

# Kitchissippi WARD

25 January 2019

To whom it may concern,

During the term of Ottawa's City Council 2014-2018, I had the pleasure to work with Saad Bashir both in his role with our economic development department stickhandling the building of our new Innovation Centre at Bayview Yards, as well as during his tenure as our Chief Information Officer.

During the term I was the Vice-Chair of Council's Information Technology Sub-committee, which I will Chair in this term.

In this role, I came to rely on Saad's strategic advice and support as CIO, as well as his responsiveness to operational issues. Saad's strategic instincts for choosing how to focus the department's energies with multiple competing interests advocated internally at the staff and political levels, as well as by citizens was particularly noteworthy. Several large projects including a corporate platform and device migration, and application lifecycle replacements, were handled with competence and without drama.

The City's challenge will be to find a replacement for Saad who has the same exemplary leadership skills in motivating department staff. His insistence on creating an open and supportive environment for staff, holding himself accountable for their success and professional development, has resulted in significantly greater organizational capacity and cost savings to the taxpayer.

I am certain that Saad will succeed in the most senior roles in any municipality, making a critical contribution in the public interest.

Cordially,



**Jeff Leiper**

City Councillor, Kitchissippi Ward 15  
City of Ottawa  
110 Laurier Ave. W  
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

[kitchissippiward.ca](http://kitchissippiward.ca)

613-580-2485



@KitchissippiOtt



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