

Jim Watson and Centretown

As a former Mayor of Ottawa and Ontario Cabinet Minister, Jim Watson has always taken a special interest in Centretown - recognizing its importance to the city as a whole and understanding some of the unique challenges the urban core has to deal with.

Housing

As Ontario's Housing Minister, Jim signed the largest Federal-Provincial housing agreement in Ontario's history. As a result, new affordable housing units are being built in Centretown, including: The Beaver Barracks on Argyle, the Cornerstone Women's Shelter on Booth St., & the Multi-Faith Housing initiative on Somerset Street.



Development

As a City Councillor and later as Mayor, Jim was one of the primary supporters of eliminating development charges to help spur residential construction in the core. Residential housing starts increased significantly thanks to this innovative incentive.

Arts, Culture and Heritage

The arts community is vital to a healthy city. Jim has been a long time volunteer with many local and national arts organizations, such as the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra; Opera Lyra, GCTC & the National Arts Centre. Jim worked with his colleagues to secure over \$6 million for a downtown concert hall – money that is now in the city's bank account.

Safety

As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Jim was instrumental in securing funds to have 100 new front line police officers, with the province paying 50% of salaries and benefits.



Downtown Summit

As Mayor, Jim hosted the city's first ever downtown summit to bring together community activists, developers and business leaders to plan what else we can do to keep the core safe, vibrant and livable.



Transportation

Together with his cabinet colleagues, Jim was part of the province's agreement to triple transit capital funding from \$200 million to \$600 million – a record investment for Ottawa. The City as also benefited from gas tax revenue flowing directly to OC Transpo (approx. \$36 million per year).

Jim Watson Knows The Community

Former board member: Bank Street BIA & Sparks Street mall authority; volunteer with GCTC, United Way, Ottawa Symphony & Opera Lyra.

Environment

Following the ice storm Jim helped raise over \$100,000 in private funds and secured hundreds of thousands in provincial funds to help re-tree Ottawa. He also announced \$33 million in provincial funds to help clean up the Ottawa River, and strengthen the provincial building code to make new construction more environmentally friendly, and energy



A stylized, handwritten signature of Jim Watson in black ink.

Jim Watson
Candidate for Mayor



Further information:

613-835-2400

www.jimwatson.ca