so you don't want to be a politician?

Ottawa
Knoxdale-Merivale
Ward 9
Prepared and compiled on the unceded and unsurrendered territories of the Anishinabe Algonquin peoples (Ottawa) by an unpaid & nerdy Black woman, this document’s main purpose is to educate, inspire and empower Black, Indigenous and women of colour especially, to seek out positions of political power. It also serves as a simple information booklet for all regardless of their level of interest in or knowledge of Canadian politics.

Positions of political power in Canada have historically been reserved for white, able-bodied, middle- to-upper class, cis-het men. It is time that the systems that allow for this trend be disrupted and replaced by systems vested in principles of diversity and inclusion. This process can begin with simple information sharing activities such as this one.

This document provides general information on the Canadian political system and the 3-levels of government. The majority of this work concerns municipal level politics & specifically, Ward 9: Knoxdale-Merivale in Ottawa. A ward in which I resided in for the majority of my life. A ward, whose councillor position has been held by two white men, in their own respective terms, for (at least) the last 24 years.

If you don’t live in #ward9, I hope you feel encouraged to research your own ward to ultimately identify the changes that need to take place. If you live in #ward9 - can we do something about this?!

- Anne Moreau
This resource is a simple consolidation of information and data readily available. Generally, disaggregated data reflecting the gender and race of elected persons & election candidates is either not being collected or is simply not accessible to the public without request. Moreover, the data & information that is collected generally excludes trans women, non-binary women and gender queer people.

Disaggregated data provides a good basis for which to understand progress towards critical goals of gender & racial equity and diversity & inclusion. This data must be collected to help create a safer political landscape for Indigenous, Black, racialized women and gender-diverse persons.
Formal structure through which Indigenous communities in Canada control the administration of their people, land, resources and related programs and policies.

Deals with areas of law affecting the whole country (i.e., national defence, foreign affairs, criminal law, taxes).

Deal with areas such as healthcare, education, road regulations. Sometimes share responsibilities with the federal government.

Deal with areas such as social housing, police services, parks & recreation, public health, arts & culture.
According to a report by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Canada ranks 54th in the world for Women in Politics.
There is strong evidence that as more women are elected to office, there is a corollary increase in policy making that emphasizes quality of life & reflects the priorities of families, women, and ethnic and racial minorities.
There are 338 seats in the House of Commons. On Election Day in 2019 women won 98 of these seats, a record proportion.

Current gender distribution of Members of Parliament

Gender distribution of candidates in the 2019 general elections

Women 29%

Men 71%

Not Available 0.6%

Other Gender identity 0.1%

Men 64.5%

Women 34.7%
"When we compare the proportion of visible minority candidates elected with that of the visible-minority population as a whole in Canada, which is 22.9%, that figure of 15.1% of all MPs could be seen as a problem of under-representation."

"In terms of gender, 39% of visible minority candidates were women, compared with 12% of the total number of candidates. Of the visible minority women who ran in the 2019 election, 37.3% were elected..."
There are 124 seats in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. 49 of the seats are represented by women, 'at 39.5%, that's the highest of any provincial legislature across the country.'

Elections Ontario does not collect demographic information about election candidates.
Ottawa is divided into 23 wards. 16 men, 6 women and 1 non-binary individual serve as councillors to their respective ward.

Women represent 51% of Ottawa's population

*Rawlson King, elected in a 2019 by-election, of Ward 13 Rideau-Rockcliffe is the first and only Black person to be a City of Ottawa council member

*Catherine McKenney, first elected in 2014, of Ward 14 Somerset is the first openly LGBT person to be elected to Ottawa’s city council
A 2019 report by the Standing Committee of the Status of Women lists the following seven factors as possible deterrents for women from entering electoral politics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender stereotypes &amp; discrimination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender-biased media treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of confidence in abilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender-based violence &amp; harassment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficulties in financing campaigns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insufficient efforts to recruit female candidates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Absence of family-friendly &amp; gender-sensitive workspaces</td>
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These factors are amplified & compounded with others for Black, Indigenous and Women of Colour, 2sLGBTQIA folks & people living with disabilities.
MUNICIPAL FOCUS

City of Ottawa

1. Items of discussion at City Hall
2. General information on a city councillor's role
Recommendations for addressing systemic racism, discrimination, and bias, and creating a more equitable and inclusive Ottawa Police Service
Ottawa Police Services Board: June 22 2020

Reconciliation, Indigenous Health Equity and COVID-19
Ottawa Board of Health: June 15 2020

Ottawa's Electric Kick Scooter Strategy and Pilot Project
Transportation Committee: June 3 2020

Service delivery review of Winter operation
Transportation Committee: November 13 2019

Options for Traffic Calming on King Edward Avenue, North of Rideau Street
Transportation Committee: November 13 2019

Tabling of Ottawa Police Service 2020 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets
Ottawa Police Services Board: November 6 2019

City Public WI-FI
Information Technology Sub-Committee: October 4 2019

Commemorative Naming Proposal
Ottawa City Council: October 23 2019

Compliance audit of the campaign finances of a candidate for Innes Ward
Elections Compliance Audit Committee: March 10 2020

Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit
Community and Protective Services Committee: February 20 2020

Appointment of Special Constables - OC Transpo
Ottawa Police Services Board: January 28 2019
**ROLE DESCRIPTION:**
City of Ottawa Councillor

**Term:** 4 years
**Salary:** $105,463.95*
**Budget:** $266,565**

**Responsibilities:**

- Meet with ward residents, gain familiarity with local issues/concerns about existing and proposed City services directions and changes.
- Attend community association meetings and keep up-to-date with ward issues, needs and concerns.
- Communicate Council decisions concerning services/programs/issues to ward residents, either through attendance at meetings, preparation of newsletters or other communication vehicles.
- Provide assistance, direction and information to ward residents on access or use of City services.
- Develop positions and motions to influence the direction of policy/programs/services; determine level of support amongst citizens and colleagues, refine proposals and present and justify these at Committees of Council and Council meetings.
- Review, evaluate staff proposals, studies and recommendations concerning City services/programs.
- Chair/serve as member of City Committees of Council/Boards (e.g. Library Board, Police Services Board).

*As interpreted from the Sunshine List
** As seen & understood from a city councillor’s Public Disclosure of office expenses 2019 & 2020 reports
WARD 9

Knoxdale-Merivale

1. Ward Profile
2. 2018 Election candidates & results
3. Who's been/ who is our Councillor?
WARD PROFILE

Population: 39,676
Households: 16,391
Eligible Voters*: 25,582

Neighbourhoods**:

Barrhaven
Borden Farm - Stewart Farm - Parkwood Hills - Fisher Glen
Carleton Heights - Rideauview
Chapman Mills - Rideau Crest - Davidson Heights
Cityview - Crestview - Meadowlands
Greenbelt
Hunt Club South Industrial
Merivale Gardens - Greenfell Glen - Pineglen - Country Place
Stonebridge - Halfmoon Bay - Heart's Desire
Skyline - Fisher Heights
Tanglewood
Trend - Arlington
Woodvale - Craig Henry - Manordale - Estates of Arlington Woods

*Data last 2018 Municipal Elections
** Information from Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa
Pressing issues in Ward 9

*Issues that were constantly mentioned by 2014 & 2018 election candidates*

- Traffic & speeding in neighbourhoods
- Merivale Road
- Property Taxes
- Waste management

*Most candidates were in favour of the creation of a women's bureau for city hall*

**For more information on the incumbent's & past election candidates' stance on certain topics check out EcologyOttawa's "Election 2018: Candidates’ complete responses"*

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### Homelessness in Ward 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighbourhood</th>
<th>Living in Low Income</th>
<th>Major Home Repairs Needed</th>
<th>Spending 30% or More on Shelter Costs</th>
<th>Social and Affordable Housing Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barrhaven</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borden Farm - Stewart Farm - Parkwood Hills - Fisher Glen</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carleton Heights - Rideauview</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapman Mills - Rideau Crest - Davidson Heights</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cityview - Crestview - Meadowlands</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenbelt</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunt Club South Industrial</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merivale Gardens - Grenfell Glen - Pineglen - Country Place</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>1562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stonebridge - Halfmoon Bay - Heart's Desire</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skyline - Fisher Heights</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanglewood</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trend - Arlington</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodvale - Craig Henry - Manordale - Estates of Arlington Woods</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS: Voter turnout, candidates, results

Winner: Keith Egli

Candidate: Luigi Magone

Candidate: James Dean

Candidate: Peter Anthony Weber

Candidate: Warren Arshinoff

Ballot Distribution

Eligible Voters

Ballots Casted

40.03% voter turnout
Past ELECTION RESULTS:

2014 Winner: Keith Egli
2010 Winner: Keith Egli
2006 Winner: Gord Hunter
2003 Winner: Gord Hunter

2000 Winner: Gord Hunter
1997 Acclaimed: Gord Hunter
1994 Winner: Gord Hunter*

WHAT TO DO
You’re invited to the Systemic change party!

*If you answer ‘yes’ to any of the following questions*

Are we residing on unceded & unsurrendered Indigenous Land?

Should city council be more representative of Ottawa’s diversity?

Is the political landscape extremely inaccessible to people living with disabilities?

Is gender-based violence in politics rampant?

Do you have a BIWOC friend who may be interested in politics?

Is municipal level politics even important?

Are you looking for ways to be more politically active?

Is there an egregious lack of gender & racial diversity in Canadian politics?
A C T I O N

If you picked...

1. Find out who your city councillor is & request to see their voting record
2. Message that 1 friend you think would make a great politician & encourage them to run (you know who...)
3. Read "Gender-Based Violence in Politics" by Platform (to learn more about the realities women in politics face)
4. Visit defundthepolice.org/canada (defunding the police doesn’t mean abolishing community safety)
5. Visit endhomelessnessottawa.ca
6. Attend an Ottawa city council meeting (streamed on YouTube!)
7. Follow @justiceforabdirahamn on IG
8. Send an email to elections@ottawa.ca to request that they collect race-based/ disaggregated data on election candidates & winners


thank you
for coming to my
TED Talk

- Management