



2022 Municipal Election Candidates' Plans for Addressing Homelessness

In addition to hosting an in-person debate for City of Peterborough mayoral candidates, United Way Peterborough & District, One City Peterborough, the Research for Social Change Lab, and All Saints' Anglican Church developed questionnaires about homelessness policies for all candidates throughout the county. Two sets of questions were developed: one for council candidates within the City of Peterborough, and another for council and mayoral candidates throughout the townships in the county.

City of Peterborough:

The questionnaire was emailed to all 25 registered council candidates within the City of Peterborough. The 19 responses we received are organized by ward.

The questions that were asked were:

1. The City of Peterborough estimates it needs 484 new units of rent-geared-to-income supportive housing by 2029 in order to meet the needs of everyone in our community. Do you commit to helping Peterborough to achieve this goal?
2. Do you support the continued use of Peterborough's Parks and Facilities bylaw to clear the encampments of people experiencing homelessness?
3. City council will likely debate funding for the Overflow shelter during its next round of budget deliberations. Would you support continued municipal funding for 24-hour service at the Overflow shelter past March 31, 2023?
4. Please provide a short (100 words) statement describing your biggest priorities when it comes to addressing homelessness in Peterborough. In this statement, feel free also to provide any necessary context to the answers you gave above.

County of Peterborough:

The questionnaire was emailed to council and mayoral candidates in the County of Peterborough who had publicly available email addresses. The questionnaire was not sent to candidates who have been acclaimed. The responses we received have been organized by Township. Please note we did not receive any responses for Asphodel Norwood or Otonabee South Monaghan.

The questions that were asked were:

1. The County of Peterborough is projected to need 96 new units of rent-geared-to-income supportive housing by 2029 in order to meet the needs of everyone in the community. Do you commit to helping the County to meet this goal?
2. In about 100 words, please explain how you intend to increase access to affordable housing in your township and what your biggest priorities are when it comes to housing and homelessness.

WARD ONE - OTONABEE

Name	484 Units Commitment?	Support tent evictions?	Would fund Overflow?	Statement
Nathan Russell Meharry	Yes	No	Yes	Solutions, Solutions, Solutions! We need to find permanent housing solutions to address the problem, while we continue funding on temporary solutions (ex, Expanded Shelter Space, PATH Sleeping Cabins). We need to take charge of our destiny as a city. We need to build more Geared To Income Housing, I have a plan/idea that would see the old Canoe Museum be used for housing adding 300-400+ Apartments and townhomes on that property.
Kevin Duguay	Yes	Yes	No	I support proactive housing supply, serving to create a complete community, which in turn, will assist with homeless issues. Homelessness can only be effectively addressed though Municipal (and community) , provincial and federal collaboration and partnerships. Finally, I support the retaining of the current By-law in case required for safety reasons of homelessness persons.
Lesley Parnell	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Eleanor Underwood	Yes	Did not answer	Did not answer	Homelessness is obviously a serious issue in Peterborough and one that can not be addressed in 3 questions and 100 words. If I were elected to Council I I would work to remove obstacles that prevent development of tiny house communities, sleeping cabins and rent geared to income initiatives. I would say your estimate of 484 rent geared to income units is a significant underestimation of the need. I have talked while canvassing with 3 families who are fearing imminent homeless. I have talked to seniors who are eating less so they can pay the rent. Should people who have no place so sleep be permitted to sleep in parks? A designated park with toilets, showers and security is not a solution but maybe a short-term necessity. The City of Peterborough needs to be encouraging the surrounding municipalities to house the people from their own region. Peterborough has a responsibility to help the homeless but it needs to be a number appropriate to our population of 81,00. I support an overflow shelter but it needs to be appropriately located. I do not support the present Wolfe St. location as it has been problematic for the neighbours. Rather than building a multi million dollar Arena and Aquatics Complex we should spend the money on ensuring adequate housing for all residents of the City. Addressing homelessness means addressing the waste of money in this City. .

