

## MEDIA ADVISORY

October 3, 2006

### Bus Fare Fibs

**(Ottawa, ON)** – According to a release found on Mr. Munter’s election web site dated September 26, he is running radio ads that make false claims and spread misinformation to Ottawa residents. Mr. Munter’s radio ad entitled Munter2\_City states “...but, with Bob Chiarelli, Ottawa bus fares are the highest in Canada.”

This is categorically inaccurate. Today, City staff issues a memo explaining the OC Transpo fare structure. The memo points out when comparing average fare prices with Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Hamilton and Gatineau - Ottawa has the third cheapest of the seven cities.

City Council has an approved strategy to discourage riders from using cash to pay transit fares. “The strategy has been successful.” Ottawa’s fare policy encourages pre-payment and rewards commitment from customers. Currently, over ninety-five percent of customer transit trips are paid for with bus passes and tickets. In addition, since Mayor Bob Chiarelli has been in office ridership levels have increased every year.

It is wrong to claim that the cash fare paid by 5% of riders is the same as the average fare.