

November 21, 2017

Councillor Mathieu Fleury
Councillor David Chernushenko, Chair
Environment and Climate Protection Committee and all Members of the Committee
City of Ottawa

Dear Councillors,

We are writing today regarding the agenda items on the budget and the Energy Evolution. We are pleased that CAFES and FCA representatives will speak on behalf of us and assure you they represent our views today. We are sorry we are unable to participate in person.

This year alone we have witnessed fires, floods, freezes, increase in lyme disease and impact on our infrastructure. We urge you to make the Mayor's pledge of \$2 million a real one - to ensure that \$2 million in new money is allocated to Energy Evolution, rather than the \$500,000, merely one quarter and a fraction of what is needed to address impacts of the climate crisis. This was a Term of Council Priority – the Renewable Energy Strategy, and as such deserves real money and action.

We are concerned that all of that new money has been earmarked for a Community Energy Innovation Fund, the terms of reference for which have not yet been drafted, let alone approved. There appear to be no resources for either a proposed Smart Energy Office or staff who would actually implement the Energy Evolution strategy.

The budget 'highlights' state that the environment is a 'top priority' in a clear acknowledgement of the many residents who met with their councillors in 17 out of 23 wards last spring, we among them, and participated in pre-budget consultations this fall to urge the City of Ottawa to adopt more serious efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and work towards greenhouse gas reduction targets.

We join others in asking how this can be a City strategic priority with no permanent staff assigned until the next Council. We want Energy Evolution to be set up for success, and as the Mayor said \$2 million in his budget remarks, we urge you to ensure \$2 million in new money is allocated in the budget documents.

A real renewable energy strategy was first promised in 2014, and delaying to the third term of Council is unacceptable. It also impedes our ability to access funding from other levels of government prioritizing action on climate change.

We support the CAFES other suggestion for city staff and councillors: City staff should report to Council at least annually on Ottawa's community and corporate greenhouse gas emissions and this data should be made available to the public and researchers on the Open Data Catalogue so that we know whether we are on track to meet our targets? The City's Environment and Climate Protection Committee currently receives greenhouse gas emissions reporting only once every four years.

Sincerely,

Lowertown Community Association
Association communautaire de la BasseVille

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Bernstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Bernstein
President