



Corey Kimpson For Ward 3

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?

- There is no question that a strong message must be sent to those who demonstrate bullying and violence in our community that their behaviour will not be tolerated and there will be consequences. This begins with the City of Cambridge as we must ensure that our staff members and volunteers feel safe and supported. We must ensure that we as a City and as an organization are practicing what we preach and that bullying of any kind is not tolerated. We must educate ourselves and share that knowledge with others. I would work with our School Board Trustees and members of religious and community groups to advocate together as one community to educate members of the public and promote kindness. I would also request that the councillors representing Cambridge at the regional level work with law enforcement to ensure that a zero tolerance approach be taken when responding to any incidences of racism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia and sexual and gender-based violence. As a community leader I will work to ensure that all residents and visitors to our community feel welcome and safe.

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?

- By supporting the hiring of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinators at both the Region and City, both councils have sent a message that DEI is of great importance while recognizing that work must be done.
- This work is not optional and it goes beyond the walls of both the City and Region. We must set a standard for what is not only acceptable, but the ideal and educate the community through our actions.



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.

- It is my understanding that the current City of Cambridge Council has already approved the project and the focus now shifts to how it the CTS will be implemented and by whom. Councillors will have to review the information and proposals brought forward and as representatives of the community, make the most appropriate decision (s) to ensure that the services provided meet the needs of our community. Key to the success of the CTS will be access to wrap around services on site to provide the supportive treatment and care needed in a timely manner. We also must review data provided by the CTS over time to determine if the model is in fact working for our community, if modifications to the format are required or otherwise. As with all services, we must be willing and ready to adjust if the needs of our community are not being met.

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?

- Through my work as Chair of the Patient and Family Advisory Council at Cambridge Memorial Hospital, I have advocated for many members of our community to be able to access appropriate mental health services in a timely manner. There are a number of contributing factors to this crisis and the solution requires a true collaborative approach among everyone. From individual community members supporting their family members, friends and neighbours, to employers recognizing the importance of an employee's mental health all the way to the many levels of government.
- As a municipal councillor I would have the ability to work with fellow members of council and City of Cambridge staff to ensure that a wide variety of recreational programs are offered and available to all members of our community. In addition, we can work together to ensure that the City of Cambridge is desirable to physicians and other professionals who are considering relocating to our community. There are many job postings available to the skilled practitioners, and we have to make sure that Cambridge is a community where they not only want to practice, but to relocate and raise their families as well.



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?

- As a long time supporter of the Food Bank, I would continue to champion the work they do to provide food and related services to our community members. I would encourage other members of the community to volunteer to help the Food Bank, including members of City Council. I would continue to support the work of the Food Bank and I would look for and support innovative partnerships; perhaps a privately owned company has space available for a garden and their staff could maintain it. This would provide more growing space for the Food Bank and it would also benefit the staff of the company as they participate as a team in a meaningful outdoor activity. It doesn't sound like much, but the fresh food produced would benefit more members of the community and it would also raise awareness of the Food Bank among our local companies.

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?

- To support those members of our community currently experiencing homelessness, we must work together with other groups and agencies to find creative and innovative opportunities to provide dignified shelter. We must look beyond what we have done in the past and what we are currently doing and ask, "what could we do?" Are there partnerships where we could offer shelter in under utilized spaces? Can we look to support more transitional housing projects such as A Better Tent City?
- As a city councillor I would advocate for an expedited process for housing projects. What can we as a City do to work with groups and agencies who are willing to offer a variety of types of housing and encourage them to invest in our community to increase the supply of housing? If we are able to increase the supply of housing in our community, it will help to decrease the demand and assist with the affordability of all types of housing.



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?

- Youth in the City of Cambridge indicate that they are dissatisfied and unsupported. We need to look to engage young members of our community in a meaningful way and look to provide a variety of activities that they could enjoy. In addition to programs offered directly through the City of Cambridge, I would seek to develop partnerships with other providers of recreational and social activities. This would make it easier for youth to access a greater variety of programming and find an activity or place where they belong. I would also seek to connect with youth myself using a variety of social media platforms to listen and engage them in our community. By developing relationships and encouraging communication with youth, I could then advocate for what they truly want, help them to feel heard, welcome and part of our community.

Question 8:

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

- www.coreykimpson.ca
- <https://www.facebook.com/CoreyKimpsonWard3>