehearse:

- Prepare your key points in advance and rehearse to ensure your presentation is within the five-minute time limit.
- Note: The Chair will cut you off once you've reached your five minutes.

2. Practice with Others:

- Practice in front of friends, family, comrades, or even pets to build confidence.
 - Share your draft with others for feedback and to coordinate messaging.
3. Use Zoom Features:
 - These meetings are held on Zoom, and you are not required to turn your camera on, which may help reduce anxiety or nervousness.
 4. You can also delegate in person
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Don't Know What To Say?

Use the following letter for some inspiration;

As an Ottawa Resident, I'm reaching out to urge you, as a municipal leader, to prioritize survivors and communities impacted by Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in this year's City Budget. Since August 2023 alone, four femicides have devastated families and entire communities in our city, revealing an urgent need for intervention. The moment for decisive, life-saving action is now. Adequate and dedicated resources are required to tackle this egregious and endemic form of violence. Nationally, a woman or gender-diverse person is killed every 48 hours due to femicide. This is a nationwide and local crisis that Ottawa must help address.

The City's 2022 declaration of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) as an epidemic was an important step forward. Now is the time to act on this, vital commitment.

Any strategy to end violence requires a substantial investment in prevention. Let's stop violence before it starts.

Cycles of violence are systemic and can end; until they do, we need to ensure survivors are supported and cared for.

Now, you must act on this promise by securing and expanding funding for community-based organizations to prevent GBV, supporting survivors and bolstering the City's capacity to address these issues in partnership with the community.

This funding would allow the city to:

- **Empower community-based organizations & advocates to deliver prevention programs** targeting the root causes of GBV, fostering a safer, more informed community.

- **Enhance service coordination across City systems**, from housing and mental health support to legal and emergency response, so no survivor falls through the cracks.
- **Strengthen partnerships between the City and community organizations/leaders** to deliver accessible, culturally safe resources and support to survivors and their families.

As a municipal leader, you have influence that can help end the epidemic of femicide and other forms of violence by proposing a budget that prioritizes the well-being, dignity, and future of all Ottawa residents. Prioritizing prevention will also save the City millions of dollars in health, policing and other justice system costs, and most importantly, lives! This is the kind of leadership I want to see in Ottawa. Together, let's build a city where all residents feel safe, supported, and valued.