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Q1

Municipal Candidate

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Q2

Campaign Manager

Campaign Manager	Braeden Cain
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Q3

Ward

Ward 14 - Somerset

Q4

To reach our collective potential, we must work together to build up Ottawa. That requires a council in which each member commits to city wide leadership. What is your intended approach to collaboration with council, city staff and economic partners?

Like many people, I have been frustrated by the divisions that have characterized the previous term of council. While councillors must advocate and recognize the specific issues within their particular ward, at the end of the day we are all residents of the same city. If elected, I would prioritize developing better connections with inner urban, suburban, and rural councillors. I would invite them to Somerset Ward and visit places like the Somerset West Community Health Centre to get a better sense of the issues with drugs, housing, and poverty that we face daily in our community. I would invite them to spend some time in Dundonald Park, to understand why we need better maintenance and investment in our downtown greenspace. Likewise, I would head out to places like Barrhaven and Orleans to better understand those communities and their issues. I would travel to places like Fitzoy Harbour, Richmond, and Navan to understand the pressures facing residents in rural Ottawa. Understanding the breadth of issues in parts of our city, and developing better relationships between councillors will be crucial over the next four years in developing a fairer and more prosperous Ottawa.

Q5

What key characteristics and skills do you possess that make you a great leader and ambassador for the city of Ottawa, and the national capital region?

I pride myself on my ability to collaborate, to listen, and to learn. As a co-founder of Ottawa Transit Riders, I worked with advocacy groups across Ottawa to push for more reliable, affordable, and accessible public transit. As a former board member of the Centretown Community Association, we listened to the community who wanted a farmer's market in Centretown and helped to set up the successful Elgin Street Market. And my background in academia and the private sector has taught me the value of evidence-based policy, of listening to those most knowledgeable in their fields, and the importance of critical analysis.

Q6

What are your top three priorities for Ottawa's future?

My top three priorities over the next four years must be making public transit more frequent and reliable, fixing our civic infrastructure like sidewalks, and revitalizing our downtown core.

Developing a transit system that prioritizes frequency and reliability will help make it easier for residents to get to work, school, and events throughout the city. In addition, frequent and reliable transit will help to grow our local economy, helping small and medium sized businesses attract and retain workers. A bus that comes every ten minutes is a job creator, but a bus that comes every hour is a job killer.

Repairing our civic infrastructure will also help to create more attractive and livable neighbourhoods. Of special concern for me here in Somerset Ward are our cracked and broken sidewalks that exist throughout the ward. Prioritizing sidewalk repair and maintenance will allow all residents, especially seniors and those who use mobility devices to access more parts of our city.

Finally, we will need new leadership to revitalize Ottawa downtown core. We are never going back to the Ottawa of 2019, nor should we want to. We have an incredible opportunity to create a new community in downtown Ottawa. This means encouraging the transformation of empty office buildings into housing and emphasizing the creation of affordable housing. We must also reexamine municipal zoning regulations and property tax policies to encourage the development of shops and services like retail, grocery, and hardware stores to serve the growing downtown community. Finally, we must advocate for long-term investment to make the downtown core livable at street level, including larger sidewalks, accessible public spaces, comfortable seating, public restrooms, more greenery, interesting public art, and sensible tree-planting programs.

Q7

Yes, I would like to attend.

Are you able to attend the All Candidates Meet & Greet at the Shaw Centre on September 23, 2022 - 7:30 to 9:30 am. We are extending a complimentary ticket for you. Additional tickets can be purchased at ottawabot.ca.