Chanté White	Yes	No	Yes	Housing is a human right. It is the responsibility of the municipality and council to provide its citizens with affordable housing options accessible to all citizens. Residents of Peterborough pay some of the highest property taxes in Ontario, and yet the conditions of many neighborhoods are appalling. If elected I am committed to working with both our federal and provincial governments in order to secure additional funding so Peterborough can see these developments swiftly. It's time for a new council, one that prioritizes the needs of the community over that of their own.
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WARD TWO - MONAGHAN				
Name	484 Units Commitment?	Support tent evictions?	Would fund Overflow?	Statement
Matt Crowley	Yes	Yes	Yes	A tiny homes community for vetted individuals in a secured location, combined with a facility that encompasses mental health, medical and detox services would be a big help in an attempt to reduce homelessness. I would also like the city to investigate expanding the number of beds in our shelters, ensure the shelters are staffed adequately, make allowances for those with pets, and properly secure them for the residents protection.
Charmaine Magumbe	Yes	No	Yes	My priority would be to implement an unhoused strategic plan that is created by city councilors and key stakeholders who work with the unhoused.
Lyle Saunders	Yes	Yes	Yes	I find it absolutely shameful that almost half our current council voted against extending the emergency shelter without a proper substitution/relocation plan during the upcoming freezing winter months. We can't have a "This OR that" attitude with homeless services. We need a "Let's continue This and Then look into" attitude for proactive planning and problem solving. As for "Tent City" I do not believe this to be an acceptable solution within our city park without proper discussions and action plans, approved by the city and community partners. We need to plan better with an open request for financial assistance to our higher levels of government, who committed verbally last election(s) to assist with our homeless and housing issues. If we have the Provincial and Federal government promising assistance and resources, we need to develop an open and transparent city plan with open and transparent financial requests for building permanent homeless shelters within our city. Municipalities simply can't be (nor should be) expected to afford this growing demand and expense on their own.

Tom Wigglesworth	No	Yes	Did not answer	I believe that mental health and addictions play a pivotal role in homelessness, and we need the province to provide the resources to meaningfully deal with these issues. We need to treat the traumas that have forced some people to make this choice. Secondly we need safe transitional shelter beds and assistance for all identified homeless persons in our city. These persons must have a defined route to recovery and reintegration, and this will require the support of the broader community. Job skills, social skills and a hand up should be provided for those willing and able to move forward.
Vassiliadis, Don	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Jeff Westlake	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond

WARD THREE - TOWN				
Name	484 Units Commitment?	Support tent evictions?	Would fund Overflow?	Statement
Vickie Karikas	Yes	No	No	I feel one of the biggest barriers to shelter is a safe sustainable shelter system that people feel comfortable to use. I know personally many people who will not use the Wolfe St overflow shelter, homeless advocates agree. Furthermore I don't feel that we should ask people to stay in a shelter system that I myself would not feel safe or comfortable in. Therefore I could not in good conscience support it moving forward. There have been 302 ambulance responses and hundreds of police responses to Wolfe St shelter in the 1st 6 months of this year. Shelters should not be a "free-for-all" as certain people need a safe space to sleep to reguvenate and it's reasonable to assume personal items would not be subject to theft. I would however support The existing shelters and PATH sleeping cabin program. This issue takes more than 100 words to solve but I hope my overall sentiment comes through.
Brian Christoph	Yes	No	Yes	I support rent control, cap on rent and tiny homes.
Joy Lachica	Yes	No	Yes	My biggest priorities are 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 rent-geared-to-income housing, especially as inflation hits people hard, and finally 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.
Alex Bierk	Yes	No	Yes	<p>Top Priorities:</p> <p>We need to take care of each other. We have 91 shelter beds and 328+ unhoused individuals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need City Services and Programs supporting homelessness to be guided by people experiencing homelessness - they need to be represented and heard at all tables (ex. Built for Zero, etc..) - The City needs to create a Committee to address Homelessness - We need to dedicate funding and advocate to higher levels of government for support - We need a low barrier shelter - Harm reduction implemented in the Shelter system - We need shelter where people feel safe, we need to meet people where they are at, allow space for people's belongings, space where couples can be together etc. - We need shelter staffed by people with lived and living experience, community led spaces - We need a Winter Response Plan, access to safe warm spaces for winter, 24/7 - A plan to be able to use City space/buildings if necessary to keep people alive and safe - Support sanctioned encampments - Support tiny homes project; PATH <p>The City needs to stop using "liability" as a reason to not take action.</p>
Dean Pappas	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond

