

The City of Ottawa's plan for downtown business recovery

The City of Ottawa is undertaking several initiatives to help businesses and main streets recover some of what was lost during the recent protest and occupation of our downtown neighbourhoods. Some initiatives are underway right now while details on others are being developed.

All of these initiatives have been approved by City Council and details will be available soon through the [Ottawa Coalition of Business Improvement Areas](#) and the City's website at ottawa.ca.

Tax deferrals

Although interim tax bills have already been sent, and the due date is March 17, City Council has committed to deferring the interim tax bill for affected businesses in the areas impacted by the occupation. More details will be presented to City Council at its next meeting on Wednesday, March 9.

Financial support

The City of Ottawa will provide up to \$50,000 for each of the following organizations to support area recovery:

- Sparks Street BIA
- Bank Street BIA
- Downtown Rideau BIA
- ByWard Market BIA
- Elgin Area Business Association

Up to \$25,000 will be provided for each of the following organizations to support area recovery:

- Quartier Vanier BIA
- Somerset Village BIA
- Somerset Street Chinatown BIA
- Preston Street BIA
- Westboro Village BIA
- Wellington West BIA
- Glebe BIA
- Ottawa Markets Corporation

More details will be available soon regarding process, criteria, and timelines.

Ottawa Music Industry Coalition (OMIC)

The City of Ottawa will provide funding of \$50,000 to OMIC to deliver the City Sounds concert series in 2022. Concerts will take place at outdoor venues in the areas impacted by the occupation.

No charge transit

Since Sunday, February 20, 15 OC Transpo bus routes serving downtown, as well as Para Transpo trips to and from Rideau-Vanier and Somerset wards, have been no-charge. Beginning Friday, February 25, O-Train Line 1 will also be no-charge. This no-charge service will be in place until regular fares resume on March 27. More information is available at octranspo.com.

No charge parking

Beginning Friday, February 25, until Thursday, March 31, the City will not charge for parking at any of the following parking lots or garages:

- 210 Gloucester Street
- 234-250 Slater Street
- 422 Slater Street
- 70 Clarence Street
- 141 Clarence Street
- 110 Laurier Avenue West

#OttawaLove

The downtown occupation ruined Valentine's Day for a lot of downtown businesses and residents. So, let's have another one. The City and its economic partners are encouraging residents to support local businesses a little more during the weekend leading up to and on Monday, March 14 to celebrate a special makeup version of Valentine's Day in Ottawa. Please use #OttawaLove in your social media posts to help spread the word and spread the love.