

This questionnaire was sent to all the candidates running for a seat in the Ottawa City Council. Their responses follows below the questionnaire. Use your vote wisely!!!

1. **Would you vote in favour of a mandatory, bilingual sign by-law similar to the one passed by the Russell Township? (Before answering, please read attachment #2)**

Y / N

2. **There are hundreds of Francophone organizations in Ontario and they have received annually, between \$600 – 700 million from all levels of government to promote bilingualism. Not a single dime is available to promote English as the primary national language and give it its proper place as the majority language. In your opinion, is this justified? (Before answering, please read the attachment “Cost of Official Bilingualism”)**

Y / N

3. **Do you agree that in the City of Ottawa, the English language MUST take precedence? (before answering please read attachment #1)**

Y / N

4. **Do you know that it costs the City of Ottawa approx. \$3 million to function according to by-law 2001 -170 (the Language policy)? Do you feel that this cost is justified in a City that has just over 14% French-speaking? (Before answering, please read attachment #4)**

Y / N

5. **The City of Ottawa’s Language Policy (2001-170) gives preference in contracts to businesses that provide bilingual services (many from Quebec) but leaves out contractors that operate in Ontario and pay provincial taxes in Ontario. Please read attached OCR document, “Truckers”. Do you support this policy?**

Y / N

**D. Wood [darrenwood@live.com]**

**Candidate for: Mayor**

I have answered your questions below and highlighted them in black.

Thank you for sending me this questionnaire, it is important that Ottawa residents in the English, French, Hindu, Pakistan and all other communities know how the candidates feel about the language issue in Ottawa.

I am on the public record as supporting “Officially Bilingualism” for Ottawa. I have said so on French radio, French CBC and in English interviews. Of the three main candidates, Watson/Wood/Maquire, I am the only one to take a stance for the French community.

As you are well aware I'm sure, Bilingualism is a touchy subject in Ontario. When you bring up the subject, people are quick to point out the one side language issue in Quebec. With Ottawa being so close to Quebec in proximity it can make for a heated discussion.

By the way I do not speak French and I am still fighting for bilingualism in Ottawa.

Darren W. Wood  
Candidate for Mayor – Ottawa

Darren's answers to our questionnaire:

Would you vote in favour of a mandatory, bilingual sign by-law similar to the one passed by the Russell Township?

Y / N - I would vote in favour of "Official Bilingualism" in name only. The french I have talked to want merely the recognition and realize they will get little, if anything more from any council. Although there are french groups that want more, I have made it clear on french CBC that I would not entertain any more than an official designation.

2. There are hundreds of Francophone organizations in Ontario and they have received annually, between \$600 – 700 million from all levels of government to promote bilingualism. Not a single dime is available to promote English as the primary national language and give it its proper place as the majority language. In your opinion, is this justified?

N - If we are going to promote languages in Ontario, no matter what they are, English must be among them and ALL languages should receive an equal budget.

3. Do you agree that in the City of Ottawa, the English language MUST take precedence?

Y - But only because the clear majority of the population in Ottawa speak English. That does not mean we should not offer services in French (we are a bilingual country), Hindi, Seik, Italian and what ever else is spoken by large numbers in Ottawa.

4. Do you know that it costs the City of Ottawa approx. \$3 million to function according to by-law 2001 -170 (the Language policy)? Do you feel that this cost is justified in a City that has just over 14% French-speaking?

N - The budget is too high to maintain services in any one language. However, we need to have services available in as many commonly used languages as possible. This is just good business and a good humans right practice. You know the first time we don't offer services in another language currently offered by the city, no matter which one it is, we would get sued and it would cost us a small bundle plus soil our reputation.

5. The City of Ottawa's Language Policy (2001-170) gives preference in contracts to businesses that provide bilingual services (many from Quebec) but leaves out contractors that operate in Ontario and pay provincial taxes in Ontario.

N - I have been clear on this in my published platform, in talks with community groups and on social media that I would ask council to pass a by-law requiring only Ottawa and surrounding Ontario business' be used and NO money leaves the province. <http://darrenwood.wordpress.com/2014/09/25/my-platform-part-1/>

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**Matt Muirhead ([mattmuirhead@ymail.com](mailto:mattmuirhead@ymail.com))**  
**Candidate for city council**  
**Kanata North**  
**613.291.5602**

Thanks for the questionnaire, Kim. I think you'll find my answers straightforward and to the point.

Here are my answers:

1. No
2. No
3. Yes
4. No
5. No.

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**Curtis B. ([curtis-b@live.ca](mailto:curtis-b@live.ca))**  
**School board trustee**

Dear Ms. McConnell,

Thank You for your e-mail!

I'm not running for a seat on City Council, but as a Public School Board Trustee Candidate, I wholeheartedly support bilingualism. In Ottawa, we are blessed by our vibrant Franco-Ontarian community, and fortunate enough to be located along the beautiful Ottawa River - a border we share with Gatineau Quebec. When elected, I will advocate for french immersion programming for all students, and continue my strong stance as an advocate for a further-bilingual National Capital Region.