WARD FOUR - ASHBURNHAM				
Name	484 Units Commitment?	Support tent evictions?	Would fund Overflow?	Statement
Keith Riel	Yes	Yes	Yes	I am committed to trying to build as many RGI(Rent Geared to Income Housing)unit as possible.Unless we get the much needed help from all levels of governments we will just be putting a bandaid on the problem.We need to get funding from senior levels of government to build a Detox and Treatment CTR, and a Mental Health Wing at the hospital.
Gary Baldwin	Yes	Yes	Yes	As a council, we cannot arbitrarily end funding for the overflow shelter on a particular date when there are still people who need access ro the overflow shelter. We need to find solutions and work together to find permanent and safe accomodation for people. We need to make building rent-gated- to-income a priority. I would also support continuing to invest in rent supplements to keep people housed.

Andrew MacGregor	Yes	No	Yes	Peterborough is ready to spend \$68M on a new ice arena. But there is no ice arena crisis. Poverty related crime should be addressed by resolving poverty; by increasing funding to Social Services and a bold plan to increase housing of many kinds (geared-to-income, shared, halfway, supported, subsidized, tiny homes) will alleviate petty crimes to neighbourhoods in the immediate term, and a longer term return on investment by offering people the security of a home, so that healing can start. Housing first. The City of Peterborough should use all assets to contribute to solving a housing issue, including (but not limited to) the use of parks.
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WARD FIVE - NORTHCREST				
Name	484 Units Commitment?	Support tent evictions?	Would fund Overflow?	Statement
Aldo Andreoli	Yes	Yes	Yes	Homelessness is a huge problem in Peterborough. As a city we must address this immediately. Collaborating with the private landlords that are paid directly from the city could and would help the shortage of rooms, apartments. One of my priorities would be where, and why are so many people coming to this area to live, when they already know there's a shortage. Let's look after the residents of Peterborough that have contributed to this municipality. Creating more affordable housing is needed, but let's find out why so many people are moving to Peterborough.
Shauna Kingston	Yes	No	Yes	I believe that things like food, water, and safe housing are human rights and that council must therefore prioritize their provision. Policing can do little to address the abject poverty that renders increasing numbers of our community destitute -- without a safe place to sleep nor the basic necessities of life. I therefore call for decriminalizing poverty and focusing the city's resources on creating and maintaining safe housing, effective counselling services, and opportunities for marginalized people to meaningfully participate in their community.
Carlotta James	Yes	No	Yes	Accelerate planning and approvals for more housing and promote vibrant neighbourhoods to improve liveability and housing affordability for everyone, engage with other levels of government for funding and expanded programs for rent-geared-to-income units, and improve the City's working relationship with service agencies and groups like the United Way to deliver collaborative and evidence-based solutions for those most-in-need. I will support community initiatives based on local expertise and I will facilitate neighbour-to-neighbour networks of support to build collective wellbeing and safer communities. At the heart of every

				vibrant neighbourhood are hubs where people can gather, share stories and build community.
Andrew Beamer	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Karen Grant	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond	Did not respond
Dave Haacke	Yes	Yes	No	The biggest is the housing shortage and it cannot be solved solely at the Municipal level. I have had conversation with senior provincial government people and telling them we need help.. This goes to permanent housing not interm

