

Chamber of Commerce
Questions & Answers - Joy

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

My overall vision for the City Of Peterborough is that Peterborough becomes a City that fervently takes on the Climate Emergency to enable us to achieve 2050 net-zero emissions targets and preserve the planet for our children. This demands strategic governance and collaborative work so that we can achieve pandemic recovery, address systemic and increasing disparities and build healthier, more sustainable communities.

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

To enable just transition by promoting eco-ventures, innovation & good jobs, and to advance arts, innovation, entrepreneurial, and non-profit social enterprise opportunities.

Like all cities, Peterborough is being increasingly confronted with the significant impacts and costs of transforming our city and economic structures to respond to the Climate Emergency and achieve major emissions reductions by 2030, as committed to by Peterborough, and net zero by 2050.

That's why I'm committed to enabling a just transition to a clean economy by promoting and leveraging Peterborough's unique leadership in clean technology and innovation to attract the green jobs and businesses of tomorrow. This means attracting investment for apprenticeships, skills retraining and businesses that bring jobs to make our city better and greener: jobs in retrofitting our homes to be more energy-efficient, jobs contributing to Ontario's low-carbon-manufacturing supply-chain, and leading science and research into new energy ventures.

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?

Get more housing units of all types and sizes built and retro-fitted in the Central Area so that more people can buy and rent, live in walkable and connected neighbourhoods, and reinvigorate our hollowed-out downtown. This plan involves actively engaging with the province, the private sector and community partners to mobilize the tools and resources to make this happen quickly with positive community impact, including a requirement for affordable units and public place-making spaces. And, to support prioritizing public investment in affordable housing and seeing through the benefits of this public investment for those that are under-housed, ensuring safe, liveable, and attractive neighbourhoods.

Our places of living and working, and even our patterns of shopping, have been upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like so many cities, our downtown has been hollowed out by the loss of the office spaces, workers, and daily rhythms that were the foundation of its economic, social, and cultural vitality. My plan is good for housing, it's good for reinvigorating our downtown economic, social and cultural vitality, and it's especially good for generating highest-value tax revenue to fund better city services and capital projects.

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?

The climate emergency ought to be our greatest driver, and needs to inform strategic decision-making at every level of government, that's why my top priority for Peterborough is to fervently take on the Climate Emergency and enable us achieve 2050 net-zero emissions targets and

preserve the planet for our children. This will involve transforming our city and economic structures, and being more intentional in our planning and use of our lands, and preparing our essential infrastructure and communities for the climate impacts that are already costing municipalities [hundreds of millions of dollars](#).

In February 2017, former governor of the Bank of Canada [David Dodge warned](#) Canadians, especially Ontarians, that governments had reached their limits on borrowing money to invest in infrastructure without a future revenue stream to service it. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has long been raising the alarm that municipalities do not have the revenue stream to service infrastructure maintenance and development, and that Development Charges are insufficient (e.g. Mississauga and Vaughan are now bereft of funds from Development Charges and introducing new levies). For these reasons, I appreciate that the new Official Plan puts a priority on utilizing the lands within current city boundaries - within which, according to provincial standards, we have more than enough greenfield to meet the provincially-set growth targets.

My plan is to support the new Official Plan's vision and the directions it outlines for more sustainable, affordable, and climate-resilient planning, and to support servicing new employment lands (as needed, and in a way that supports a just transition) within current city boundaries. This includes revitalizing under-used lands in the downtown and investing in climate-resilient servicing so that these lands can be used for more housing and employment. This plan is good for housing, it's good for reinvigorating our downtown economic, social and cultural vitality, and it's especially good for generating highest-value tax revenue to fund better city services and capital projects.

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?

As an individual and as a settler in Williams Treaty territory, I seek to participate in a healing path forward with Indigenous communities. As councillor, it will be an honour to participate as a local leader in learning, in respectful relationship-building, and in helping to steer the City on a healing path forward with the Indigenous communities and First Nations in and around Peterborough-Nogojwanong.

I will actively engage and support the City of Peterborough becoming a signatory to the Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) accord between local municipalities and First Nations, endorsed by Council on Sept.27, to collaborate and implement long-term joint planning for community economic development initiatives and land use, while building respectful and sustainable government-to-government partnerships.

I will also explore opportunities for the City of Peterborough and the Chanie Wenjack School at Trent University to collaborate on incorporating traditional teachings, perspectives, history, and knowledge into the work and decision-making by city staff and Council, and to find opportunities to promote this with the community as well. As a former teacher, I believe strongly that improving our own understanding, knowledge, and adjusting our perspectives is essential so that we may forge alliances and build and maintain respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples and local First Nations.

And, I will commit to supporting the development of a strategy, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, for the City of Peterborough to make progress toward the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Actions. This could include, for example, endorsing UNDRIP as both

Toronto and Vancouver city councils have done. This could also include providing resources and funding to build programming for traditional teachings, ceremonies, and commemorations to take place across the community, such as at City Hall, at the Library, at the Farmers Market, and at the Community Hub that I propose for the downtown.