Feel free to contact me, or members of my campaign team, with further inquiries.

Kindest Regards, Curtis

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**Jonathan Mark ([jongonzo4ward5@gmail.com](mailto:jongonzo4ward5@gmail.com))**  
**Candidate for: Ward 5 (West Carleton - March)**

- Number 1, I would vote against it (N)  
Number 2, No  
Number 3, Yes  
Number 4, if the number is actually 14%, then No  
Number 5, not fair, not smart

I am running in Ward 5 (West Carleton - March), and simply put, I am not afraid to mention that it would be too expensive to make Ottawa officially 'bi-lingual.' It would also put English speaking Ontarians in our workforce at risk, and I could never endorse that. Seeing that it is not an issue in Quebec (becoming bi-lingual) I see it as a non-issue at this time here also, JM

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**Marc Vinette ([bigupvaniermassive@gmail.com](mailto:bigupvaniermassive@gmail.com))**  
**Candidate for Rideau Vanier**

Dear Kim,

Thank you very much for getting in touch. I taught English (ESL) for 18 years and my Father's family is Franco-Ontarian; the language issue is a subject to which I've given considerable thought since my return to Canada.

To answer your questions:

- 1) proprietors should have the right to advertise in whichever official language they choose, both if they like, and feel free to add any others.
- 2) English doesn't require promoting, though it could certainly be taught better in our school systems. The cognitive benefits of acquiring multiple languages are indisputable, and French culture is intrinsic to Canadian identity. Should taxpayers pay for it's promotion? The short answer is yes with a but, no with an and. There is a lot of trough feeding and politicking that needs to be rectified, for sure.
- 3) the Rideau Vanier ward has a large Francophone community, so on vox populi grounds I would defer a definite answer until I consulted more closely with residents. In my office, service would be fully biligual.
- 4) I agree that costs are reaching Monty Pythonesque levels of absurdity. I'll have to look into it more closely before I can comment intelligently on a specific solution.
- 5) I commend Mr. Barr for bringing this issue to light. It seems the Act precludes any simple solution, unfortunately.

Hi Kim,

Thank you very much for your participation in the democratic process, and for contacting me.

My family are Francophone pioneers in Ottawa (Orleans, more precisely, where the silo of mon grandpere was designated a heritage site this summer), I grew up through both the French and English Catholic school boards and overwhelmingly spoke English at home. I spent almost 20 years as an ESL teacher abroad and raised a fluently trilingual teenaged daughter. It should be much better (and will be), but I speak passable French and write it atrociously. In Engrish, me am grate.

From my perspective, "practical bilinguism" is perfectly adequate with the caveat that due to that large and historic French speaking community in Rideau Vanier, my office will be fully bilingual (at least) and offer translation resources to residents as necessary. I would not support efforts to institute official bilingualism on the grounds of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

As a ESL teacher, I know first hand how language is a bridge to human understanding and it pains me to see language issues become so devisive. I feel I can add a fresh perspective to this debate, and effect a little bit of coincidentia oppositorum (the unity of opposites, or practically expressed, meeting on equal footing in the middle).

I don't "play for teams" or let my feelings get in the way of common sense. I identify points of contention, negate them, find common ground and get resolutions. If that seems like a sane, workable approach to the issue that isn't a zero sum game, please consider encouraging your homies to vote Vinette.

Sincerely,

Marc Vinette

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Liam Mcguire ([liam@greatriver.ca](mailto:liam@greatriver.ca))

Candidate for: Candidate Ward 20 ( Osgoode Ward )

1. No...absolutely not.
2. No...absolutely not.
3. Not sure what you mean by precedence. As far as I'm concerned the City of Ottawa does not need a bilingual designation. From our signage to all levels of gov't to the simple fact that a significant portion of the residents in Ottawa proper are bilingual, there is no further need to promote or put forth bilingualism or either language over the other. Not a further dime should be spent on this.
4. No, I was not aware and would certainly like to delve into this further.
5. One of the things I'd love to explore if elected is if in fact there are any contractors from the Province of Quebec receiving tenders and/or contracts over a similar operation from here in Ottawa or Ontario. I don't have enough knowledge, this form you've provided sheds some light on it. I am 100% not in favour of this.

I've replied already to this as you know Kim. If elected I will also vote no. You have my support.

Liam Maguire

Candidate Ward 20. ( Osgoode).

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network

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Chris Ellis ([Chris\\_Ellis@ChrisEllis.ca](mailto:Chris_Ellis@ChrisEllis.ca))

School Board Trustee – Zone 6

Dear Kim McConnell

I am not running for an Ottawa City Councillor position. I am running for Zone 6 Trustee of the English Public School Board ([OCDSB](http://OCDSB)). Your questions have no bearing on the office I am seeking.

