



Clifford Vanclief For Ward 4

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?

- We need leaders that work collectively on these issues and a better understanding of the current trends and issues. I would continue on my path of educating myself on the trends and reasons for this increase and work at living a life of example. We need a Zero Tolerance for all discrimination. Advisory Committees, Interest Groups and Neighborhood Associations are a great start to understand the root causes.

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?

- I think one of the motion passed for menstrual products in all City Facilities was a good start. The Diversity, Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan was passed in 2018, I believe this is a great start and a great leapfrog for upcoming Council.



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.

- If elected I plan to represent the voices of the Ward and Community. This is a complex issue and a Yes or No is not as easy as it sounds. It sickens me that people are dying from overdose, it breaks my heart when I see the utter destruction addiction causes, whether its in our streets or hidden in homes. We must continue the work on helping our youth find solutions to deal with trauma, support for counseling for those suffering trauma and tools to prevent future suffering. I don't agree fully with the CTS proposed in Cambridge, the location is not in the correct area. Unfortunately, the building is a great set up to service clients of a CTS but the location is not. Again, I want to be crystal clear, I do not want to see any more deaths and I am fully prepared to work on solutions to prevent these unnecessary deaths, I will continue my path to better understanding the complexities of this crisis, but I will at the same time bring concerns from near neighbours and businesses to the table to find solutions that work for everyone

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?

- We need support from the Federal and Provincial Government. I believe we are in this situation because previous Governments did not have the tools to plan for this. We are in crisis, and it may get worse before better. We know many steps to take to get people on the path to healing, we need to implement programs that nurture that healing. We have seen some good starts and we must continue with this. Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries currently is offering a Walk in program for FREE! Continue on with programs like this and support for individuals that enter into this program.



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 need to look at ways to bring back manufacturing jobs that pay a living wage, we need to encourage a living wage and we need to continue to support the CFB. The CFB has done an amazing job at partnering with others to offer a new level of service to its community. We must look at other factors like cost of transportation to families, backyard/community gardening, vegetable and food boxes. We need the groups like Trinity and other organizations that can get people the meals they need. Again, Council can only do so much but we need to know the needs and solutions out there. Reports need to come to Council either from delegates or Staff.

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?

- We need to explore the managed camps, tiny homes and transitional housing that is currently being investigated. We need to fast track this model and ensure it will work for everyone. We need to continue to work with Landlords and long term rental providers to ensure their investments are protected which will get more people into LTH. WE need shovels in the ground for housing, everything from GTI/Affordable Housing to new home builds(townhomes are most needed). I will always advocate for 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?

- Every adult who agrees with a NO LOITERING policy or who thinks all teens are getting high and causing problems is part of the problem. As I walk around town I do not see any spaces for our youth to go (ages 10 and up), our parks are designed for younger children and families (great and needed) but we push our young adults out of the malls, the downtown, the facilities. We need pools, Skate/Bike parks, fitness parks for youth and adults, we need to break down barriers that prevent our youth from being part of the community. Our youth are our future, invest in them now! My passion is cycling, I have worked bicycle rodeos for over 25 years, give a kid a bike and you give them freedom and responsibility. Programs like Cycling into the Future, need our support (no longer in existence) bring back youth nights, teen dances, teen clubs and something for them to do. Support our Libraries, Arts Centers and groups/clubs/organizations that foster acceptance and teach leadership.

Question 8:

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

- Facebook - cliffordforcambridge
- Instagram - cliffordforward4

