



**Centretown Community
Health Centre**

**Centre de santé
communautaire du Centre-ville**

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Mayor Jim Watson
Ottawa City Hall
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 1J1

November 18, 2016

Subject: Support for the City of Ottawa's official bilingual status

Dear Mayor Watson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Centretown Community Health Centre (CCHC). The Board recently passed a Motion asking you to join ranks with the thousands of citizens, as well as with numerous organizations, who want the City of Ottawa to become officially bilingual before the Canada 150 celebrations in 2017.

As you probably know, the #BilingualOttawa initiative wishes to officially recognize Ottawa's bilingual character in the *City of Ottawa Act, 1999*. Furthermore, their proposed approach aims to protect the city's existing Bilingualism Policy by incorporating it into its Bilingualism By-Law. This approach will add no extra costs to the city and will ensure the sustainability of French-language services within the City of Ottawa, while recognizing the equal status of both of our official languages in municipal services.

CCHC's funding agreement with the City of Ottawa already includes a clause that recognizes and respects the City's bilingualism policy. Making it official would reinforce the importance of this policy. CCHC is also seeking French Language Services designation as part of our accountability agreement with the Champlain LHIN. We hope to receive this designation in the coming months. Having an officially bilingual city will be helpful in our collective responsibility and ability to respond to the needs of the members of our diverse francophone community.

CCHC is asking you to support the #BilingualOttawa proposals and to work towards having this important initiative come to fruition in 2017. I hope you will see this as an opportunity to reaffirm your commitment to the linguistic duality of the Nation's Capital.

Sincerely,

Cathy Doolan
Board Chair

cc: Ottawa Bilingue
MPP Yasir Naqvi, Ottawa Centre