Sincerely

[www.SchoolZone6.org](http://www.SchoolZone6.org)

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Craig MacAulay (<http://bellscorners.wordpress.com/>)

candidate for Council, College Ward

**Sorry that I didn't read everything but at a quick glance I can tell you how I feel: SHAME ON YOU!**

**opposed to the Russell loonies  
I'm NOT a politician!**

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*George Guirguis*

*Candidate For City Councillor*

*Bay Ward ( Ward 7 ) – Ottawa*

Good day,

We are writing you today on behalf of George Guirguis.

Dear **McConnell**

Good day,

We are writing you today on behalf of George Guirguis. Mr. Guirguis will continue to work on behalf of the taxpayers to make sure you get the respect you deserve.

Mr. Guirguis has been fighting very hard on behalf of English speakers in Ottawa .

We have been in touch with Ms. Pauline. We also have been fighting for the jobs that has been taken away from English speakers .

*Could you please check out our  
Official Campaign video on YouTube :*  
<http://youtu.be/j9245Gn17mA>

*Thank you.*

*Campaign Staff,*

*George Guirguis*

*Candidate For City Councillor*

*Bay Ward ( Ward 7) – Ottawa*

*Voting day is Oct. 27, 2014*

Campaign Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9245Gn17mA>

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**Scott Blurton ([scottblurton@scottblurton.ca](mailto:scottblurton@scottblurton.ca))**

**Candidate for Capital Ward - Ward 17**

Thank you Ms. McConnell. Please allow me to answer your questions one at a time.

1. No. I believe that people should be free to express themselves in the language of their choice, especially in the private sphere.
2. I don't believe in creating false hierarchies of identity such as majority vs. minority, primary vs. secondary as the purpose of government is to maximize individual liberty, especially when it comes to freedom of speech. In terms of language policy, I believe that it is the individual who is best positioned to decide for themselves what language they wish to speak. It is their choice. But in order for people to exercise their right to choice, they must have choices. I support efforts to improve public access to resources to learn and practice the official language of their choice. In terms of its funding allocations, City Council will have to decide how best to use its resources to maximize the choices available to its residents.

3. No. I believe that people are free to use the language of their choice. As Councillor, I will support actions that ensure, where numbers warrant, people receive public services in the official language of their choice.
4. Yes. I believe that cost is acceptable to ensure that people are free to live and receive services in the official language of their choice.
5. I'm afraid that there is no question here that I can answer but I will try. I believe that the City of Ottawa is justified to ensure that its service standards to its citizens are met. If a company can not meet those service standards, then they will be judged accordingly in the bid process. I also do not believe in discriminating against companies based on their provincial residence. All companies should be free to bid on city contracts and they should be evaluated based on the bid's requirements in a fair and just manner.

I hope that this email has answered your questions. Thank you again for the opportunity

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**Kim Sheldrick (kimforcouncillor@gmail.com)**  
**[www.kimsheldrick4councillor.ca](http://www.kimsheldrick4councillor.ca)**  
**Candidate for City of Ottawa Councillor in Osgoode Ward 20**

**Answer 1:**

**No but businesses should have the choice of one or both languages**

**Answer 2:**

**I believe the amounts are a bit excessive but bilingualism is a part of Canada**

**Answer 3:**

**No I believe both languages can be used.**

**Answer 4:**

**Some costs could likely be reduced**

**Answer 5:**

**Contracts should be awarded based on merit/cost and other factors irregardless of language**

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**Marc Aubin [marc.aubin2014@gmail.com]**  
**Candidate for City Councillor,**  
**Rideau-Vanier, Ward 12**  
**[www.AUBIN2014.ca](http://www.AUBIN2014.ca)**

Dear Ms. McConnell,

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to this questionnaire. Although the media might have portrayed my reaction as considering you a Francophobe, this is not the case. I welcome any questions from residents, including yourself. We are in an election and this is the time to debate issues of interest to residents. Regardless of the issue, I think that dialogue is important to better understand each other's points of view. I am better informed with each conversation I have on issues.

Please find below my answers to your questions:

Question 1: Response: Yes to a made-in-Ottawa bilingual sign bylaw and no to an exact replica of sign bylaw in another jurisdiction.

Explanation: I support the exploration of a commercial bilingual sign by-law in historically predominant francophone neighbourhoods in Ottawa. I would look to the lessons learned in other jurisdictions to inform this discussion.

Question 2: Response: Yes to the reasonable financial support of cultural groups, especially the founding people of Canada – Aboriginals, French and English.

Explanation: I am a great supporter of diversity. It is one of our strengths as a nation. Canada has been known for a very long time for its tolerance of others. Also, it is not unusual for minorities in any context to band together in an effort to preserve their identity. My mother is Anglophone and my father is Francophone. I think that both our English and French history and culture, and current society, are worthy of financial support and celebration. I also support, at a reasonable expense, the encouragement of other cultural and religious groups to share and celebrate their culture with us.

