

Poverty Relief and Elimination

- Financial insecurity
 - Pressure Ontario to raise ODSP and OW to [livable levels](#) and tie them to cost-of-living increases as well as inflation.
 - Peg city worker wages to cost-of-living increases as well as inflation.
 - No transit fare, permanently.

- Food insecurity
 - Respond to recommendations from the Food Future initiative.
 - Halt the creeping commodification of waste reduction being implemented via apps like Flashfood and Too Good To Go and instead [promote free access to and allocation of redirected food](#).
 - Form or develop an existing institution into a coordinating body to increase the efficiency of efforts from the myriad people in Guelph who give help to those in need individually or as small collectives.

- Housing Insecurity
 - Audit Wellington Social Services and, following this, engender cooperation between the city and county to make the organization more effective.
 - Provide funding and administrative assistance to develop Community Land Trusts towards permanent, actually affordable housing (e.g. geared to income rent).
 - Donate under-utilized and vacant land to Community Land Trusts.
 - Sanction one or more [encampment sites](#) for those who are forced to live without shelter.
 - Establish a working relationship with the Waterloo Region homelessness initiatives to share experience and strategies.
 - Acquire -or push the province to acquire- land for emergency housing.
 - Expand the funding and powers of the Poverty Task Force.
 - Eliminate blind bidding on property sales.
 - Introduce real rent control/freeze.
 - Vacancy tax to kick in after 3 months, at 30% of property value annually, with expropriation after two years of vacancy. Primary residences excluded.
 - Freeze on property tax for personal property.
 - 30% tax annually on investment properties. This does not include individuals renting out portions of their primary/personal residence.
 - Aggressive inclusionary zoning. 50% of newly-constructed condo units to be rented at median-market rent.

- Public registry of property ownership, which includes the designation of primary/personal residence and secondary/investment properties.
 - Colour-coded rating system for apartment maintenance/quality status.
 - Hire more housing inspectors empowered to speak with tenants and inspect units. Create a public and accessible system for reporting landlord abuses. Build on the 311 system.
 - Introduce mechanisms to transfer property from landlord to city.
 - City has right of first refusal if landlord sells property.
 - City takes over for bad landlords (i.e. code red).
 - All housing units expropriated by the city will be rented to tenants as non-profit housing. Rent would cover only utilities and maintenance.
 - Index the shelter allowance to median-market rent.
- Health Care Insecurity
 - Dental
 - Promote the formation of dental co-operatives to bring dental care within the reach of the great number of people without benefits or money for largely extortionate service rates.
 - Guelph groundwater water is not actively fluoridated and has a natural concentration below the currently accepted effective threshold. Fluoridation of water is one of the cheapest and most effective public health measures any municipality can take.
 - Mental
 - Increase municipal funding for and/or pressure higher levels of government for funding towards accessible mental health programs such as is found at the CHC. The funding is currently below a critical threshold at which the program would be effective, and defunding is not an option. These are crucial services that most can't afford; especially those that need it most.
 - Substance Abuse Issues
 - Coordinate with institutions and individuals who regularly work with substance dependent people to best determine how the municipality can help them and those they help, be it direct or through pressuring higher levels of government.
 - Other
 - Increased funding for EMS to meet their growing operational needs.
 - Push for increased funding to hospital staffing to reduce wait-times and reduce medical worker burn-out.

Environment

- Increase public ownership and control to remove some of the incentives for environmentally destructive behaviours.
- Improve and expand transit as well as eliminating fares to increase access and promote use.
- Improve and expand bicycle lanes to increase safety and reduce barriers to use.
- Call for publicly funded scientific investigations of industrial pollutant concentrations (e.g. hexavalent chromium, PFAS/PFOA/PFOS).
- Work with the Ministry of the environment to ensure industrial polluters aren't just fined, but make changes to their practices.
- Continue promoting the move away from single-use plastics, and expanding the scope to include a greater range of products (e.g. dryer sheets and liquid/pod detergents).
- Investigate modes of waterborne micro-plastic reduction.
- Expand rain barrel program.
- Assess salt-free snow removal technology.
- Alter property standards laws and practices to reduce poison, energy and water usage on a household level as well as in city property maintenance.

Indigenous Sovereignty

- Remove requirements for sacred fire permit.
- Demarcate a space, or give indigenous peoples free rein to establish spaces ad hoc for the purpose of connecting to, reconnecting with, or expanding their community and cultures.
- Restore funding to indigenous programming at the Community Health Centre.
- Implement or promote [TRC Calls to Action](#) insofar as municipal governments are able.

Local Economy

- Initiate a Committee for [Community Wealth Building](#), with a focus on bringing together [anchor institutions](#) that will “hire local, buy local, live local”.
- Support the formation of [worker cooperatives](#) through Cooperative Development Centres.
- Facilitate [Succession Planning to Employee Ownership](#) as a priority strategy for addressing the “Silver Tsunami” of retiring baby boomer entrepreneurs.
- Form Employee Ownership Technical Assistance Centres, reaching out to and supporting the succession of enterprises to their locally-based workers.
- Foster Integrated Community Wealth Models.
- Find a way to address the [comical number](#) of cannabis stores and high-end restaurants taking up all the local commercial space, or at least their density. This sounds silly but it has actually got out of hand.
- [Levy a tax on empty commercial spaces](#) to promote reasonable lease rates, reduce the incidence of squatting by entrepreneurs, pay for monitoring to mitigate several safety issues, and prevent artificially lowered commercial property value.
- Conditionally permit patio extensions as seen in downtown Guelph city-wide. We’re more than a couple city blocks.
- Promote knowledge, use, and expansion of the Tool Library and similar programs.

