

Hello Sam,

I am writing you today (Aug. 17) not as a candidate but as a resident of Cumberland Ward and as President of the Carlsbad Springs Community Association.

I respect the decision of Horizon Ottawa to have chosen Yvette as your preferred candidate in the upcoming October 5th by-election in Cumberland Ward.

I hope your decision and reasoning behind this decision is successful. First because I also want change at City Hall and also because I do not want the endorsed candidate (we all know who she is) by Stephen Blais and Jim Watson to win the election. We do not need another Watson puppet and another councillor influenced by the people in the development (builders) industry.

But...

As I presume none of you at Horizon Ottawa live in Cumberland Ward therefore I wanted to give your group an idea of my view on this by-election.

I have been living in Cumberland Ward for over 20 years and I also lived in the same area from 1971 to 1994 when I was a child, a teenager and a young adult then I moved to Toronto for 7 years and I came back in early 2000. I know my community and Cumberland ward very well.

Unfortunately most rural residents will NOT vote for a big change at this time, they will vote for candidate(s) that represents their value and in rural Cumberland that is either Kitts or myself and some fringe candidates will get some votes but not a lot will go to Yvette or Lyse-Pascale unfortunately in the rural area.

Also, ALL rural residents will NOT be supporting a candidate that is not from the rural area, a BIG issue with Yvette's chance of being elected as

SHE needs the rural support to win. Rural residents are fed up with having an urban councillor. Every rural resident I talked to said their preference is to have a councillor that is from rural Cumberland. They are fed up with Blais as he was not the voice for them. I know because everyone I speak to has told me that they will not be voting for a candidate that does not live in a rural area – outside the urban section. After walking around for over a month in Carlsbad Springs, Vars, Sarsfield, Bearbrook, Navan, Cumberland Village the residents will be voting majority for what they know. If they cannot pronounce the name they will not vote for individuals that are unknown to them. There is a BIG divide between rural and suburban communities. Not in a bad way just the way life is in general. Living in Orléans with your neighbor's house sitting beside yours at 10 feet away is very different from living in a rural community or in any village or on a farm. The reason why I cannot wait until Ottawa council redefines the ward boundaries to create a new suburban Orleans ward and a separate rural Cumberland Ward possibly merge with Osgoode (but that is another issue).

You may say, well that is fine but the rural vote will count for almost half of the votes, estimated at 5000 at least while the urban vote (6000 to 7000 only) will be from Avalon, Avalon Encore, Queenswood Heights and Fallingbrook south. For a total of 12 000 votes only (this number is probably overestimated as it may be only 10 000 voters due to the Covid Pandemic and if you get a rainy day on Oct 5 even less will go to vote..). 1 in 3 rural voters will vote while only 1 in 6 urban voters will vote. Make your own calculations to see how Yvette needs to get in urban Cumberland to beat Kitts. NOT POSSIBLE. She needs more votes than her in urban Cumberland and this won't happen. Urban voters do not care as much about municipal affairs but rural residents they care more and vote more and they want a rural councillor.

That does not leave a lot of voters for Yvette. Only 7000 maximum in the Orleans area will vote, as the rural vote (5000) is out of reach. She needs at least 3500 to win a majority based on the split of votes between all 9 candidates.

What I am trying to say is that out of those 7000 votes many will go to Kitts, some will go to Lyse-Pascale, some to me and some to the fringe candidates. The chance of winning for Yvette even though you have hundreds of volunteers and more signs and money will not have a major impact unfortunately. I hope I am wrong but after a month of being out there at every corner of the ward I have learn to understand the voters, who will vote and how they will vote. Some will just NOT vote, up to 80% of the residents.

Two thing will play against her. She does not live in rural Ottawa, she is not Caucasian (this is not a racist comment but a fact, as rural voters are more conservatives, 99% Caucasian and they vote for someone that lives in their rural community, someone that understands them). What may help is 38% of voters are Francophones therefore Yvette may be able to get some of that vote from residents that do their research and see what she has done and that she is a French. For me, my name says it all to my advantage. I am just being optimistic here. I will give you an example. I was walking in a rural development near the Bearbrook golf course last week. I walked to the door, introduce myself and the lady at the door took my card. She look at my name I say “Bonjour je suis Denis Labrèche, un des candidats pour les élections”. She say, all good, you are French, avec ton nom M. Labreche tu as mon vote. Merci. “ There will be lots of people doing this, without even knowing me they see the name and feel fine. The rest, the anglophones will do the same with Kitts. Same reaction I know. I had this comment many times in all communities for the past 4 weeks. A French name sells in rural Cumberland. I know I am worth more than my name but will get votes, lots of them just because I am a Labrèche, a PURE Franco-Ontarian. The ones that have been here for generations, the Levesque, the Labonté, the Bourbonnais, the Lacasse, etc... will see my name and find themselves. Some will go to Valois but that is all good. But none of them will vote for a name like Inamuco or Ashiri unfortunately. These names are not associated with pure French Canadian names and most francophone will support someone they see themselves in. And again I am NOT racist here, just telling you what will happen as I know my community. There is a lot of history here.

How do you think Blais got so many votes? Some voters presume he was pure French with that name back when he went against Rob Jellet. Clear and simple. He also had thousands of dollars from the builders to promote his name to everyone. That helps.

I could spend \$25 000 on my own campaign. I am not poor. But clearly for a 2 year mandate it is not worth it. Also I am not doing this for the salary as my current salary is almost the same as a Councillor. I am doing this because rural Cumberland deserve to have someone that cares for them and not a person living in Avalon that has never experience country living.

95% of Cumberland Ward is rural in reference to the geography. WE are tired of having an urban councillor. Enough is enough. We want a rural councillor. Kitts can deliver that so reason she will be popular on Oct 5. That and her sex appeal will win a majority unfortunately and the money she gets to promote her name. They just created female version of BLAIS. I despise that.

I have decided to stay as a candidate, as if I pull out my supporters will switch to Kitts (mostly those in the rural area where I will have most votes) and that will automatically give her the victory that is needed, estimated at 3500 votes to win.

Now with 9 candidates the available Avalon area votes will diminished even more for your chosen candidate. It's even worst because the 9<sup>th</sup> candidate is a woman, she will get votes from women who would have voted for your candidate. At least this new candidate may steal votes from Kitts so I have no issues with this new candidate. I may loose votes also in Avalon as she has a French name.

So there are no real solutions and Kitts will possibly be declare the winner on Oct 5. The progressive vote will be split between 6-7 candidates killing the chance of any to win against Kitts and the Watsonclub.

The worst case scenario is Kitts wins by a few hundred votes, because the progressive vote was split between the other candidates. It will be a tight race.

That is my view on what will happen. Good Luck everyone.