



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE: Mayoral Candidate Danny Drew Challenges All Mayoral And City Council Candidates to Support Vacancy Tax

GUELPH, ON – On Friday, October 21, Guelph mayoral candidate Danny Drew challenged all mayoral and city council candidates to support their call for a vacancy tax, as has already been done in Toronto, Ottawa, and Windsor just in Ontario alone. Earlier Drew had issued a debunking of incumbent Cam Guthrie's claim at the Dublin Street United Church debate that “there is [*sic*] not thousands of vacant homes across Guelph” with census data showing 3,266 vacant homes.

Drew had explained that the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), whose data is the source for the City's staff report Cam Guthrie cited, had already told the campaign they weren't counting detached and off-market homes. CMHC had told the Danny Drew for Mayor campaign in an email their “Rental Market Survey covers apartments and row dwelling types. Rental single detached houses are not included,” and “if a unit is not available for rent, it is not included in any of the rental market statistics.”

Danny Drew challenged all City Council candidates asking “Will you endorse a vacancy tax for Guelph? There's nothing to lose for this win-win-win: more homes, lower rents, more revenue for the city. Join me in putting renters before developers, people before profit, by incentivising owners to put idle homes into the rental market. Why are we any less deserving than Toronto, Ottawa, or Windsor ?”

Danny Drew is the only openly queer candidate for mayor of Guelph and is running on a platform of putting people before profit. Danny is an engineering alum of the University of Guelph and is a local activist, founder of The Ward's Library of Things providing free items and food.

Attachments:

- Video clip of Cam Guthrie at Dublin Street United Church debate (October 11, 2022) claiming “there is [*sic*] not thousands of vacant homes across Guelph.”
- Screenshots from Census mapper showing 3,266 vacant units according to the 2021 census.
- A gallery of some of the vacant homes Danny Drew saw on their tour in August.
- A map showing a sample of vacant homes Danny Drew saw on their tour in August.