

# Ward 19 • Orléans South-Navan in alphabetical order

**Shamsa Sheikh Ahmed** - no responses

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**Yvette Ashiri**

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**Q1. Increasingly, Jewish Ottawans are concerned about rising antisemitism. As a city councillor, will you advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?**

Yes. There is a growing distrust among the Jewish community in our city council to keep them safe and protected. I will always advocate for more educational and support programs that promote awareness and prevention of antisemitism and foster safer, more inclusive communities.

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**Q2. How are you going to push back against antisemitism in all of its forms?**

I look forward to working with organizations like the Jewish Federation of Ottawa to discuss how we can implement municipal policies and programs that prevent antisemitism in our communities and foster safer environments for all residents

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**Q3. As with all at-risk communities, there are various times in the year when the Jewish community is required to hire extra security to protect our houses of worship and organizations. Will you support the use of paid duty officers to provide that needed security?**

Yes. I will support the Jewish community in every way I can. Everyone in Ottawa deserves to feel safe in our city. If communities feel unsafe and unprotected, I am committed to doing everything in my power to support them and provide protection.

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**Q4 . Are you in favour of continued funding for the Ottawa Police Services Hate Crimes unit?**

Yes, as long as the funding is dependant on periodic reviews of the unit's efficacy and conduct

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**Q5. The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. Would you be supportive of Ottawa adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?**

Of course! Adopting this definition will allow residents and lawmakers to understand the gravity of anti-semitism and be able to recognize and combat it in all its forms. Council needs to start taking actual, concrete steps to recognize the rise of anti-semitism and combat it.

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**Q6. Tamir is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting developmentally disabled people and those with autism. Plans for upgrades and expanded services stalled due to COVID. Will you be an ally and advocate for Tamir to receive help in upgrading their facilities?**

Absolutely, those who would benefit from support from organizations like Tamir should not have to wait or be left in the dark. Support services like these are essential and must be accessible. In talking to people at the doors, I have met many people with disabilities who feel unsupported and left behind- which is why support for people with disabilities is a big part of my platform

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**Q7. Food insecurity for seniors is on the rise. How will you support the city's ethnocultural (kosher/halal) meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for those who are most vulnerable?**

Yes. Food options at food banks should always be inclusive of all diets. No one should go hungry because of their identity.



**Catherine Kitts** (*incumbent*)

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**Q1. Increasingly, Jewish Ottawans are concerned about rising antisemitism. As a city councillor, will you advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?**

yes

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**Q2. How are you going to push back against antisemitism in all of its forms?**

At the city level I think it is important for Councillors to call out when there are acts or symbols of antisemitism, and hate in general, especially when it is taking place in public realms and spaces. I believe in an Ottawa that is safe for all. I am in support of the recent calls for City's Anti-Racism Secretariat to work with the community to develop greater awareness of impacts of racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia. I look forward to seeing the report back on this work at an upcoming CPSC committee meeting and what actions are recommended from staff moving forward.

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**Q3. As with all at-risk communities, there are various times in the year when the Jewish community is required to hire extra security to protect our houses of worship and organizations. Will you support the use of paid duty officers to provide that needed security?**

I do support the use of paid duty officers where it makes sense or in situations where there is the risk to certain groups due to threats or potential for violence. In many cases it is the community agency, group or organizer of the event that pays for the service through the Paid Duty Program with the OPS.

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**Q5. The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. Would you be supportive of Ottawa adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?**

Yes. I am supportive of the definition and appreciate that there is an acknowledgement that it is a working definition and defined by the community.

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**Q6. Tamir is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting developmentally disabled people and those with autism. Plans for upgrades and expanded services stalled due to COVID. Will you be an ally and advocate for Tamir to receive help in upgrading their facilities?**

Yes. I think the challenge is balancing the growing need we are seeing in our social and community services sector, in particular with an impending recession and the economic impacts of COVID, and the need to keep taxes affordable for residents in Ottawa.

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**Q7. Food insecurity for seniors is on the rise. How will you support the city's ethnocultural (kosher/halal) meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for those who are most vulnerable?**

I believe in inclusivity for meal choices for all, including seniors, and this is especially challenging for those that are accessing food programs. Providing support for local initiatives like the New Roots Farm (at the Just Food Farm) is a great way to ensure that some families can grow their own food that supports their own dietary and cultural needs. However, this is not practical or open to everyone, so ensuring that we are supporting our local food cupboards so that a wider variety of choices can be stocked is essential. Councillors who come out in support of the Food Bank can help drive that awareness.