

# Rural Solutions for Rural People

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024



# Why A Rural Summit?

- Ottawa is truly a unique city. Ottawa is 80% rural.
- Rural villages make up a significant part of Ottawa's population. Farming and agriculture are a huge part of our local economy.
- I've spoken out to ensure that city hall doesn't impose urban solutions on rural residents.
- And I've supported our rural councillors as they continue to ensure that the needs of rural residents are not overlooked.



# Rural Solutions for Rural people

## Outcomes

- This is the start of a new chapter in Ottawa, a new chapter in Rural Ottawa.
- These steps will ensure city hall continues to listen and learn and adapt.



# 1. Water Rate Review and Ditching improvements

- We've heard your feedback about the water rate system.
- I intend to double the ditching, and drainage budget in 2025.
- Collaborating with a Councillor-led working group to enhance ditch infrastructure and safety and address the safety hazards posed by noxious plants and standing water in rural ditches.





## 2. Strengthening ARAC's Mandate

### Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

- Giving ARAC more decision-making power on rural matters.
- Changes will be proposed at the end of 2024 in the mid-term governance review. Expected implementation in Q2 2025 following Council approval.
- Empowering rural councillors to ensure your voices are heard.



### 3. Enhancing the Rural Affairs Office

- I intend to increase resources in the Rural Affairs Office.
- In addition, we will have a Rural Lead in each department.
- Ensuring a focused rural perspective in decision-making starting January 2025.



## 4. Improving Rural Paramedic Response

- Exploring new deployment locations and advancing the Offload Delay strategy.
- Hiring 23 new paramedics in 2025 and another 23 in 2026.
- New dispatch system showing improved response times.



## 5. Dedicated Rural Programs for Intersection Signals

- Establish a stand-alone list for rural-specific intersection signals.
- New stand-alone list starting in 2025.
- Eliminating rural/urban competition for funding.





## 6. Rural Lens for Infrastructure

- **Moving away from a one-size-fits-all model** to address diverse rural needs.
- Consulting with rural councillors on road renewal projects.
- Implementation starting by the end of 2024 which will reflect the diverse needs of rural residents.



## 7. Streamline planning for Rural applications

- Delegated authority for minor rezoning applications to ARAC.
- Reviewing and streamlining the severance application process.
- Work to begin in 2025.



## 8. Developing a balanced Rural Growth Strategy

- Collaborating with rural councillors to review current densification pressures.
- Exploring opportunities for balanced development across villages.
- Review scheduled for 2025 – focusing on what's best for rural Ottawa.



## 9. Advocating for Rural Priorities with the Province

- Engaging in discussions about excess soils regulation.
- Ensuring access to grants and emergency responses for rural Ottawa.
- Advocating for formal recognition of Ottawa as a rural city.





# 10. Commitment to the Next Rural Summit

- Hosting the next Rural Summit in 2027/2028.
- Ongoing process to listen, review, and adjust based on your feedback.
- Beginning a new chapter for Rural Ottawa.



**Thank you. Merci.**