Question 3: Response: Yes to English being the language spoken by the majority and no to taking precedence.

Explanation: After amalgamation, the Francophone community became an even smaller minority. For example, the City of Vanier was majority francophone and all its city council business took place in French. We are a big city now and big cities have big responsibilities. As the capital of one of the greatest and wealthiest countries on Earth, I think that being designated officially bilingual would indicate the true value we place on the English and French languages. Should council meetings be conducted in French half the time? Not necessarily. Should city staff be making efforts to present to city council in French at least 14% of the time? I think so.

Question 4: Response: YES.

Explanation: The current cost per person of bilingualism is \$3.50. I consider this a small cost to support our francophone population. That said, every service a city undertakes involves costs. Bureaucracies are inherently inefficient. I support any efforts to streamline bureaucracy while still providing the services we value as a city.

Question 5: Response: N/A

Explanation: This does not appear to be a question but a statement. I agree that we should give a reasonable preference to Ontario businesses, especially Ottawa-based businesses. If there is preference shown to bilingual over unilingual (English or French) businesses, then I would want to investigate further and insure that the awarding of contracts is fair.

I would like to finish by sharing with you other priorities, among many others, for my community's Francophones:

- Promoting meaningful links between Anglophones and Francophones
- Preserving Rideau-Vanier's heritage, which is predominantly French-Canadian
- Promoting the historically Francophone identities of Ottawa neighbourhoods, such as Vanier and Lowertown
- Promoting a culture of bilingualism on city council
- Obtaining an official apology from the city for the urban renewal of Lowertown East in the 1960s

I hope you find the foregoing helpful.

Respectfully yours,

Marc Aubin,

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**Response to CLF questionnaire from Chris Fraser**

**Candidate for Innes Ward**

**Email: [chrisfraser@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisfraser@hotmail.com)**

1. **No I'm not in favour of the mandatory sign law**
  2. **No, I don't believe this is good use of taxpayers money**
  3. **Yes. English does have to take precedence in every situation, but it is the common language of business in Ottawa.**
  4. ***No this cost is not justified***
  5. ***No this does not seem fair to me.***
- 

I am francophone and do not support your initiatives.

**Brigitte Pilon**

Stewart Associates  
402-200 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 1L5  
Ph 613-824-9233  
Fax 613-235-3304

I support practical bilingualism as practiced at this time.

**Marianne Wilkinson**  
**Ward 4 Kanata North**

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**Bob Masaro** [<mailto:bob.masaro@bell.net>]  
**Osgoode Ward**

Dear Kim McConnell:

Sorry for the late reply. As you know, it is the busiest time of the year for a candidate. Below you will see my answers to your questions.

## Municipality of Ottawa

Would you vote in favour of a mandatory, bilingual sign by-law similar to the one passed by the Russell Township? (Before answering, please read attachment #2)

1. Would you vote in favour of a mandatory, bilingual sign by-law similar to the one passed by the Russell Township?

**N**

2. There are hundreds of Francophone organizations in Ontario and they have received annually, between \$600 – 700 million from all levels of government to promote bilingualism. Not a single dime is available to promote English as the primary national language and give it its proper place as the majority language. In your opinion, is this justified? (Before answering, please read the attachment “Cost of Official Bilingualism”)

**N**

3. Do you agree that in the City of Ottawa, the English language MUST take precedence? (before answering please read attachment #1)

**Y**

4. Do you know that it costs the City of Ottawa approx. \$3 million to function according to by-law 2001 -170 (the Language policy)? Do you feel that this cost is justified in a City that has just over 14% French-speaking? (Before answering, please read attachment #4)

**N**

5. The City of Ottawa’s Language Policy (2001-170) gives preference in contracts to businesses that provide bilingual services (many from Quebec) but leaves out contractors that operate in Ontario and pay provincial taxes in Ontario. Please read attached OCR document, “Truckers”. Does this seem like a fair situation to you?

**N**

**From:** Ajà Besler [mailto:[aja.besler@gmail.com](mailto:aja.besler@gmail.com)]

Hello Kim,

I was curious what kind of response you were expecting from me, since I am running for Trustee for the **French** Public School Board. Do you really think that the candidates running for Francophone school boards won't defend Francophone rights?

Thanks,

Ajà Besler

*My response to Aja:*

You can defend Francophone rights all you like but do you agree that the current language policy is inadequate? How much more do you want? With 14-15% of the population, do you expect to have Ottawa spend half their budget looking after the interests of the Francophones, at the expense of the non-Francophones?

Do you even understand the meaning of "fairness"

Kim

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**Denis Poirier** [<mailto:denispoirier@rogers.com>]

Good day,

I'm in favour and so is my school board. That's 21 600 students in favour. It's time Ottawa becomes a bilingual city. Tomorrow is Franco-Ontarian Day in Ontario. Come celebrate our cultural identity and learn more about what a bilingual Ottawa can do for you - more jobs, growth to the tourism industry, leveraging partnerships...

