

5. OUR VISION FOR THE NEW CITY OF OTTAWA

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AS AMENDED

THAT Regional Council endorse “Our Vision for the New City of Ottawa” developed by many of the Region’s community partners and calls on the Ottawa Transition Board to adopt this vision statement to help guide it’s work; and,

FURTHER THAT this motion, and the vision, be forwarded to the Transition Board for it’s action; and

FURTHER THAT this motion, and the vision, be also forwarded to The Ottawa Partnership (TOP) to be incorporated in TOP’s work; and,

FURTHER THAT this item be placed on the agenda of the first meeting of the new Council of the City of Ottawa.

DOCUMENTATION

1. A/Committee Co-ordinator report dated 16 May 00 is immediately attached.
2. Extract of Draft Minute, Community Services Committee meeting of 1 June 00, follows the report and includes a record of all votes.

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 03-07-00-0127
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 16 May 2000

TO/DEST. Chair and Members, Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. A/Committee Co-ordinator

SUBJECT/OBJET **VISION FOR THE NEW CITY OF OTTAWA**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

For Committee discussion.

BACKGROUND

At the request of Councillor Wendy Byrne, the above-noted item has been placed on the agenda for Committee discussion. Background information is attached.

Approved by
Stephani Roy

Our Vision for the City of Ottawa

We are a group of citizens who care deeply about the welfare of *all* members of Ottawa-Carlton. We envision a new City in which all citizens have the capacity to work together to manage, develop and use the wide range of opportunities, responsive services, and resources within their communities for a safe, just and healthy life for all.

We believe that municipal government is one of the means by which we achieve our vision of community. We want our new municipal government to maintain Ottawa's reputation as a primary choice in which to live and work, by:

- **Being a leader in social and economic policy and services that serve the whole person and the whole community.** The new City recognizes that investment in Ottawa's primary resource, its people, will yield dividends in attracting and retaining business, tourists and newcomers. Just as too little investment in our physical infrastructures may mean crumbling roads and bridges, falling investments in our social infrastructure can result in unemployment, family breakdown, community problems, and poverty.
- **Valuing our neighbourhoods as places where the safety and well-being of children, women, and families come first, where all citizens can thrive in an atmosphere of love, care and understanding.** In the new City, children and youth are valued as individuals in childhood and given opportunities to reach their full potential as adults.
- **Recognizing that in community, some members need more support than others. The new City enables citizens to be self-supporting, and provides collective support for those who are unable to support themselves.**
- **Empowering all citizens by providing opportunities and resources to develop their physical, emotional, intellectual, social and spiritual capacities to their fullest, so that all can become successful and enthusiastic parents, caregivers, workers, neighbours and citizens.**
- **Recognizing the unique contributions, strengths and needs of each member of the community, and setting policies and structures that recognize and promote bilingualism, equity, diversity, and accessibility.**
- **Being accountable to all citizens.** The new City seeks out and uses current information on best practices in all sectors, monitors the quality of service and service outcomes, and uses cost-effective approaches that recognize and assess both the economic and social well-being of our new city.
- **Implementing structures that enable each sector to participate and contribute meaningfully to the governance process.** The new City promotes collaboration, cooperation, and partnership among all sectors as the best ways of building and maintaining services.

Extract of Draft Minute
Community Services Committee
1 June 2000

6. OUR VISION FOR THE NEW CITY OF OTTAWA

Ms. Christina Marchant, representing the Family Service Centre, presented a vision statement for the new City of Ottawa that reflects the welfare of all members of Ottawa-Carleton. She noted that a number of non-profit community based groups came together to develop the vision, to reflect a concern about those disadvantaged members of society, in order to ensure that the new city is built on strong social values as well as strong economic values. She noted that the groups are tentatively scheduled to present the vision to the Transition Board on 12 June 2000, and would like Committee and Regional Council to endorse the vision.

Ms. Marlene Cherun, representing Jewish Family Services, thanked Committee for always being sensitive the needs of the disadvantaged in the community. She expressed concern for the recent trend in society that only recognizes the value of those members of society who contribute financially. She noted that it is incumbent on elected officials to be a voice for the disadvantaged and to not abandon them.

Ms. Lynn Sherwood, representing the Child Poverty Action Group, made reference to the recent report on Child Poverty that indicated that 23% of children in the community are living in poverty. She noted that society should not value only those people who contribute financially. She added that this type of value leads to a dehumanizing and devaluing of society, and expressed concern that these types of issues are not being presented to the Transition Board.

Councillor W. Byrne read a motion into the record endorsing the vision for the new City of Ottawa.

Councillor M. McGoldrick-Larsen stated that the issue is a timely one, and that she has a Bell South Nepean Advisory Committee which is working on a similar document to present to the Transition Board on 26 June 2000. She suggested that there would be more impact if these items were presented together, adding that many residents in Ottawa-Carleton have a concern about the impact amalgamation will have on services for people. She added that it is important to maintain the quality of life in this community, and expressed support for the motion.

Councillor D. Holmes noted that it may be more effective for the new Council of the City of Ottawa to endorse the vision rather to send it to the Transition Board. She added that this type of visioning should be incorporated into Official Plan policies for the City.

Councillor Byrne accepted the amendment as friendly that the vision should go forward to the first meeting of the new Council for endorsement.

Extract of Draft Minute
Community Services Committee
1 June 2000

Councillor A. Loney stated that he believes that presentation at the first meeting of the new Council is too late and that Councillors running in the election should be asked to support the statement and come out in support of a vision that represents more than the economic and high technology sectors of society.

Councillor C. Doucet, noted that the The Ottawa Partnership (TOP) recently presented a vision statement for the growth industry, which recognized three sectors: economic growth, the environment and social equity. He suggested that when this motion is presented to the new Council it should be expanded to include a green plan and social vision for the entire Region.

Chair Munter suggested that the motion could be forwarded to TOP for endorsement. Councillor Byrne accepted this suggestion as a friendly amendment.

Councillor Byrne noted that a vision statement is necessary for the new City, in order to ensure that values that represent a livable community for all are represented. She concurred with Councillor Loney's suggestion that the vision be distributed to candidates in the election asking for their response and support of the vision, as the issue should be placed high on the agenda.

Councillor H. Kreling noted that the high technology and corporate sectors of the community have been supportive and influential in supporting visions that support social equity and the environment, and endorsement by these groups would garner the recognition of the Transition Board in a more effective manner than a motion passed by Regional Council.

Councillor Kreling suggested that local community groups contact corporate sponsors for their support of the vision.

Chair Munter noted that the business community has recognized that one of the great advantages of being in an area like Ottawa is that social and environmental issues are held in as high regard as economic issues, which provides a high quality of life for all. He added that in many areas that have experienced strong growth, like Silicon Valley, without concern for other issues, a myriad of social and environmental problems have arisen.

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Moved by Councillor W. Byrne

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FURTHER THAT this motion, and the vision, be forwarded to the Transition Board for it’s action; and

FURTHER THAT this motion, and the vision, be also forwarded to The Ottawa Partnership (TOP) to be incorporated in TOP’s work; and,

FURTHER THAT this item be placed on the agenda of the first meeting of the new Council of the City of Ottawa.

CARRIED as amended