



Hillel OTTAWA



2026 IMPACT REPORT

Hillel Ottawa: meeting the needs of Jewish students on university and college campuses in Ottawa



Home Away From Home

Hillel Ottawa hosted monthly Shabbat dinners with over **388** meals served, fueling Jewish Joy and meaningful Jewish experiences for students away from home.



Gesher Chai

We launched a new Living Bridge program connecting **20** students between Ottawa and Tel Hai University through weekly Zoom conversations rooted in shared Jewish learning and relationship building. These student-to-student connections offered real solidarity and mutual support. This fall, we are bringing the bridge to life by welcoming Tel Hai students to Ottawa, turning sustained connection into shared experience.

Interfaith in Action

Over **214** students participated in Hillel-led interfaith events that celebrated shared values, broke down barriers, and sparked meaningful conversations.

Shabbat Hosting Lab

Building Jewish leaders was at the heart of our Shabbat Hosting Lab. **Nine** students completed a 6-week intensive that equipped them with the skills, resources, funding, and confidence to host their own Shabbat experiences from start to finish. By placing ownership of tradition in students' hands, we empowered them to lead, convene, and shape meaningful Jewish life on campus.



Beyond the Classroom

44 students engaged in weekly immersive Jewish learning, from Israel education to antisemitism training.



Stronger Together

This year, Hillel Ottawa partnered with 33 different student clubs and associations to co-host events, amplify student voices, and foster inclusive community spaces.

Campus. Community. Connection.

Since August, Hillel Ottawa has welcomed 1,500+ Jewish student participations.



388

Shabbat meals served



126

programs



1,500+

student participations

“ Starting university can feel overwhelming, and it’s easy to feel lost in such a large and fast-paced environment. Hillel created a space where I felt welcomed right away. A place where I could connect with others who shared similar values, traditions, and experiences. ”



Your gift will help to provide a wide range of Jewish programming for university and college students.

Hillel Ottawa is where all Jewish students are welcome regardless of background or level of observance. Providing Shabbat dinners, Jewish holiday programming, educational speakers, support with important initiatives and a variety of social events, Hillel Ottawa ensures that Jewish students have ample opportunities to engage and to network with each other — a key to our Jewish continuity.

For more info, contact **Jamie Sweigman**, Director of Hillel Ottawa at jsweigman@hillelottawa.ca

“What stands out most is how Hillel shows up for students during difficult times.”

Click to donate now!

“Hillel Ottawa has had a lasting impact on my experience on campus. It’s given me a place where I can be myself, feel supported, and know that I’m not alone. That sense of belonging is something I’ll carry with me long after university.”

Thank you!

