



OTTAWA TAX PAYERS ADVOCACY GROUP

"The Silent Majority is Silent No More"

The Ottawa Taxpayer Advocacy Group Releases Detailed Plan for 2 Year Budget Freeze – No New Money

Hydro Ottawa & Ottawa Community Housing

Hydro Ottawa has a separate board, but since it is owned by taxpayers, any spending is reduced dividends for the City and higher user fees. The \$1.05 million "donation" by Hydro Ottawa to a company in Vancouver is reduced revenue for the City. They increase spending yearly, but the public has no input on such a large budget. Council should develop operational efficiency targets for the board, they should also ask Hydro Ottawa / Housing to provide operating and capital costs budgets which are similar in format to the City's budget. While Council cannot force the board to make this information available, staff can send enclosed text to the CEO of Hydro Ottawa / Housing. Please post the response from the Hydro / Housing CEO as the answer from the City.

Dear CEO Hydro Ottawa,

The City of Ottawa is hosting a Financial Summit for its residents; we would like to know what was spent on the following in 2009:

Research, recruitment, training, cost engineering, finance analyst, general reporting, performance measurement, corporate communication and online content, Administration, planning, billing and revenue collection, expenditure management, advertising, executive, printing, office stationary, promotional items, office furniture, computers, procurement, facilities maintenance and cleaning, knowledge management & record keeping, management of federal & provincial legislation, executive, board, usage measurement, distribution network, billing, hydro production, accounting, hr, it, Administration, communication, clean energy investments, legal, fleet, sponsorships & donations, list and cost of each 2010 capital project.

Dear CEO Ottawa Community Housing,

The City of Ottawa is hosting a Financial Summit for its residents; we would like to know what was spent on the following in 2009:

External structure repairs, internal structure repairs, plumbing repairs, electrical repairs, heating & cooling system, cleaning, waste management, flooring, doors & windows, security, pest control, outdoor & gardening, legal, billing, estimating & costing, fleet & transportation, interior decoration, it, managing applications for housing, research, recruitment, training, cost engineering, finance analyst, general reporting, performance measurement, corporate communication and online content, Administration, planning, billing and revenue collection, expenditure management, advertising, executive, printing, office stationary, promotional items, office furniture, computers, procurement, facilities maintenance and cleaning, knowledge management & record keeping, management of federal & provincial legislation, executive, board, usage measurement, distribution network, billing, hydro production, accounting, hr, it, Administration, communication, clean energy investments, legal, fleet, sponsorships & donations, list and cost of each 2010 capital project.

City Response

The City has indicated that it will not address questions regarding the operations of Ottawa Hydro. OTAG is encouraged to contact Hydro Ottawa directly.

Follow Up Question Hydro Ottawa

Hydro Ottawa / Housing their combined budgets is likely over \$300 million dollars, any spending means reduced dividends for the City and higher user fees. The \$1.05 million "donation" by Hydro Ottawa to a company in Vancouver is reduced revenue for the City. We asked staff and Councillors on the board to ask Hydro Ottawa to provide operating and capital costs budgets which are similar in format to the City's budget, we can use this to develop operational efficiency targets for the board. We have also asked the city to make the response from the Hydro / Housing CEO Public.

Can you imagine the CEO of CTV having no interest in seeing the budget for companies that they own like A Channel or CFRA? Any funds spent by Hydro Ottawa is lost revenue for the City, we need to see their budget.

We have received the budget for Housing, why would Hydro Ottawa prevent us from seeing what should be a public document?

Drinking Water, Solid & Liquid Waste

Kindly estimate the cost of providing each service based on the groups below? If there is a 5% cut on this core service, what will be the impact to each cost group?

	Service	operating cost	Total Program
	Drinking Services		
	Water Distribution		
	Fire Hydrants		
	Water Production & Testing		
	Cross Connection Control		
	Water & Sewer Billing		
	Water Usage Measurement		
1	Rural Well Water Testing	51,230	125,833
	Solid Waste		
	Green Bin - transportation		
	Blue Bin- transportation		
	Black Bin- transportation		
	Regular Garbage- transportation		
	Green Bin – other costs		
	Blue Bin – other costs		
	Black Bin – other costs		
	Regular Garbage – other costs		
	Advertising & promotion		
	Garbage Inspection		
	Landfill- Trail Road		
	Landfill- Carp Road		
	Incineration To Energy		
2	Composting	72,734	66,569
	Waste Water Services		
	Sewer System		
3	Storm Water System	43,991	126,472

	Rural & Agriculture (Storm Water) Integrated Water		
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City Response

Decisions with respect to the setting of water rates are made on an annual basis by Council based on the financial requirements to operate the system, to address the maintenance and growth of the infrastructure and to meet all provincial legislative requirements. Depending on a number of factors such as the amount of cash or debt used in the financing of capital works or how storm water costs are funded, the water rates will vary between municipalities.