



## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT / MESSAGE D'INTÉRÊT PUBLIC**

For immediate release:  
February 5, 2004

### **Have your say on Council remuneration**

**Ottawa** – The City has appointed a five-member Task Force of citizens to make recommendations on Council remuneration. The *Citizens' Task Force on Council Remuneration* will explore the appropriate level of compensation for Councillors and the Mayor, the continuation of the one-third tax-free allowance, and other related employment benefits.

In order to facilitate feedback from members of the public, the *Citizens' Task Force on Council Remuneration* will be holding an open house next week:

**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2004  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** City Hall (110 Laurier Ave. West)  
Keefer Room, 2nd Floor Heritage Building

Detailed information on current Council remuneration and related employment benefits can be found on the City's web site at [www.ottawa.ca](http://www.ottawa.ca).

Citizens are also encouraged to share their thoughts on Council remuneration – via e-mail at [remuneration@ottawa.ca](mailto:remuneration@ottawa.ca) – until Friday, February 13, 2004.

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## City of Ottawa Members of Council Compensation/Benefit Summary

### Remuneration

#### *Salaries*

At its meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2001, City Council approved the following remuneration for its Members:

<b>MAYOR</b>			
<b>Pay</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Taxable</b>	<b>Non-taxable Allowance*</b>
Annual	\$110,135.00	\$73,424.26	\$36,711.22
Bi-weekly	\$4,235.96	\$2,824.01	\$1,411.97

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>			
<b>Pay</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Taxable</b>	<b>Non-taxable Allowance*</b>
Annual	\$56,000.00	\$37,333.33	\$18,666.67
Bi-weekly	\$2,153.85	\$1,435.90	\$717.94

\*One-third of the remuneration received by elected officials is deemed to be for expenses and is, therefore, non-taxable [see the *Municipal Act* and the *Income Tax Act*].

Members of Council may be entitled to receive other compensation with respect to various local boards in accordance with the decisions of those bodies.

#### *Transportation Allowance/Mileage*

A transportation allowance is provided to each Member of Council in the amount of \$250.00 bi-weekly to a maximum of \$500.00 per month and is taxed in accordance with the *Income Tax Act*. The Mayor does not receive a transportation allowance. In the alternative, the Mayor is provided with a car and driver.

## **Benefits**

Members of Council are entitled to the following benefits: extended health care; life and dental insurance; and, long-term disability.

The current levels of coverage are as follows;

- Extended Health Care (premiums fully paid)
- Dental Care (shared 25%/75% by Council/City)
- Life Insurance (premiums shared 25%/75% by Council/City)
- Long-Term Disability and Pension Benefits (employer/employee matched contributions)

## **Pension**

The Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (“OMERS”) is a multi-employer pension plan for employees and elected officials of Ontario municipalities and local boards and has been in place since 1962. OMERS is a contributory defined benefit pension plan with normal retirement age at 65 years.

Enrolment is mandatory for all Members of Council. Contributions are matched by the employer and are based on the taxable portion of the Member of Council’s earnings as follows:

- 6.0% of earnings up to the Years' Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE)(<\$40.1K)
- 8.8% of earnings over the Years' Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE)

## **Amendments/Enhancements**

Any changes, amendments or enhancements to the insured benefit plans, or OMERS pension plan set out in this Manual that are applicable to General Managers will also be extended to the Member of Council’s benefit plans. This may include changes to premium rates, level of benefit reimbursement, or benefit plan design.