



# Shannon Adshade 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 continue to support the Equity and Inclusion Committee of the City and endorse the policies it recommends.

## 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 City Council eventually endorsed the Region's recommendation of establishing a Consumption and Treatment Site at 150 Main Street. I would like City Council to lobby the Provincial government to fund quicker and more available Treatment Services such as Detox and Addictions programs.



### 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 support the Consumption and Treatment site at 150 Main Street proposed by Cambridge City Council. The reason being is Consumption and Treatment Sites are proven to prevent deaths and reduce litter and needles in the surrounding neighbourhoods. Also, Consumption and Treatment Sites staff develop relationships with clients and help offer and suggest Treatment options for the population using the Site.

### 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 lack of Mental Health services is a real problem in Ontario. Cambridge City Council should lobby the Provincial government to let them know how serious this problem is and to provide the necessary programs and support for 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?

- To continue to support the Food Bank and programs such as School Breakfast and Lunch programs for need students. To continue to support the Church based and Community Roundtable that provide free lunches and dinner for the individuals in 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?

- Homelessness is a real problem in Ontario and Canada. We need to lobby the Federal, Provincial and Regional governments to provide more housing options and affordable housing. We also need to provide developers to build more housing options and affordable 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?

- To continue to support City community neighbourhoods associations that provide many valuable programs for youth in our community. Also, I will continue to work towards improving Cambridge's outdated recreational facilities. We have made some real progress in this regard with our new builds happening but still have some way to go.

### Question 8:

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

- [www.shannonadshade.com](http://www.shannonadshade.com)
- "Presently working on establishing a Website."