



# New Official Plan

## The Economy

As a G-7 capital, Ottawa's strong government presence provides an economic resilience unique among global mid-sized cities. Almost 30 per cent of the city's economic activity and one-third of employed residents are attributable to the public sector, which includes universities and hospitals.

Ottawa also has a strong information and communications technology sector employing almost 80,000 people in 2018 and tourism sector, responsible for 36,000 direct jobs in 2016.

Cities are increasingly dependent on knowledge, information, technology, and skilled talent as a means by which to innovate and increase productivity levels. With a high proportion of Ottawa's population employed in highly skilled knowledge-based occupations like computer and information systems, the city is well positioned to excel.

Going forward, Ottawa's ability to compete in the knowledge economy will be based on its ability to develop local businesses and talent, attract high skilled labour, and create the regulatory climate to promote entrepreneurship and innovation. It will also be based on our success in promoting Ottawa to the world through branding and signature projects that set Ottawa apart from the competition.

Knowledge workers are looking for cities with safe, affordable, vibrant, mix-used communities where they can live, work and play.

Businesses are increasingly looking for flexibility to create 'economic clusters' which bring together different types of businesses with research facilities and large scale institutions like hospitals in one area. These types of economic clusters can encourage competition, spur innovation, and play an important place-making role. Current land use policies can sometimes prevent compatible firms and other types of organizations from locating together.

The growth of our population also means a larger domestic market that allows for more locally-sourced procurement, the presence and emergence of more local-serving companies, and the nurturing, creation or attraction of additional economic sectors to build on those we already have, and take advantage of our role as nation's capital in doing so.

The Strategic Priorities that are considered for discussion are: attracting knowledge workers, planning to support economic clusters, supporting local entrepreneurship, and improving connections.

Notably, the City would like to discuss the extent to which Ottawa can benefit through greater collaboration and cooperation with Montreal and Toronto in order to compete with larger economic regions globally.

