



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE: Mayoral Candidate Danny Drew Debunks Cam Guthrie's Claim “There Is [sic] Not Thousands of Vacant Homes Across Guelph”

GUELPH, ON – On Friday, October 21, Guelph mayoral candidate Danny Drew debunked incumbent Cam Guthrie's claim from the Dublin Street United Church debate that “there is [sic] not thousands of vacant homes across Guelph.” Drew said Census Mapper's 2021 data shows 3,266 vacant homes. Drew's vacancy tax plan incentivises owners to rent them, lowering rents for all by increasing supply.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) advised the Danny for Mayor campaign that its “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.” City staff reports use CMHC data, undercounting off-market and single detached units.

Danny Drew explained “My vacancy tax will push thousands of homes into the hands of renters and lower rents for all. Cam Guthrie claimed 'there is [sic] not thousands of vacant homes across Guelph.' Tell that to the census which shows 3,266 vacant units. He is relying on a staff report using CMHC data, who told us they don't count detached or off-market homes. In my walk down Oliver Street this summer I found 25% homes vacant. Why won't Cam Guthrie put empty homes back on the market? It's a win-win-win: more housing, lower rents, revenue for the City. If it's good for Toronto, Ottawa, and Windsor, why do we deserve any less? Put renters before developers, people before profit.”

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.