County candidate responses begin on the following page

SELWYN		
Name	96 Units Commitment?	Statement
Gail Moorhouse	Yes	Our economic growth will be through job creation and tourist attraction. Without homes and transportation we will not attract or retain employees. I would promote the replication of the AbbyField concept for other demographics, tiny home concept and rental within existing house where it fits the housing standards. General bylaws need to be adjusted to accomodate more variety in housing units. The financial aspects of change to alternative housing strategies are unknown at this time. Bottom line is there is still so much to learn.
John Boyko	Yes	There are two areas of Selwyn that are designated as areas for development - Lakefield South and Woodlands adjacent to Peterborough. Also, there is pressure on the Village of Lakefield to create more housing through infilling. All of this means that there are opportunities to provide housing that is affordable and linked to a safe, walkable community. Further, the development of an Abbeyfield project is proceeding in Lakefield. This will provide one bedroom affordable apartments for seniors and a two-bedroom affordable apartment for Trent students. The next council will dealing with all of these matters while at the same time considering the current restrictions on farm families regarding severing a lot for housing. Affordable housing is an important issue that needs to be addressed.
Anita Locke	Yes	continue to advocate for affordable housing at the provincial level; continue to encourage partnerships with Habitat for Humanity; rent geared to income for all age groups
Samuel Alexander	Yes	by supporting new non-for profit projects like Abbey for senior residents, by working with the college and university to build more residents so more housing and rentals can open for more residents in the county

TRENT LAKES		
Name	96 Units Commitment?	Statement
Ira Peters	Yes	I am a firm believer that everyone in Canada deserves a home and support micro home designated areas as well as 1000 square " townhome projects. I believe that Habbitat for Humanity sets a great example in building projects using volunteer labour and skills to decrease the costs of these needed projects. The young and old are finding it increasingly difficult finding affordable housing and we need to act as fast as possible to keep up, or stay ahead of this growing problem and demand.
Gerry Forestell	Yes	In our township of Trent Lakes is about 99 % single family homes. This is completely wrong! We as a township need to start a plan for multi family homes . The township needs to partner up with business to improve services such as alternate modes of transportation, trails for such travel, allow smaller home builds, open up land for these multi family and smaller builds. We just need to help people period !! Thank You Gerry
Bev Matthews	Yes	One way is to relax the rules a little so that a rural piece of property could build an affordable cottage/cabin to rent out. This could help the landlord too if he needs extra help on his farm or market garden. Some of the problems in Trent Lakes is the extreme northern location and lack of public transportation which we need to work on. When housing prices started to rise 5 years ago, landlords decided to sell and that left tenants scrambling to find places and then the rent increased.
Joe Cadigan	Yes	Trent lakes is described as having a hidden homeless crisis. Rising interest rates and inflation are contributing to less affordable housing. In the long term money from all levels of government are needed to pay for the infrastructure to support affordable housing. In the short term, as in emergencies, public buildings could be adapted to keep people safe and secure.

Peter Raymond	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to know on what basis housing projections for Trent Lakes were determined? • Need a breakdown by Ward where housing is projected to be needed? • Demographics of Trent Lakes 6434 permanent residence (46% 60+ only cohort increasing in size) • Trent Lakes large geographic area, population fragmented across township • See what municipal properties are available that might be suitable • Quarry end of life after rehabilitation may present opportunities • The Community housing concept by Abbeyfield Society may also be an opportunity
Terry Lamshead	Yes	We need to leverage more assistance from the Federal and Provincial Governments to help fund our housing projects. We need to work together to get parcels of land available for this sort of development. Affordable housing should be supported by all levels of Government
Ed Dewhurst	Yes	I believe it's going to take all of us to make this happen but we need to change zoning bylaws severance application need to addressed there are several issues that need to be looked at but if elected I will work hard to make things happen I believe we need more housing not just for homeless but for young people to get started with out more homes they are going to end up homeless.
Adri Eastman	Yes	Thank you for the opportunity! I agree we are in desperate need of affordable housing! I will continue to ask that zoning bylaws are changed so that we can look at tiny homes and encouraging developers to build housing that is close to transportation. The County, City and participating municipalities all need to contribute to making this a priority.
Peter Franzen	Yes	This is an important issue. The municipality could review our by-laws and zoning to allow tiny houses on smaller lots.
Ed Leerdam	Yes	Homelessness is certainly a concerning issue for some in the area. Everyone is entitled to safety and shelter. We need to provide affordable housing to them and other low-income families. Tiny houses are an option; grants and subsidies from various levels of government should be made available and used to build affordable housing. Builders and trades should be solicited to provide some labour on a volunteer basis. Suppliers should also be solicited to provide materials at cost. Organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, church groups could be part of this effort as well.

