

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

We need to make Peterborough a prosperous place to do business and a safe place to live. Everything I do as a councillor will be promoting these ideals.

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

When a city is prosperous those who want to take part will naturally be drawn to that area. When it is not, people will go elsewhere to live and work. See answer #1.

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?

For some households owning a home is out of reach at this time so increasing the amount of rental accommodation, small or medium apartment buildings and townhouses seems to me to be a partial solution. Developers may need financial encouragement to create these so giving a temporary partial break on taxes or fees may be incentive enough. Smaller homes are also needed in the housing mix and the building of those should also be encouraged within planned sub-divisions. Some flexibility regarding restrictive zoning and streamlining the permitry process also come to mind.

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?

I think it was shortsighted of the previous council to restrict development opportunities to within city boundaries. We should continue to reach out to our bordering townships to encourage cooperative development and growth. The council must take a longer view on development because as the areas around Peterborough prosper so do we. Employment lands within the city must be encouraged but not to the exclusion to the surrounding areas.

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?

I do not see the need to have “greater consultation and increased dialogue with our neighbouring First Nations communities” in some attempt to right the wrongs of the past. If a particular issue that the City of Peterborough is considering has some actual impact on a neighbouring community then that is when we should invoke greater consultation with the affected community.

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

Mental health and substance addictions are health issues, and we need to demand the required resources from the province to meet this need. At present we seem to be satisfied to receive only the resources that offer harm reduction, and our response to this problem shouldn't stop there. In addition, I am against the “safe supply” pilot program as I see it as only addiction maintenance which will make our existing social problems worse.

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

I am in favour of the Parkway and believe that at least the parts of it which are less contentious should be built. In addition, round-a-bouts and designated right-turn lanes seem to be able to move traffic more efficiently at intersections so these should definitely be incorporated into roads whenever feasible. I am not in favour of expanding the cycling right of ways if they negatively affect vehicular traffic or parking.

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?

I believe that storeowners feel intimidated and powerless to stop blatant crimes taking place in and around their stores. Training sessions should be given to store owners, so they are completely versed in their rights regarding the use of defensive strategies to defend their businesses within the law. I also feel that if we deal with the addiction issues we have, as outlined in my answer to question # 6 it would go a long way to creating a safer city. Other than that, if our police are unable to do their jobs effectively, that problem must be resolved by whatever means necessary.

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

If local businesses believe they need to meet arbitrary 'climate change goals' then that is completely up to them. I am not in favour of any taxpayer's money or municipal employees time being spent in an attempt to force, coerce or engage with businesses to do anything related to climate change mitigation goals. We have some of the most stringent pollution regulations in the world and they need to be enforced only.

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

Emphasize recovery and not addiction maintenance for those with mental health and addiction issues.

Make our local government more efficient and restrict spending to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

Remove barriers, incentivize and encourage private enterprise to create jobs and affordable housing.