

- **What is your overall vision for the City of Peterborough?**
 - For Peterborough to lead the way for practices and policies in sustainability that protect our economy, small businesses, and green spaces so that citizens can live a healthy, productive life.

- **What is your plan to build a strong local workforce?**
 - I will enable a strong and diverse local economy that supports small businesses and entrepreneurs to help them start, grow, finance and manage their business. As a local entrepreneur and business owner, I have the lived experience and proven track record to know what it takes for businesses to thrive in Peterborough.

- **Housing has become less affordable and accessible, especially for first-time home buyers. What is your plan to address housing needs in our community?**
 - I will accelerate planning and approvals for more housing and promote vibrant neighbourhoods to improve liveability and affordability in Northcrest Ward. I will support the implementation of a task force to help develop a local comprehensive housing plan that incentivizes the creation of affordable housing units.
 - Enabling more sustainable and affordable housing developments in our neighbourhoods also means removing out-dated “red-tape” restrictions like exclusionary zoning and legacy parking minimums ([like Toronto did in 2021](#)), this enables new developments to devote more floor space to housing, cut unnecessary costs, and ensures we are using our land resources more efficiently and sustainably for residents and businesses.

- **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 good news is Peterborough has a great deal of land available for new businesses, including manufacturing, to set-up since we have excess greenfield lands to meet our growth targets to 2051. And, the City recently spent a lot of money to service 85 acres of employment/industrial lands for the Cleantech Commons at Trent University - lands which remain available for new businesses/manufacturing to locate at.
 - Peterborough is well-located and accessible to Toronto, but I’m aware that one of our challenges for attracting major manufacturing is that we are rather far from an American border, so it’s unclear that spending tens of millions of dollars servicing employment lands outside the City, and that are above and beyond our growth needs, is a wise use of our limited resources.

- Rather, for the next Council, once we have the new Official Plan in place, the priority is immediately update and modernize Peterborough's [comprehensive Zoning By-Law](#) to permit more uses of lands within Peterborough, starting with permitting a greater variety of housing developments and local businesses on infill sites, including along major corridors. This provides a [cost-effective](#) approach to increase access to serviced employment lands in Peterborough.

- **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 a devoted community-builder and co-founder of Peterborough Pollinators and the Monarch Ultra, I have had the honour and privilege of building personal relationships with many of the Indigenous peoples and Elders in Peterborough/Nogojiwanong. Through these relationships, I have been invited to spiritual gatherings and to engage in dialogue, and I am grateful to be continuously learning about Indigenous culture and traditional knowledge, and to actively contribute to truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Peterborough/Nogojiwanong and across Canada.
- It is so important that the next Council and City of Peterborough build on the initial progress made by the current Council and the commitments identified in the new Official Plan. In collaboration with Indigenous peoples and the Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Alderville First Nation, and Scugog First Nation, I would advocate for the City to establish an Indigenous Circle for regular engagement to enhance relationships and for Indigenous peoples to have a dedicated space to share their experiences, their knowledge, and their needs and ideas. In time, and with a greater understanding and appreciation of what's needed, I would advocate for the City to collaborate with Indigenous peoples and the Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Alderville First Nation, and Scugog First Nation to develop a Truth and Reconciliation plan for Peterborough/Nogojiwanong.

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

- To 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. This includes advocating other levels of government to provide resources and funding for services to treat people suffering from addiction and minimize the tragic loss of life to drug overdoses.

- I will support community initiatives based on local expertise, so we can all live in vibrant and inclusive neighbourhoods. With my experience and successful track-record as a community-builder, 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.
- **The efficient movement of people and goods is important to business competitiveness. What is your plan to address our transportation challenges?**
 - I will advocate for Peterborough residents who want transportation that is accessible and affordable, safe for all users, cost-effective, and sustainable. I will focus on increasing density and availability of local services which will shorten the distances to destinations and make it easier to use a variety of transportation options.
- **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?**
 - Both my husband and I are independent small business-owners (with my husband's business on George St. in the downtown core) so we have a strong understanding and lived experience of how Peterborough and the downtown core are being impacted. I also know that these challenges create opportunities for businesses and our community to collaborate and find innovative and efficient solutions that are better, faster and stronger. As Northcrest Ward Councillor, I will bring my leadership, community-building, problem-solving skills, and results-oriented track record to finding effective solutions to the challenges local businesses across Peterborough and in the downtown core are facing.
- **How should the city engage local business to help meet climate change goals and move toward net-zero emissions?**
 - As a small business-owner of a successful eco-landscaping company, I have proven that investing in local climate solutions creates jobs and supports our local economy. Peterborough's local economy can benefit significantly from public and private investments in retrofitting homes and buildings, creating a more connected, safe and affordable transportation network, and in implementing a Biodiversity Protection Plan that values the natural assets that protect our homes, businesses, and city infrastructure from flooding and extreme heat, that give us clean water, air, local food, diversity of plants, wildlife and also store carbon.
 - I will bring forward local solutions to climate change so we can all benefit from a healthy and resilient environment for generations to come. I will champion the implementation of Peterborough's Climate Change Action Plan and support community-led climate initiatives

including community gardens, tree planting, and tool libraries, and I will support initiatives that help showcase Peterborough businesses commitment to climate action, like Random Acts of Green and Green Economy Peterborough.

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

1. Update and modernize Peterborough's [comprehensive Zoning By-Law](#) to permit more uses of lands within Peterborough including allowing more retail and commercial to be integrated into neighbourhoods and more housing units to be built above retail/commercial buildings, which will lead to more jobs, economic activity, and promote a more sustainable and thriving community.
2. Connected and Safe Transportation that is accessible and affordable, safe for all users, cost-effective, and sustainable to ensure Peterborough is a desirable and sustainable city (including financially) that attracts up-and-coming businesses and skilled workers who want to live active, healthy, affordable, urban lifestyles without all the vehicle-heavy-traffic, pollution, smog, and concrete of the big cities.
3. Policy or regulations to protect the heritage and small-sized storefronts in our downtown to mitigate the risk that large-scale commercial brands push out independent businesses and our valuable arts and culture economy and locally-owned and operated restaurants and theatres.