See the French catholic school board's release here: <http://bit.ly/1wLWzMB>

Denis Poirier

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**Mike McQuire**

**From:** [info@mikeformayor.ca](mailto:info@mikeformayor.ca) [<mailto:info@mikeformayor.ca>]

No support whatsoever. It's off the table and out the door.  
Sent wirelessly from my BlackBerry device on the Bell network.  
Envoyé sans fil par mon terminal mobile BlackBerry sur le réseau de Bell.

**Eli El-Chantiry**

**From:** Eli El-Chantiry [<mailto:elielchantiry57@gmail.com>]

Good morning,

I don't support making Ottawa officially bilingual. The City already does a great job providing services and publications in both languages. I don't feel that every single position in the City needs to be officially bilingual. Plus, what would be the cost involved to the taxpayer in making a change to become officially bilingual?

Regards,  
Eli El-Chantiry  
Candidate, West Carleton-March

**My response to Eli El-Chantiry: \_\_\_**

Thank you, Eli – we are so happy to hear from you on this file. As you see below, the French groups are still determined to force official bilingual status on Ottawa and some of the current councillors are in support of that. There are candidates running for election who are also in support of increasing the degree of bilingualism in the City – these are the people we want our readers to be very aware of.

Kim McConnell

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**Shad Qadri**

**From:** Shad Qadri [<mailto:shadq@rogers.com>]

Hello Kim, thank you for providing me with the questionnaire once again.

I do find the questions very vague in some cases and very pointed in others. So instead of replying to each question here is my total response.

I do not support official bilingualism for the city of Ottawa, although I do support having bilingual staff on the service desks and other front line staff.

Sincerely  
Shad

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**Mark Scharfe**

**From:** mark scharfe [[mailto:mark\\_scharfe@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_scharfe@hotmail.com)]

Hi Kim, I was the policeman that is on this email.....and I stand behind my position.....this issue came up at an all candidates debate last week. As in any democracy, I take this position and let the voters decide if they want to pay for bilingualism services....if they don't vote for me, that's fine. I have to say that it was very difficult to learn French, because I was never exposed to the need for it...but I hope you understand that I am very sensitive to the French Canadians, however, the facts speak for themselves....and I am hearing at the doors when I campaign, that people are fed up with the high taxes.....they are

### **This was reported in the French media:**

<http://www.expressottawa.ca/Actualites/2014-10-02/article-3888954/Un-candidat-favorable-a-la-suppression-des-services-en-francais/1>

TC Media questioned many candidates regarding their position on official bilingualism to the City of Ottawa, this former policeman delivers a rather surprising answer: "If I am elected, I will do my best to hang bilingual services the City. I would take 10% of the money thus saved to give to food banks. "

The removal include among others, different bilingual brochures, translations, and all city departments helping Francophones.

The applicant justifies his choice by the refusal by him Francos to converse in their own language: "I took French classes to become bilingual, but when I tried to speak, the French have always had the sense to go to English when they heard my accent. I could therefore find in Vanier person who does not speak English. For me, becoming bilingual has always been a waste of time. "

Mr. Scharfe said not to be afraid of his opinions, nor any reactions following his remarks. "The only criticism I receive will be of Francophones who have good jobs with bilingualism, or the various French-speaking candidates in municipal elections."

Alongside Mark Scharfe, ten other candidates will try to run the ward of outgoing councilor Doug Thompson, who had decided not to re-enlist for another term.

Already a candidate in the same district for elections in 2010, Mr. Scharfe then arrived with 23.36% of the vote in second place behind Thompson.

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From **Marc Vinette** – candidate for ward 12 (Rideau-Vanier)

[bigupvaniermassive@gmail.com](mailto:bigupvaniermassive@gmail.com)

Good morning Kim,

Thank you for your feedback. If you think (as opposed to feel) that common sense is lacking in the public discourse, I hope you'll support me with your vote and help me spread the word that  $2+2=4$ .

Many people are wondering if I am a serious candidate given that I have no media or internet presence, signage or team of volunteers. It's a fair question.

The context for the answer is this: I work nights delivering newspapers, in part because I can't find gainful employment, mostly because in my personal life I have been fighting the corrupt multimillionaire management of an iconic Ottawa firm, in the public interest, to defend abused colleagues and of course, defend my own rights. In the most bizarre twist of my weird life, this has led to an 11 month, virtually 24/7 defense of a 71 year old man (one of the most distinguished people in Ottawa by any measure) being viciously abused and oppressed by the same people. The chattering classes all know what's going on, or think they do. Things I've done (all lawful) have intellectual frauds and fake tough guys in City Hall, the Rideau Club and several law firms quaking in their boots. Though some superficial details surrounding this matter have appeared in the media, I myself am persona non grata. So far.