CAVAN MONAGHAN		
Name	96 Units Commitment?	Statement
Matthew Graham	Yes	We are working with a developer(s) in our Township to bring on a greater diversity of housing supply to benefit both our community and the region. In one of our future developments, there are 3 apartment units some of which we are hoping to work with partners to create inventory focused for seniors but also included lower cost and RGI units.
Louise Bedford	Yes	With current rate of growth soaring in our communities we need to keep in mind with every new development and planning session that a portion of that development is being used to increase the affordable housing issue. We need to have an understand with incoming developers about these priorities.
Janet Heeringa	Yes	Accessibility is crucial when accessing affordable housing. Programs need to be uncomplicated and accessible to those in need. As a hopeful councillor for Cavan Monaghan, I would like to see accessibility for those in need made easier within our township, and knowledge of available programs promoted to community members and to ensure these programs to comply with the Provincial plan. Currently, a method for local housing and homelessness services must address the need to measure and report on progress achieved towards meeting the objectives and targets.
Kathie Lycett	Yes	See my campaign website at https://www.kathielycett.ca/ My first priority, if elected, is Land Use and Planning, which is directly tied to our Affordable Housing Crisis. "Red Tape" reduction at the municipal level is a must if developers are to create low income rental housing. But I know that this is not enough, and to be quite honest, I am not familiar with programs of higher levels of government which could help. The best way for Municipalities to create rental units, is to support and encourage the creation of ancillary apartments within single family dwellings, and to support and encourage the conversion of single family dwellings to legal multi-plexes.

Daryl Bennett	No	My answer No to supporting is based on the unknown factors cost and additional services. We have a very weary tax base some have indicated they are with all their own costs having trouble keeping up with expenses. Here we once again ask our property tax base to deal with a social impact problem that should be dealt with by a Federal or Provincial program. We need a national housing strategy that is appropriately funded through the redistribution of wealth/Income Tax
Valerie Kent	Yes	As a candidate for Councillor, Ward 2, I understand that affordable housing is a life-pivotal need. I equate housing to shelter. In the short term I would advocate for rentals for basements, shared facilities of seniors-youth rentals, and rooms to rent. Rentals in the form of converted garages, surplus outbuildings, additions where appropriate, may be harnessed for housing with adherence to the building codes. Some communities are looking at tiny homes. I am interested in diverse housing solutions: duplexes, triplexes, other mixed use and mixed income for existing and new homes, rental ownership buildings. Modular and prefab homes should be considered. The CMHC has guides and resources available to create affordable housing and there is information about incentives available. Intensification will help. A lower tier municipality such as Cavan Monaghan works with the County and the Province to get the process moving. Cavan Monaghan already has initiatives of diverse housing offerings on its Official Plan.
Dean Del Mastro	Yes	We have got to address the issue of affordability more broadly than simply rent geared to income. I support the construction of affordable rental housing but I also strongly believe that we need to develop affordable home ownership programs such as those that created the middle class following the second world war.

