



Doug Craig For Regional Council

Question 1:

Over the last two and half years it feels as if we have become a less compassionate and caring community and are seeing increased incidences of racism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia and sexual and gender-based violence, not only in the broader community but in our schools. If elected, what are steps you would take or policies you would propose/support to begin addressing this troubling trend?

- I don't feel that our community has become less compassionate. Our community is going through a journey of self awareness. As a community we don't have the leadership to navigate these issues or the financial resources to make the changes we need across the whole spectrum of concerns.
- Education and patience is needed as we move forward in dealing with these issues.

Question 2:

What is one decision made by Cambridge/Regional Council in the last four years that you believe has had the most impact on the lives of women and gender-diverse individuals? What more would you like to see?

- Both regional and city council have taken a much broader view of community differences and encouraged people to understand the basis of equality and its positive effects on gender questions.
- The hiring at the region of an indigenous woman to lead a new department has demonstrated commitment in this area.



Question 3:

Data from neighbouring municipalities and cities across the globe show that Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) reduce the risk of overdose and drug poisoning. Waterloo Region currently ranks as having the eight highest rate of overdose deaths in Ontario. This is a crisis and punitive “war on drugs” models of managing it have failed time and again, causing countless preventable deaths. If elected, are you prepared to support a CTS in Cambridge as it has been proposed and agreed to by Council? Please explain your rationale.

- Your opening statement clearly indicates that the Waterloo Regional drug strategy is failing. We have “the eighth highest rate of overdose deaths in Ontario “. We must pursue a different course.
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- A CTS site only captures 1 percent of daily users addicted to drugs in the Region. The average number of people using a CTS site daily is only 30 individuals using the Duke Street site in Kitchener as an example. Employing the regions own statistics, there are 2000 individuals in the region using illegal drugs daily. That means 1,970 are consuming drugs in unsupervised settings and it is in this group where the deaths are occurring.
- We need to have a new drug strategy. According to the coroner’s report last year, 158 individuals died from drug overdoses. 61 percent were recreational users and did not fall into the category by definition as an addict. They were dying in homes, apartments and residences. There is no strategy to reach out to this group and the overall strategy including CTS sites is completely flawed.

Question 4:

From children to seniors, adults and couples, people across the community are facing mild to severe mental health challenges. We have heard many stories of people not being able to access the mental health supports they need. From community counselling to crisis and residential supports, organisations and institutions are lacking the resources to meet the community need (<https://www.cambridgetoday.ca/local-news/cmha-still-seeing-high-demand-for-mental-health-supports-5559717>), and waiting lists are significant. Why do you believe this to be the situation, and if elected, what will you do in your capacity to support the mental health needs of the community?

- This help must come completely from our federal and provincial partners who have been absent from understanding the problem and accepting responsibility to help with this issue. There isn’t the financial or legislative ability of municipal governments to effectively deals with this issue.
- This questionnaire should be brought to the attention of our local MP’s and MPP’s and their input should be sought.



Question 5:

More than 5,500 individuals living in Cambridge visited the Food Bank this year for emergency food assistance. Of those, 1,200 individuals accessed the food bank for the first time in their lives. What will you do to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry?

- We must completely realign how we budget for these issues and be prepared to increase help to our local food banks from the regional budget if necessary.

Question 6:

An unprecedented number of people are experiencing homelessness, either accessing shelter or living unsheltered. This is happening across the country, and we know that no one level of government can fix this issue.

What will you:

- a) do, in your capacity, to support the people currently experiencing homelessness?
- b) do, in your capacity, to ensure that everyone has access to affordable housing?

- Let's be frank. If the federal government can instantaneously fund the Pandemic with 300 billion dollars, then it has the resources to substantially fix the homeless issue by building both transitional and affordable housing. Yes to (a) and (b).



Question 7:

Last year's Child and Youth Planning Table survey of the Region's youth, particularly the report with disaggregated data by municipality (<https://childrenandyouthplanningtable.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CYPT-YIS-GEOGRAPHY-SNAPSHOT.pdf> and <https://www.cambridgetimes.ca/opinion-story/10651359-the-kids-aren-t-all-right-cambridge-youth-are-sounding-the-alarm/>) showed youth in Cambridge experiencing more significant challenges than their peers in other parts of the region. This includes lower outcomes in their sense of belonging, mental health, support from family and community, and access to recreational facilities. Youth in Cambridge have clearly identified significant issues growing up and becoming successful adults in our community. Why do you believe this is the case, and what will you do to improve child and youth wellbeing and outcomes in our community?

- Elected officials have not put enough energy, thought and finances into youth programmes nor understand the importance of Neighbourhood Associations and their positive impacts on our youth. Prevention and investment are key and there are workable youth models i.e. "the Icelandic model" that can be looked to as examples to reflect on and build on.

Question 8:

Do you have a candidate page or social media you would like to direct people to for more information?

- [Facebook.com/douggcraig](https://www.facebook.com/douggcraig)