



## *Elements for building resilience in Ottawa*

### **Economy**

- *Ottawa's strategy "Partnership for Innovation" (2015-2018) for diversifying its economy* outlines its economic development plan.
- *Attracting investment and expanding business* through the agency "Invest Ottawa" (2012) and the introduction of the Capital Investment Track Program (CIY) (2012).
- *Entrepreneurship and innovation contribute to Ottawa's economic prosperity*. The Community Economic Development (CED) Grant Program and the "Lead-to-Win" project are examples of local supports for new businesses and start-ups.
- *Taking advantage of tourism to revitalise the economy*, with the creation of Events Ottawa, a major office responsible for pro-actively targeting and attracting a diverse set of major events, including tourism and corporate travel.
- *Skilled talent attraction and retention to support the economy are high on the city's agenda*, with the strategy "Talent Attraction Toolkit" currently under development.

### **Society**

- *Ottawa encourages residents to participate in the land-use planning* by offering the Planning Primer Program.
- *Encouraging entrepreneurship of immigrants and facilitating assimilation*, for example by hosting the "Annual Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards" since three years.

### **Environment**

- *Dense development: Ottawa has increased residential intensification* through the Official Plan of the city of Ottawa (2012-2016) which redirects intensification to areas with high levels of transit service or where dwellings are close to employment.
- *Public transport: Ottawa encourages sustainable mobility* with the development of a new light rail transit (LRT) network by 2018.
- *Urban redevelopment projects with good links to public transport are underway*, such as "Zibi", which aims to connect population both sides of the river by providing connection points through public transit systems.

### **Institutions**

- *Ottawa has developed initiatives for a strategic programme with regional partners*, such as "Choosing Our Future" (2008), as well as the Sustainability and Resilience Plan (2012) in partnership with Gatineau and the National Capital Commission.
- *New partnerships with the private sector help drive Ottawa's economic development*, including Invest Ottawa, Events Ottawa, and the Ottawa Council of Business Improvement Areas.

### **Conclusions**

- Ottawa's integrated approach to develop a Plan for Sustainability and Resilience with the city of Gatineau and the National Capital Commission enables horizontal policy co-ordination (e.g. economy, energy and land-use planning) beyond municipal boundaries and assists the city and the national Capital Region for eventualities.
- The city's initiatives such as Partnerships for Innovation diversifies economic activities into tourism, entrepreneurship and other industries beyond the public sector-oriented job market, strengthens its economy against any structural changes in the public sector and sets a good example for other capital cities.
- The city has so far successfully managed to pursue compact urban form by increasing residential intensification to accommodate population growth and housing needs while preserving the green zone, and strengthening an adaptive capacity of the city. This approach should be further promoted. In particular, encouraging development supportive of the public transportation network will increase residents' accessibility to services and jobs.
- The city's economic development strategy is to focus on investment attraction, business expansion, entrepreneurship, tourism development, and research and information tools, and will require continuing co-operation with the neighbouring municipalities, universities and the private sector.