

Appendix C

OPC OUTREACH

PUBLIC HEARINGS

OPC began its public hearings on September 21, 2022, continuing through to December 10, 2022. Over the course of 13 hearings, held both online and in person, Commissioners heard from 56 residents. More than 300 people attended these hearings and more than 1,600 have viewed them on YouTube.

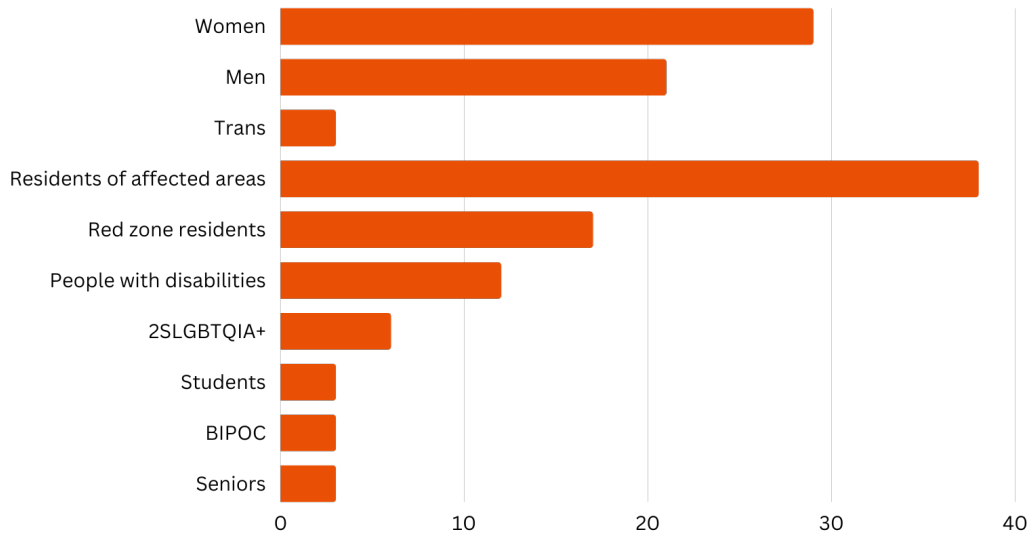
Some hearings grouped testimonies by theme, including one session dedicated to people with disabilities (October 12, 2022), a session dedicated to journalists (November 8, 2022) and two sessions dedicated to supporters of the convoy (October 5 and November 24, 2022).

While the majority of individuals who provided testimony, commentary and submissions described the convoy's harmful impact, 12.5% of people also spoke of ways that they felt that impact had been positive and beneficial to them.

DATES, LOCATIONS AND THEMES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

September 21 In-person <i>McNabb Community Centre, Centretown</i>	November 8 Zoom <i>Special focus on journalists</i>
September 22 In-person <i>Le Patro, Lowertown</i>	November 16 Zoom
October 5 Zoom <i>Special focus on convoy supporters</i>	November 24 Zoom <i>Special focus on convoy supporters</i>
October 12 Zoom <i>Special focus on people with disabilities</i>	December 3 Zoom <i>Private hearings</i>
October 27 Zoom	December 6 Zoom
November 5 In-person <i>Jack Purcell Community Centre, Centretown</i>	December 7 Zoom
	December 10 In-person <i>Centre Pauline-Charron, Vanier</i>

Public hearings demographic breakdown



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

OPC conducted eight community consultations with a total of 95 participants, targeting specific groups directly affected by the occupation, including people experiencing homelessness, Asian seniors, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, representatives from Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) and others.

Commissioners met with local residents of two downtown Ottawa apartment buildings located on Somerset Street and on Bay Street where they heard from Asian seniors and people with mobility challenges.

With the support of Centretown Community Health Centre, OPC partnered with community agencies such as The Well, Good Companions Seniors Centre, City For All Women Initiative, Kind Space and Wisdom2Action to create safe spaces for people experiencing homelessness, seniors, people with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members to come forward with the experiences of the convoy.

