



Kris Langford 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 reach out to organisations that represent marginalized groups to get the full picture of the challenges they are facing and then listen to their solutions. The best solutions come from the people closest to the problem.

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?

- Cambridge finally got around to providing free menstrual products in city bathrooms. In the future I would like to see council move faster, and be more proactive on issues that for all intensive purposes are basic human rights.



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.

- Yes, and I would go so far as push for safe supply from the region/province. CTS/Safe Supply is health care, and health care delayed in healthcare denied.

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?

- The province is responsible for healthcare and it has abandoned its reasonability. The underfunding of entire healthcare system has it on the verge of collapse. Now, just because something is provincial jurisdiction doesn't mean a city councillor can't help. There are two types of power an elected official has, legislative: the passing of bills and by-laws and the bully pulpit: the platform that being elected gives you to speak truth to power. I would use the position of councillor to publicly advocate for more funding for mental health and for funding to deal directly with social challenges like homelessness and poverty which are the upstream causes of many mental health issues.



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 needs to provide the foodbank with a new building that meets its needs ASAP. We can not afford a break in any continuity of services. As well I think we need to look at direct funding to ensure people in our community don't go hungry.

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 plan on bring in bylaws around short term rentals similar to London, Ontario. Review building code and other rules and regulations around adding apartments to personal homes so we can increase rental stock. As well we need to publicly call on the federal government and provincial government to fund mixed income quality public housing. The costs for public housing should never have been downloaded to the municipalities in the 90s , they don't have the tax base.



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?

- The best thing to do is listen to the recommendations of the Children and Youth and Planning Table and other front line organizations and then action them. We need to make sure services for youth in Cambridge are varied between sport, academics and the arts and that they are accessible.

Question 8:

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

- www.wardsixkris.com
- FB: Ward 6 Kris
- Twitter: @ward6kris