

Help us ensure that gender-based violence is a priority for the upcoming municipal election.

Here are our **TOP 5 PRIORITIES** that candidates will need to address in a meaningful way if they want our votes.



1. Fund public service ads to raise awareness about harassment in public spaces

We want to see the city sponsor impactful messaging about gender-based violence with a focus on prevention and in particular, bystander intervention. For inspiring examples, check out the ads developed by Hollaback! Philly.

2. Hire more OC Transpo special constables

As part of its “10-point Safety Plan”, OC Transpo’s approach to safety was reviewed by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). The review recommended hiring more special constables but OC Transpo has publicly stated that this is not going to happen in the foreseeable future. We believe riders, operators *and* existing special constables would benefit from more staff.

3. Prevent sexual assault at mass gatherings

Recent research from the Ottawa Hospital reveals that there is an increase in reported sexual assaults at mass gatherings. As the city is responsible for granting permits for these events, it could require that staff at any festival, sporting event, or holiday celebration be trained in preventing and responding to sexual violence.

4. Promote comprehensive sexual health

Ottawa Public Health is doing great work in the city to talk safer sex. We’d love to see that programming include conversations about consent and healthy relationships.

5. Show commitment to making public transit safer for women & LGBTQ* folks

Hollaback! Ottawa is collaborating with our partners in the VAW community to advise OC Transpo’s Safety Working Group. We’ve brought recommendations like better advertising for current safety features and the development of anonymous reporting mechanisms. But improving safety will require continuous consultations and follow-up.

*Stay in touch! Like **Hollaback! Ottawa on Facebook**, follow **@HollabackOttawa on Twitter**, visit our website at **ottawa.ihollaback.org** or send us an email at **ottawa@ihollaback.org**.*