

Letter of Comment - EB-2024-0115

-- Name --

NICOLE RICHARDSON

-- Do you reside in the impacted service area? -- Yes

-- Comments --

I am writing to express growing concern about the increasing financial burden being placed on Ottawa's seniors and low- to mid-income households through continual hikes in the cost of essential services. These changes such as the one you are proposing are placing unsustainable pressure on many residents who are already struggling to make ends meet.

For seniors on fixed incomes, even modest increases in monthly expenses can force impossible choices between housing, medication, food, or transportation. For single households and working families earning modest wages, every dollar counts—and the cumulative effect of higher service fees and reduced affordability is undermining both financial stability and overall quality of life.

Changes such as the recent and proposed adjustments to essential services do not happen in isolation. They have a ripple effect across the local economy. When people are forced to cut back on spending, small businesses suffer, demand for public assistance rises, and social inequity deepens. We cannot ignore the long-term economic and social costs of policies that place a disproportionate burden on the most vulnerable in our city.

We ask that decision-makers carefully consider the full impact of these policy shifts. Budget shortfalls should not be resolved on the backs of those who can least afford it. Instead, we urge leaders to explore fairer, more equitable funding models—ones that protect seniors, support working families, and strengthen the economic health of our community as a whole.

Ottawa deserves to be a city where everyone, regardless of income, can live with dignity and security.