

The Peterborough and the Kawarthas Chamber of Commerce

My name is Eleanor Underwood. I have lived in Peterborough since 1988. Peterborough is a city rich in natural resources with our waters, parks, trails, and green spaces. Peterborough is also a kind, caring and a generous community.

1. What is your overall vision for the City of Peterborough?

My vision for the city of Peterborough is that it is a healthy, safe, clean and vibrant community where people are happy and proud to call it their home. Where people are free to live without the burden of infrastructure in disrepair, dangerous streets and public places, and high taxes. A city that has a government that spends mindfully for economic vitality and the health, safety, and well-being of all its citizens.

2. What is your plan to build a strong local workforce?

Peterborough has a university and a college that have graduates that are well educated and trained to work in this city. The question should be what are businesses doing to get these people to stay in the city? As a member of city council I would work with city staff and business people to ensure obstacles the city may have in place that prevent business from recruiting these graduates.

3. Housing has become less affordable and accessible, especially for first-time home buyers. What is your plan to address housing needs in our community?

Housing needs in the our community can be addressed by supporting the Federal Government's new affordability plan working with our Member of Parliament to ensure that any Federal Government funding is directed to Peterborough.

4. A lack of serviced employment lands is an ongoing issue. The emphasis for a long time was on negotiating agreements with bordering townships, but the draft Official Plan calls for those lands to be found within current city boundaries. What is your plan to increase access to serviced employment lands?

Peterborough has great economic potential. We need to make the most of what we have by ensuring any vacant industrial lands are rehabilitated so that they can be used for safe and environmentally clean industries. The city also needs to have more positive collaboration with county partners to create the space for revenue generating industry.

5. The draft Official Plan calls for greater consultation and increased dialogue with neighbouring First Nations communities. What involvement and relationships do you plan to pursue with First Nations communities to move our region forward on our path to reconciliation?

The City Council needs to appoint the appropriate council members and city staff to work with the local Indigenous Communities. They can work to remove any obstacles the city may have in place to ensure the path to reconciliation is a smooth and successful journey.

6. Our community is dealing with an addictions crisis that is now more visible than ever. What is your plan to address this crisis?

There are many health and medical experts within the city that have the knowledge to address many of these problems. There is also increase amounts of provincial funding available. City Council needs to consult the experts on the best actions, assist in securing the funding and work to implement the expert's recommendations.

7. The efficient movement of people and goods is important to business competitiveness. What is your plan to address our transportation challenges?

We need to make the most of what we have. A more efficient transportation "system" in and out of the city by bus, rail and air would be revenue generating.

8. Crime is an increasing concern within the local business community, from vandalism to shoplifting to after-hours break-ins. What will you do as a member of council to ensure businesses feel protected and supported?

The city needs to boost up the police force with the resources to go to crime scenes and successfully prosecute the criminals. A demoralized police force who are not on the job cannot serve and protect as they should.

9. How should the city engage local business to help meet climate change goals and move toward net-zero emissions?

The City could create pathways and support groups that help local business access provincial and federal fund to achieve the climate changed goals. The city council can encourage the local federal and provincial members of parliament to help the businesses in their ridings.

10. What three things would you like to see council implement that will make local businesses more competitive?

Peterborough has great economic potential. We need to make the most of what we have.

- A revitalized downtown that it is safe and clear for the enjoyment of all residents a good place start.
- A safe and clean downtown is where people want to live, entrepreneurs want to work, business will thrive and where companies want to become established. This would encourage tourists with their dollars.
- Having more positive collaboration with county partners would help to create the space for revenue generating industry.

Authorized by the Eleanor Underwood Campaign