City Government

- Enact councillor recall legislation.
- Abolish closed council sessions.
- Reduce all politician (e.g. councillor, mayor) pay to minimum wage. If it's not enough for them, maybe then they'll be inclined to fight for better conditions for workers.
- Make available to the public all city business and proceedings that is permitted by higher levels of government to disclose.
- Publish a regular and frequent newsletter summarizing clearly and plainly what council has done or deliberated.
- Fund local independent news outlets to increase accountability and break from reliance on NordStar Capital subsidiaries.

Revenue

- Redirection
 - Stop developer and suburb subsidies and make *growth pay for growth*. Stop approving developments that cost more in infrastructure installation and maintenance than they will return in property taxes.
 - The planned new library will reduce long term library operations expenditure and will return \$5-\$9 on every dollar spent. There's no reason to under-fund or under-build the new central library.
- Targeted taxation
 - Levy taxes against short-term-rental properties and vacant properties.
 - Demand the removal of tax exempt status for universities, religious institutions, and burial grounds.
 - Levy heavy taxes against private and catholic schools.

Addressing Crime

- [A recent study](#) shows that welfare prevents crime quite dramatically. Improving social services and reducing poverty will reduce the prevalence of conditions that lead people to commit crimes. Using money to reduce the number of victims of crimes should be preferable to justice-minded people rather than increasing the low odds of punishment for a crime committed.
- Guelph Police Services
 - Reduce funding to minimum required by provincial law to limit access to [illegal tools](#) as well as [unnecessary](#) ones.
 - Address [racially discriminatory policing](#) of communities.
- Street racing
 - Proper enforcement. Racing streets and locales are known. Simply have the police wait there. Guelph has enough officers such that the GPS could spare a couple of cars to camp out for the *real* speeders here and there.
- Car break-ins
 - There are two primary perpetrators of car break-ins: People who need money, and teens/young adults being foolish. Only the former cause can be meaningfully addressed by reducing poverty as well as making proper care available and welcoming to people who struggle with substance abuse issues.
- Public indecency
 - The particular reasons why someone might behave in strange ways that could be uncomfortable, offensive, or scary are innumerable, but with easier access to mental health care services people may be able to get to a place where they don't feel compelled to act in such a manner.
- 'Everyday' speeding
 - Enforcement is already in place, so intersection of psychological and structural issues must be considered. Improvements to physical infrastructure (e.g. roundabouts) and control systems (e.g. light timing) may diminish driver frustration due to poor traffic flow and long waits, easing one cause of speeding. Advice for newer drivers on more effective driving practices could be published.
- Gear all fines and fees to income.

Infrastructure

- Review Guelph's traffic control systems with a reputable civil engineer to improve light timing
- Ensure proper planning for construction and maintenance project sequencing to prevent situations where every major road is closed or reduced.
- Introduce or enforce consequences on firms that don't complete projects to spec or on time.
- Assess viability of roundabouts along the Hanlon and elsewhere.
- Assess viability of motion-sensing streetlights to increase safety provided as well as reducing power consumption and light pollution.
- Assess conversion of some light controlled intersections to 2-way stops to reduce vehicle idling time and time spent driving overall
- Remove speed humps to increase accessibility of residential roads to many with disabilities, reduce driver frustration leading to unsafe behaviour, and save on yearly removal/re-installation costs.
- Expand and improve bike lanes for ease-of-use and safety.
 - Remove green epoxy coat identifying some bike lanes. Resin simply doesn't last outdoors in a high use scenario, and added grit is quickly worn away making for dangerously slippery conditions in rain.

Transit

- No fare, permanently. Transit is a service, not a business.
- Review transit system with a reputable civil engineer to optimize coverage and frequency
- Alter bus system to accommodate continental and night shifts in industrial zones to reduce costs and dependency on personal vehicles for workers.
- Encourage use of transit to/from downtown by converting street parking to predominantly accessibility spots and 15 min/unloading zones. Raise parking garage fees.
- Install bus shelters at a much greater number of stops.
- Co-operate with nearby regions to create inter-city transit routes.

Bylaw

- Alter 'appliance abandonment' bylaw to permit community fridges or similar instalments.
- Alter property standards bylaw to remove the need for environmentally destructive behaviours (e.g. herbicide use, mowers/line trimmer use, watering grass).
- Remove shopping cart bylaw, it exists purely to help criminalize people who have to live rough.

- Remove camping bylaw. I know I'd personally love to spend a night under the stars in Preservation Park once in awhile, and many people have no other options at this time but to have camp shelters. If our society produces poverty at such levels that a demographic of people can't live in permanent shelters, then it should be changed so that such desperate people aren't created, rather than punishing them for all of our collective failure.
- Amend or create bylaw to impose fines for "light pollution" as a means of reducing overly bright lights or excessive lighting.
- Gear all fines and fees to income.