DOURO DUMMER		
Name	96 Units Commitment?	Statement
Marie Howran	Yes	I am actively participating on the Steering Committee of PATH, Peterborough Action for Tiny Homes. PATH is a grassroots group looking to address homelessness. It is clear that innovative solutions and alternatives to the current minimum housing footprint, must be considered to meet the growing need for affordable housing. Not only that, but Seniors who wish to age gracefully at home are also interested in alternatives that allow them to occupy a smaller footprint. Transportation from the County for City services must also be considered. I am supportive of innovative approaches to meet the growing needs for affordable housing.
Jim Coyle	Yes	Affordable Housing is an issue in all of our communities, rural and urban. I would support finding ways to utilize abandoned factories, barns, churches and schools to develop them into affordable housing communities. I would also support expediting permits with incentives for residential homes to create rental units within their homes to rent to low income families.
Heather Watson	Yes	I endorsed the CSWB Plan and will continue to support the initiatives set forth in the plan to address housing and homelessness. Further, in DD we need to find ways to find creative ways to maximize the available housing in our community. Whether it's encouraging and matching people who have space to those who are unhoused or establishing bylaws that support communal living. Further, we can encourage more uptake of the secondary suite and tiny home bylaws which I supported this past term by expediting applications and doing what we can to make the process easier.
Ray Johnston	Yes	Unfortunately in our township of Douro-Dummer, our biggest challenge is we do not have the water and sewer that we would need to expand in buildings and housing very much. However I support and want to be a part of providing more severances on accessible non agricultural land. We also passed a bylaw in which I was also very supportive of, to allow homeowners to build a small house beside your original home, on the same lot. We have also been a part of providing building lots for Habitat for Humanity in the past, to help house lower income families. I think that is a great way to help as well. I will be more than committed to helping and supporting when it comes to this issue. When more information comes in and or when more changes can be made, I will be there to help pursue this problem in our city and surrounding townships. Thank you!!

HAVELOCK BELMONT METHUEN		
Name	96 Units Commitment?	Statement
Kathy Clement	Yes	We have some existing empty storefronts that I would like to see converted to affordable apartment rentals. I also would like to see about working with the next level of government to try and have more affordable housing built in HBM.
Jonathan Prosser	Yes	I support affordable housing 100%. I honestly don't know how people can afford to rent with today's prices. I will work along side any organization to bring housing to Havelock. I don't know what I can personally do as a council member, but I will vote in favor of affordable housing development when purposed in my township. Homelessness should not be a 'thing', but sadly it is. There are lots of contributing factors involved in it, but I am not one to judge, I am one to help when I see a need.
Rolf Joss	Yes	For years I have worked at redirecting good food that would be thrown out. Redirecting it to homeless and those in need. As for housing, tiny home subdivisions would provide much needed affordable housing.
Beverly Flagler	Yes	We need a plan going forward that will address our housing needs and work on business growth. Attracting new families with programs and services that will better suit our community.

NORTH KAWARTHA		
Name	96 Units Commitment?	Statement
Jim O'Shea	Yes	My main objective will be to find willing owners to consider providing the land for housing development.
Mike Del Mastro	Yes	My biggest priority is to find a way to build more assisted living housing geared to income for our seniors. We currently only have 8 spaces in North Kawartha so most of our seniors have to leave the area when they can't look after their homes and cook for themselves any longer. The Township owns land that could be used to build more housing and I would be in favor of using these lands for affordable housing. I don't believe that the Township should get involved in the actual construction but should assist by contributing land and permit processing should be quick and easy for the contractor to get this moving now.
Colin McLellan	Yes	I will increase access to affordable housing in North Kawartha by addressing the supply-demand relationship of rental units. My plan to prepare and offer the Township's 60 acre lot on Balmer Road for a mixed use development would decrease demand on our very stressed rental market, lowering prices, increasing accessibility.
Joe McCauley	Yes	I plan to work with other levels of government to achieve affordable housing goals if possible. Fortunately due to our rural setting our township has very little to no homelessness. My biggest priority is trying to find a way to build affordable housing without skyrocketing taxes.
John Lovatsis	Yes	AFFORDABLE housing and housing in general has become a very important issue for all Ontarians and here in North Kawartha as well. We currently have a shortage of available housing in Apsley and the surrounding area. If elected, I plan to propose the following at council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a major housing summit during the first 90 days that will support and action on an Affordable & Rental Housing Strategy. All options that include all types of housing should be on the table. • Look to free up some of the townships land inventory and be made available for purchase to attract builders and partner with them to build for the future • Prioritize the building of affordable housing, so that we can attract families and tradespeople to come and live and work within the North Kawartha community. Include Seniors & special needs considerations when we move forward on any housing initiatives • Encourage and support (or implement) initiatives to bring people to the North Kawartha. We need all of the below to build housing, attract families & grow the regions economic outlook o Attract small business and investment to spur job creation within the entire township, in areas where it is needed most.