



**Jim Watson**  
Mayor / Maire



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On behalf of Members of Ottawa City Council, representing 900,000 residents, it is my distinct pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to all the readers of the inaugural edition of *Ottawa Parenting Times Magazine*.

As Mayor and a long-time resident of Ottawa, I am proud of the enviable quality of life families enjoy in our city. My vision as the newly elected Mayor will focus on building a sustainable city economically, socially, culturally and environmentally with the goal to both safeguard and enhance our community's numerous built and natural assets to ensure that families can live, work and partake in leisure activities for family members of all ages.

During my mandate, I want to accelerate the integration of environmentally friendly cycling and pedestrian traffic into the public transit and transportation network by expanding multi-use pathways and cycling lanes for families and tourism, as well as exploring new green technologies for public transit to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.

In addition, I will work to ensure that municipal fees for recreational facilities and programming will remain at cost levels as widely accessible as possible to all families. I am also committed to making affordable housing a priority and taking a fiscally responsible approach to the budget process to protect families from the risk of losing their homes. I believe that creating an economic climate with a control on taxes will attract more business and talent to Ottawa, and benefit families, who rely on a healthy job market in a prosperous local economy.

I look forward to engaging the community in discussions, so that together, we can plan and build a viable and vibrant Ottawa with sustainable opportunities for a brighter future.

Allow me to congratulate Editor Kelly Roesler, the staff and Family Media Publishing for their successful publication of this first edition of *Ottawa Parenting Times Magazine*, and to convey best wishes to the readers of this informative bi-monthly for families across our city.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson  
Mayor  
City of Ottawa