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

My plan is to strengthen the engagement and dialogue with those community members with lived-experience so that we are responding with humane and effective approaches, and to advocate for increased funding and program support from the provincial and federal governments so that Peterborough can deliver supportive services to those suffering from addictions, such as rent-geared-to-income housing, and to enhance access to community-based skills and training, food security, and barrier-free health and wellness by creating a Community Hub System in the downtown that will become a beehive of inclusive community activity, wellness, and partnership.

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

The climate emergency ought to be our greatest driver, and needs to inform strategic decision-making at every level of government, that's why my top priority for Peterborough is to fervently take on the Climate Emergency and enable us achieve 2050 net-zero emissions targets and preserve the planet for our children. This will involve transforming our city and economic structures, and being more intentional in our planning and use of our lands, and preparing our essential infrastructure and communities for the climate impacts that are already costing municipalities [hundreds of millions of dollars](#). Cities like Peterborough must make every effort to minimize spending on building and expanding roads that promote car-dependence and sprawl. For these reasons, I support the new Transportation Master Plan and Cycling Master Plan and the need to invest in ensuring Peterborough is accelerating the transition to less carbon-heavy transportation infrastructure and modes that are safe for all users. The directions of the new Transportation Master Plan and Cycling Master Plan will enhance community wellbeing, help us to meet our emissions-reduction target of 45% by 2030 and net-zero by 2050, will ensure we are making wise climate-resilient spending and infrastructure-liability decisions, and improve our ability to support equitable access to travel and mobility for everyone in our community, regardless of income, age, and ability. And, the directions of the new TMP and CMP will help to ensure our existing infrastructure lasts longer and is reliable.

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?

As Town Ward Councillor, it will be a priority of mine to collaborate with businesses, the Downtown Business Improvement Area, service agencies, the Police, and city staff to ensure we are responding and enabling safety for the local businesses community and their customers. My strategy for supporting businesses and enhancing safety involves greening the downtown, bringing more housing to the downtown, and creating a Community Hub System.

- Greening the Downtown: Renewing and restoring the natural and public spaces in and around the downtown is key to our economic, community, and cultural recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As Town Ward Councillor, I will act with urgency to protect and enhance our beloved Jackson Creek and restore this precious blue ribbon into the sparkling jewel of our downtown. Designing and investing in creating a thriving,

energetic, and beautiful downtown region will promote and enable creative commercial and cultural uses like expanded patios, outdoor markets, outdoor music, performances, and biophilic art. It will support more equitable access to the emotional healing and support that nature has given us in this time of crisis, and it will increase habitat for the birds, fish and wildlife that rely on urban nature. And, I will also advance a new *Litter Action Plan* on the prevention and collection of trash and litter, especially at spring snow melt, which will help to keep downtown and our greenspaces litter-free, and safer.

- **More Housing:** Get more housing units of all types and sizes built and retro-fitted in the Central Area so that more people can buy and rent, live in walkable and connected neighbourhoods, and reinvigorate our hollowed-out downtown. Actively engage with the province, the private sector and community partners to mobilize the tools and resources to make this happen quickly with positive community impact, including a requirement for affordable units and public place-making spaces. Our places of living and working, and even our patterns of shopping, have been upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like so many cities, our downtown has been hollowed out by the loss of the office spaces, workers, and daily rhythms that were the foundation of its economic, social, and cultural vitality.
- **Community Hub System:** Inspired by the success of cooperative communities like Granville Island and False Creek, create a Community Hub System in the downtown that will become a beehive of inclusive community activity, wellness, and partnership. A Community Hub System could give youth, and the less-connected and vulnerable people in our community a safe and welcoming space and a place of purpose to gather and share skills and knowledge by teaching, learning, sharing and creating. Community hubs provide a central access point for a range of needed health and social services, along with cultural, recreational, and green spaces to nourish community life. A community hub can be a school, a neighborhood centre, an early learning centre, a library, an elderly persons centre, a community health centre, an old government building, a place of worship or another public space.

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

In order to enable a just transition to a clean economy our city needs to promote and leverage Peterborough's unique leadership in clean technology and innovation to attract the good green jobs and skilled trades to build the businesses of tomorrow. This means attracting investment for apprenticeships, skills retraining and businesses that bring jobs to make our city better and greener: jobs in retrofitting our homes to be more energy-efficient, jobs contributing to Ontario's low-carbon-manufacturing supply-chain, and leading science and research into new energy ventures.

And, by engaging businesses and community groups and agencies to take meaningful and affordable climate action that will ensure we are smarter, safer, and better prepared. This includes developing community-focused climate action plans that help residents and businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, to access funding and grant programs to improve energy efficiency and to get off fossil-fuel-based heating, and set up emergency support networks for when hazards and power outages strike, and celebrate the creativity and progress that emerges.

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

Firstly, strengthening our strategic governance and collaborative work so that we can fervently take on the Climate Emergency and enable us achieve 2050 net-zero emissions targets and preserve the planet for our children.

Second, enable a just transition to a clean economy by promoting and leveraging Peterborough's unique leadership in clean technology and innovation to attract the green jobs and businesses of tomorrow.

Third, enhance access to community-based skills and training, food security, and barrier-free health and wellness by creating a community hub system for promoting and co-learning circular economy skills and training to strengthen our local workforce, thereby boosting our businesses' labour force and ability to compete.