



Bill Conway For Ward 6

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 would begin by meeting with the various groups to discuss and listen to develop ways to address these issues within the responsibilities of a City Councillor

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?

- No answer



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 am prepared to support a CTS in Cambridge and one I which is long overdue, the CTS is a critical to the prevention of further death in our region due to drug overdose. The CTS is also critical to providing other wrap around 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?

- I believe we are in this situation due to the increased need since COVID19 has impacted so many in various ways and exposed many shortcomings in the support systems for Mental Health. In my capacity of City Councillor I will advocate to Waterloo Regional Public Health and the Ministry of Health to increase the services for Mental Health in Cambridge



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?

- In my capacity as City Councillor I would assist to make people aware of this every increasing need in our City which could lead to an increase in donations. I would also support increased funding to the Food Bank to meet this further need

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 think that the city needs to work with all levels of government; along with partnering with organizations that build affordable housing; developing strategies to build temporary, transitional, and permanent type housings which will be geared to income. This strategy would include identifying buildings and land that could be used for housing of the homeless.



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?

- I think that COVID19 and the isolation that youth has experienced these past 2 1/2 years has contributed to these growing issues. I believe increasing programming for youth that put them in situation to meet with peers in sports and clubs and create a sense of community can be a contributor in improving their well being and increase their sense of belonging

Question 8:

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

- conway4ward6.ca