All to say, I've been so busy that sleeping for 6 hours in a row seems like a luxury holiday. A plateau has been reached and victory is assured, so I'll be turning my full attention to the campaign soon. I actually do some work in a sign shop, saved my nickels for flyers, and am hitting the streets hard and will launch my media campaign this Monday, inshallah. I hope you'll stay tuned.

Best,

Marc

Hi Kim,

Thank you very much for your participation in the democratic process, and for contacting me.

My family are Francophone pioneers in Ottawa (Orleans, more precisely, where the silo of mon grandpere was designated a heritage site this summer), I grew up through both the French and English Catholic school boards and overwhelmingly spoke English at home. I spent almost 20 years as an ESL teacher abroad and raised a fluently trilingual teenaged daughter. It should be much better (and will be), but I speak passable French and write it atrociously. In Engrish, me am grate.

From my perspective, "practical bilingualism" is perfectly adequate with the caveat that due to that large and historic French speaking community in Rideau Vanier, my office will be fully bilingual (at least) and offer translation resources to residents as necessary. I would not support efforts to institute official bilingualism on the grounds of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it".

As a ESL teacher, I know first hand how language is a bridge to human understanding and it pains me to see language issues become so devisive. I feel I can add a fresh perspective to this debate, and effect a little bit of coincidentia oppositorum (the unity of opposites, or practically expressed, meeting on equal footing in the middle).

I don't "play for teams" or let my feelings get in the way of common sense. I identify points of contention, negate them, find common ground and get resolutions. If that seems like a sane, workable approach to the issue that isn't a zero sum game, please consider encouraging your homies to vote Vinette.

Sincerely,

Marc Vinette

## **Patricia Chehade**

**From:** Patricia Chehade [<mailto:patchehade@hotmail.com>]

Good afternoon,

As a candidate running for the City of Ottawa election 2014 as school board trustee for the French public school board, I am proud to announce that I will be advocating towards making Ottawa officially Bilingual.

As a bilingual city, we should be able to offer all of our citizens the right to receive service in French and English. One must not consider numbers (majority vs minority) when making the decision to offer such services, but rather have pride in having such a luxury. As a candidate and a french canadien citizen, I reach out to the English community and ask them to support the French agenda and in working together towards achieving a fully bilingual city.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Patricia Chehadé

## **Michael Pastien**

Greetings (Salut) Pauline,

I appreciate your proactive letter, most particularly in regards to Official Bilingualism Policy.

Here are my views in regards to **pragmatically providing** considerably realistic & proportionately fair bilingual and minority language services in OTTAWA, which is CANADA's CAPITAL; and across the river of predominantly French QUEBEC.

1- **English** is the predominant language in Ottawa, Canada; and ALL Official Government Communications should thus be firstly presented in that language (other than at minority specific departments and institutions such as schools).

2- **Grant School** in Bay Ward is the stalled (likely dead) proposed French Community Centre in predominantly English west end Ottawa. [Both Alex Cullen ("facilitated" City '08 "French coalition" purchase) & Mark Taylor (\$4M Ontario Gov't '11 "Feasibility Study" investment!) were involved in significant funds exchanging hands towards this very obviously flawed dead end project]. Ottawa's east end (downtown to Orleans) is of course traditionally recognized, as its foremost distinct French District!

<http://www.ottawacommunitynews.com/news-story/3972546-grant-school-site-plan-unveiled-francophone-college-services-to-be-offered/>

- I have devised a perfectly bright fiscally pragmatic bold redevelopment design plan for this longtime vacant huge prime realty property, which is now worth in excess of \$20 Million!

3- **Fair Inter-Provincial Government Policy & Hiring Practices:** It has been widely known for quite some time, that hugely disproportionate “UNFAIR” hiring practices clearly exist; favouring QUEBEC workers (especially in construction & trades) who cross over to ONTARIO for contracts! THIS finally & quickly MUST be AMENDED!

**Capital Visionary Cheers,**

**Michael Pastien**

OTTAWA Bay Ward COUNCILLOR Candidate 2014

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**Dan Scharf**

Rideau - Ghoulbourn council candidate

<http://www.acfoottawa.ca/>

Google translate version from interview with ACFO:

hello,

thank you for allowing me to comment on the issues raised by your questions.

I share your concerns regarding the services offered in French to residents of the city of Ottawa. The Council needs to consider the matter.

The French-language publications in the city of Ottawa must be of high quality, to solve this problem, we need to review the process of communication. as an advisor , the project will retain my attention.

With regard to emergency services , it is essential for French citizens in an emergency situation to be understood by a person that can communicate in French .

On the issue of making Ottawa officially bilingual , one must take into consideration the financial difficulties incurred and other challenges. For moment , I think the Council needs to ensure that its citizens can francophones receive services and news in an egalitarian way and we must work hard to do that .

Sincerely,

Dan Scharf

Candidate in Ward 21 Rideau- Goulbourn

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When speaking with Dan Scharf, he was not aware of the officially bilingual push, after I talked with him, he seemed to be ok with French zones. That is not how Francophones work though.

