



Donna Reid For Ward 1

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?

- Be a role model. As a leader, I am conscious of my impact on others. I am a strong supporter of the city's desire to include all races and cultures in programs, committees and celebrations. Attending multicultural events shows support and respect for different cultures.
- As hard as it may be, it is important to speak up when people violate another person/group in speech, writings and/or action.
- As for additional policies to address this trend, I would contact each of you for your suggestions. You are on the front lines and can tell me what will work best.

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?

- Hiring a diversity manager to bring awareness, programs and equity measures forward. Work in these areas are new and the pandemic has shown us the need for more ways to address the anger that is prevalent.



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.

- I put forth the motion to establish a CTS site at 150 Main. To me it is a moral question. How can I let someone die when I can provide a way for users to do so safely. A CTS can do more than save lives. It is a place where users are not judged or stigmatized so clients are comfortable. That allows clients to make connections to other services.

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?

- Ontario is the only province where social services are downloaded to the municipalities. Our Mayor and Council continuously approach the other levels of government for funds to provide these vital services. There are money constraints as property taxes cannot support all the services we need. Mental health services are a priority and the city needs to work with the Region to address this need.



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?

- The city supports agencies and organizations that help feed our citizens. We are constrained by the use of taxpayers funds for social services. Higher taxes to provide services is not the answer. I can encourage our residents to share with others by supporting food drives and donating food or money to our food bank.

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?

- I will support our city working with the Region on providing alternate housing while we are waiting for more affordable housing. The plan is to build tiny homes, cabins on the model of a Better Tent City and a sanctioned encampment.
- Every new development in Cambridge can be asked for affordable housing units or pay into our affordable housing reserve.
- Encourage additional residential units (ARU'S) to be built to accommodate new rental units that are more affordable.



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?

- There has been a general anger and frustration since the pandemic has isolated us. We need to regroup and encourage participation of youth in all our programs. We have a Youth Advisory Committee to help the council ensure participation. It is important to support our new age friendly designation under the World Health Organization (WHO). WE are hiring staff to implement this endeavour which has an emphasis on youth.
- The building of new recreational facilities will provide youth with many sports opportunities.

Question 8:

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

- www.donnaforcambridge.ca