



United Way
Peterborough & District



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 7, 2025

Provincial Candidates Debate on Homelessness Announced for February 12, 2025

PETERBOROUGH, ON (February 7, 2025) – Homelessness in Peterborough has been a growing issue for a number of years. The provincial government has a significant mandate over housing in Ontario, and with an upcoming election four community organizations partnered to bring an all candidates debate on homelessness to Peterborough.

United Way of Peterborough & District, One City Peterborough, the Research for Social Change Lab at Trent University, and All Saints' Anglican Church are pleased to announce a debate between provincial candidates that is exclusively focused on homelessness in our community. All registered candidates in the Peterborough-Kawartha electoral district have been invited to participate.

"The starting point for any response to homelessness is to adopt a Human Rights orientation to developing community responses" states Dr. Naomi Nichols of the Research for Social Change Lab. "We are pleased to be collaborating with One City and United Way in hosting this event and look forward to the responses from the candidates."

Christian Harvey, Executive Director of One City Peterborough notes, "More and more of our neighbours are being pushed into homelessness at an alarming rate. Whoever leads our province next needs to prioritize a plan to address this in a meaningful way. Few issues are as pressing as this in the City of Peterborough and in our province."

"The issue of homelessness and the ravages it has on those experiencing it, cries out, indeed demands leadership, in particular political leadership. We are keen to hear how these candidates will lead our community in ensuring safe affordable, supportive housing for all," said Jim Russell, CEO of United Way Peterborough & District. "It is critical that all candidates of each respective political party speak directly to this crisis."

The debate, taking place at All Saints' Anglican Church on Wednesday, February 12th from 7:00PM-9:00PM will be open to both in-person and virtual audiences. There will be questions sent in advance to all of the candidates, as well as an opportunity for community members to ask questions both in-person and virtually.

For more information, please contact:

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