He also wants Francophones to have the same service levels, which tells me fewer jobs for unilingual English. But with emergency services, he is concerned about having Francophones available, but almost the same number of residents do not speak either English or French, than French alone. It may not be enough for a no, but I will not vote for him as the tone of his response is more francophile.

Eric

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**Jeff Morrison** - Somerset - Council - No "Personally, I support official bilingualism. As the national capital of an officially bilingual country, I would try to persuade the other councilors Ottawa has an obligation to be the mirror of the country and become officially bilingual. "

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/ville-dottawa/201410/06/01-4806953-les-enjeux-des-francophones-boues.php>

**Cam Holstrom** - Rideau - Rockcliffe - council - No "I believe that in 2014, it is unacceptable that the national capital of our bilingual country is not officially bilingual,"

<http://www.lapresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/ville-dottawa/201410/06/01-4806953-les-enjeux-des-francophones-boues.php>

Several others were open to explore this possibility, provided that such designation is financially viable. This is particularly the case **Tobi Nussbaum (Rideau-Rockcliffe)**, while **Catherine Fortin LeFaivre (Rideau-Vanier)** talks about the creation of a "business plan" to persuade his future colleagues around the decision-making table. "We need a concrete plan to get there," she says.

Anglophones **Jeff Leiper, Alex Cullen (Bay), Scott Blurton (Capital)** also increased their support for the official designation.

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Greetings (Salut),

I appreciate your proactive letter, most particularly in regards to Official Bilingualism Policy.

Here are my views in regards to **pragmatically providing** considerably realistic & proportionately fair bilingual and minority language services in OTTAWA, which is CANADA's CAPITAL; and across the river of predominantly French QUEBEC.

1- **English** is the predominant language in Ottawa, Canada; and ALL Official Government Communications should thus be firstly presented in that language (other than at minority specific departments and institutions such as schools).

2- **Grant School** in Bay Ward is the stalled (likely dead) proposed French Community Centre in predominantly English west end Ottawa. [Both Alex Cullen ("facilitated" City '08 "French coalition" purchase) & Mark Taylor (\$4M Ontario Gov't '11 "Feasibility Study" investment!) were involved in significant funds exchanging hands towards this very obviously flawed dead end project]. Ottawa's east end (downtown to Orleans) is of course traditionally recognized, as its foremost distinct French District!

<http://www.ottawacommunitynews.com/news-story/3972546-grant-school-site-plan-unveiled-francophone-college-services-to-be-offered/>

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**Capital Visionary Cheers,**

**Michael Pastien**

OTTAWA Bay Ward COUNCILLOR Candidate 2014

Sent from Windows Mail

Additional response from Michael:

Hi Pauline,

In furtherance to my previous response to you in regards to bilingualism (I've ignored all of the other Bilingualism Surveys, except for maybe one).

English is clearly the predominant language in Canada, and I personally reject the "notion" that Canada is an "Officially Bilingual" Country!

- I look forward to you & your friends' support on Election Day, Pauline, Thank You!

Here are my brief responses to the Candidate Bilingualism Questionnaire from Michel Ouimet:

1. Are you in favour of the official designation of the City of Ottawa, Canada's capital, as a bilingual city?

A- As a rather proud fluently French/English bilingual Ottawa born Canadian, I look forward to my Quebec neighbors clearly adopting a bilingual-friendly attitude (especially their government), as opposed to the anti-English "sentiments" which that province growingly permeates. Moreover, as everyone knows... rapidly burgeoning immigration over recent decades has overtaken French as 2nd language status, in some parts of the country.

2. Should you be in favour of the designation and get elected, do you commit to bringing back to Council the question of official bilingualism, and reiterating the request, left unresolved, made by City Council at the time, May 9, 2001, following the municipal amalgamation?

For your information, recommendation number 6, carried by a strong majority (16-6) reads:

"That the Province of Ontario be asked to amend the City of Ottawa Act, 1999 to require that the administration of the City of Ottawa and the provision of municipal services to the public be in French and English pursuant to a Bilingualism Policy adopted by Council.

A- I am reasonably satisfied with Ottawa's present state of overall French language inclusion, beginning with its Parliament Hill buildings downtown area, and eastwards all the way to Orleans & beyond. City shopping mall pamphlets are bilingual as well, as is city-wide official signage throughout, including automated bus stop announcements on OC Transpo buses. There is also a large quotient of City Hall bilingual staff.

Patriotic Cheers,

Michael Pastien  
OTTAWA Bay Ward COUNCILLOR Candidate 2014  
(613)799-9110

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**Jim Watson:**

Hello Kim,

My apologies for taking some time in getting back to you. My time is stretched a bit thin these days between my duties as Mayor and my duties as a Mayoral candidate but I do try and get back to those who write in.

