



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE: Guelph Council Candidates From Almost All Wards Accept Mayoral Contender Danny Drew's Vacancy Tax Challenge

GUELPH, ON – On Sunday, October 23, Guelph mayoral candidate Danny Drew released a list of council candidates from across almost all wards who have accepted their vacancy tax challenge and give full or qualified support for taxing vacant homes. Earlier Drew had debunked incumbent Cam Guthrie's claim that “there is [*sic*] not thousands of vacant homes across Guelph” with census statistics showing 3,266 vacant units, and an explanation from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) that the data the staff report Guthrie was relying on did not include off-market or detached homes.

Danny Drew said “Guelph voters have the choice to put themselves before developers, people before profit. The momentum for affordable housing is bounding ahead with council candidates lining up in support of a vacancy tax to put idle homes into the hands of renters. On election day voters can bring Guelph up to date with Toronto, Ottawa, and Windsor for a win-win-win: more homes, lower rents, revenue for the city.”

The growing list of candidates so far expressing full or qualified support for a vacancy tax in response to Drew's challenge:

Ward 1: Michelle Bowman, Chidi Nwene, Erin Caton (with fine tuning) (half of all candidates)

Ward 2: Elia Morrison, Carly Klassen (with considerations), Morgan Dandie, Rodrigo Goller (half of all candidates)

Ward 3: Luc Cousineau, Dallas Green (support concept), Kevin Bowman, John Bertrand (support exploring), Phil Allt, Michele Richardson (all but two candidates)

Ward 5: Alex Green

Ward 6: Craig DiSero, Chetna Robinson

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.