Commissioners also met privately with four local residents who requested anonymity.

LISTING OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

395 Somerset Street - 52 participants, mostly Asian seniors

The Well - 8 participants

Good Companions Seniors Centre - 4 participants, all seniors

Kind Space 2SLGBTQIA+ sessions (2) - 10 participants

151 Bay Street - 7 participants including 2 who use mobility aids

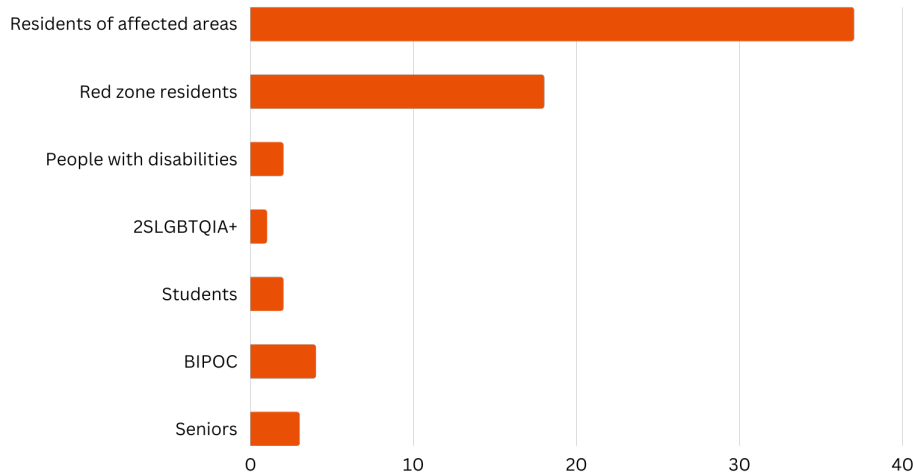
CAWI session - 10 participants

BIAs session - 4 participants

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

OPC received 90 written submissions from the public. Most submissions spoke negatively about the convoy's impact, however nine submissions offered positive comments.

Written submissions demographic breakdown



TOP TEN TAGS

A review of the oral and written submissions to OPC identify the following issues as the topics most often cited as concerns.

	%
Impact of truck horns	36
Feeling threatened and unsafe	29
Lack of response from authorities	26
Harassment related to masks	25
Inability or fear of leaving home	24
Fumes	21
Mental health, anxiety	14
Impact of protest messages	14
Incidents of hate	11
Loss of trust in government	11

CONVOY TIMELINE

Using images, video, media coverage and other materials submitted by the public, OPC developed a timeline of events from mid-January through to mid-March 2022, documenting key elements of the impact of the convoy occupation on Ottawa residents and businesses.

INNER CITY STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

OPC convened an Inner-City Stakeholders Group, composed of members from community associations and agencies, business groups and unions, faith communities and organizations representing diverse groups — especially those confronting hate, discrimination and marginalization — to promote collective action to preempt a repeat of the convoy occupation.

This group has offered counsel and support to OPC, assessing available resources and developing proposals to bolster emergency preparedness in the community, drawing lessons learned from the response to the convoy occupation.

CONSULTATIONS WITH KEY INFORMANTS AND EXPERTS

OPC has consulted with Indigenous elders, public officials, experts and other key informants to carry out additional research or gather further information to complement or complete what we have heard from community members.

OPC consulted with community agencies such as Cornerstone Housing for Women, Good Companions Seniors Centre, The Well, Kind Space, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and others to assess the impact on vital service providers and vulnerable populations in the community.

Commissioners consulted with Verna McGregor and Sheldon Kiishkens Ross McGregor from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation. They also engaged with former City councillors Catherine McKenney and Mathieu Fleury, and Paul Champ, the lawyer representing thousands of residents and businesses in a class-action lawsuit against the 'Freedom Convoy'.