To your question, I do not support making the City of Ottawa officially bilingual.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson

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**From:** Trevor Robinson <[info@voterobinson.ca](mailto:info@voterobinson.ca)>  
**To:** PAULINE  
**Sent:** Friday, October 17, 2014 8:03 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Questionnaire to candidates

Hi Pauline,

Thank-you for your patience.

Regarding surveys/questionnaires/information requests, I have received them from numerous fields, such as the Ottawa Citizen, Ottawa Sun, CBC, CTV, Ottawa West News, Rogers, MS Society of Ottawa, ACFO, United Way of Ottawa, OPFFA, CUPE 503, ACORN and yourself, just to name a few.

As I have previously stated in all of these information requests as well as in social and mainstream media, I am not going to be making campaign promises, false or otherwise, simply to acquire votes. My goal, if honoured to be elected, is to do my part to make Bay Ward and the City of Ottawa a better place, simply put.

The above being said, I am not fluently bilingual. While I do know some French, I am not likely to pass any language exams for the federal government anytime soon. The issue of language and the differences between English and French have been thorny ones here in the region since before Confederation and accordingly are likely to continue for generations to come.

Though Ottawa is the Nation's Capital, it is also considered to be part of the National Capital Region. Accordingly, I believe certain things (*street signs being a perfect example*) could benefit from being bilingual throughout the National Capital Region, not just here in Ottawa.

I believe that council would benefit from listening to the needs and wants of its tax payers, the majority of which anyway. A decision such as official bilingualism would be best served to be made by taxpayers themselves rather than limiting it to elected officials. **Accordingly, until that changes, business signage simply needs to conform to Ottawa's current official language, English.**

**Beyond that, business owners are more than welcome to include whatever else they wish on their signs, within the limitations of respective laws and common decency of course.**

Regarding cross border employment, while I believe it makes some sense that Ontario jobs remain in Ontario and Quebec jobs remain in Quebec, such issues are not solely under the jurisdiction of the City of Ottawa. I personally cannot fault someone starting a new family deciding to continue to work in Ottawa, but buy a house in Gatineau because of differences in areas of child care, auto insurance and other areas that impact quality of life and finances, not to mention the purchase price of the house itself. There are far more issues/circumstances at play there than simply language.

Regardless of who you may choose to vote for, I do hope that you will take the time to vote during these municipal elections.

Have a good weekend,

Trevor Robinson  
Candidate for City Councillor, Bay Ward 2014

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Hi Kim,

Here is my official stance on the bilingual language issue facing the City of Ottawa:

Most of the City's documentation/publications are already in bilingual format. Bilingual translation services are provided at all major meetings. Elsewhere, city services to the public are provided in both languages on an as needed basis. This seems to work pretty well and I see *no reason to change that*.

However, If the City were declared officially bilingual, this could have an unfortunate effect on the private sector, particularly in those areas where there is frequent communication with the public. There could be huge costs for staff training, translation services, signage, etc. with probable job losses as a result. The city seems to work pretty well right now, and the private sector will, of its own volition provide bilingual services where necessary as a part of simple business sense.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Regards,

**Dave Lee - Candidate for City Councillor in Ward 6 - Stittsville**

**One of our readers wanted to know more about Alex Cullen. Check him out for yourself below:**

**Subject:** Reference to Alex Cullen

There was a rural survey on French services in late 2011, it may have been out of Cullen's term on council. <http://www2.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/archives/story.html?id=c083f8d6-0157-47a9-a313-5c8938a2a926>

French mother tongue is just 7.3% in all of Ottawa West Nepean. <http://globalnews.ca/news/1340984/ontario-election-2014-ottawa-west-nepean-riding/>

Alex was the 2011 Francophile of the year by ACFO, part of a taxpayer funded (over 800,000 dollars) umbrella group to over promote French, not bilingual. <http://www.alexcullen.ca/record.html>

Terry Kilroy in 2010, said Alex Cullen was using the city bilingualism policy to give the Grant school to Francophones. Four years later we see millions of dollars from taxpayers shoveled there in some type of shell game. [http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/occ/2010/08-25/csedc/06-ACS2010-CMR-REP-0037%20-%202720%20RICHMOND%20ROAD%20GRANT%20SCHOOL%20\(EN\).htm](http://ottawa.ca/calendar/ottawa/citycouncil/occ/2010/08-25/csedc/06-ACS2010-CMR-REP-0037%20-%202720%20RICHMOND%20ROAD%20GRANT%20SCHOOL%20(EN).htm)

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/ottawa-votes-six-serious-contenders-in-rideau-rockcliffe-ward>

Peter Clark is quoted in this article:

**Official bilingualism is an issue that has come up, with most candidates in favour of the city adopting an officially bilingual policy. But Clark said the city is already committed to providing service in English and French, and that rule shouldn't extend to all city staff.**

**“You're disadvantaging 70 per cent of the population. It's just not fair,” he said.**

[mwoods@ottawacitizen.com](mailto:mwoods@ottawacitizen.com)

Even though he has not filled out our questionnaire, he is a “YES” in my book.

Kim