

Response from Marc Aubin

Hollaback team:

Thank you for taking the time to write to me about your efforts and your ideas regarding how to make Ottawa safer from gender-based violence. It is the expertise and efforts of people like yourselves that makes the biggest contribution to improving on the status quo.

Below I will offer a few comments on your top 5 priorities.

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

I would support this initiative. I think we have many examples now in recent years how public awareness campaigns can work (reducing smoking, impaired driving, etc). I think gender based violence being so connected to societal attitudes can be something that is reduced greatly by turning the tide in our society by using awareness campaigns targeted against such behaviours.

2. Hire more OC Transpo special constables

Being from a downtown ward where bus ridership is particularly high, I will commit to bringing up this issue with OC Transpo and challenging them to make safety on public transit a higher priority.

3. Prevent sexual assault at mass gatherings

I think you have some good ideas on how the management of large events should include some training and education for the event organizers on how to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual violence. I would be willing to help you to introduce these best practices into the regular City approval processes for large events.

4. Promote comprehensive sexual health

I totally agree with you that the topics of healthy relationships and consent should be an integral part of sexual health promotion.

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

Should I be elected, please don't hesitate to contact me whenever you require some extra help in gaining traction in your efforts with the OC Transpo safety working group.

Marc