



Jim Watson
Mayor / Maire



**Office of the Mayor
City of Ottawa**

no Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1
Tel.: (613) 580-2496
Fax: (613) 580-2509
E-mail: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

**Bureau du maire
Ville d'Ottawa**

no, avenue Laurier Ouest
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1
Tél.: (613) 580-2496
Télééc.: (613) 580-2509
Courriel : Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

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OLIP Council,
Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership (OLIP)
Coordination Team,
Le Réseau de Soutien à l'Immigration Francophone de l'Est de l'Ontario (RSIFEO)

Dear members of the OLIP Council and the RSIFEO,

On behalf of Members of Ottawa City Council, I am delighted to extend greetings to the participants of the **2nd Annual Ottawa Immigration Forum**, where the OLIP partners and community stakeholders will convene under the theme "*The Building Blocks of a Welcoming Community*".

The Ottawa Immigration Forums provide a valuable opportunity to recognize our progress and to work collaboratively to define new goals and directions. The wealth of resources and the intellectual capital of the stakeholder groups represented at the Ottawa Immigration Forums combine to offer invaluable counsel and solid leadership in the development of community-driven objectives for the Ottawa Immigration Strategy.

I am very supportive of the City of Ottawa's active partnership role in helping to identify our shared goals. The many new initiatives led by senior City staff, including the introduction of the Municipal Immigration Portal, Municipal Work Experience Program, the launch of the Immigrant Entrepreneurship Awards last year and many others – are a clear reflection of the City's commitment to help strengthen our community's capacity to attract and integrate immigrants. As a major Canadian urban centre, Ottawa can serve as a municipal model for the integration of immigrants and nurturing of a successful multicultural community.

New this year, is the launch of the first ever *Welcoming Ottawa Week (WOW)*. This initiative is timely and will no doubt allow Ottawa residents to demonstrate our genuine hospitality to newcomers. Our community has a history of recognizing the important contribution which successful newcomer integration makes to our City's vibrancy and prosperity. *The Welcoming Ottawa Week* will underscore our openness to new residents to Canada, in addition to creating opportunities for dialogue between newcomers and established residents. I congratulate all the community stakeholders involved in the inaugural *Welcoming Ottawa Week*, which I have proclaimed from June 25th to 30th, and I am very happy to host the Welcoming Ottawa Week Breakfast Reception on June 26th.

Allow me to convey my best wishes to everyone present for a very productive and rewarding Forum. I am confident that the **2nd Annual Ottawa Immigration Forum** will mark another successful milestone in our journey towards our shared vision. I want to thank Deputy Mayor Steve Desroches for representing me at this year's Forum on June 27th.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa