

**CANDIDATE**

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<b><i>What are the benefits of a post-secondary institution in your municipality?</i></b>	<b><i>What are the key challenges of being the host community of a post-secondary institution?</i></b>	<b><i>How do you plan to address these challenges?</i></b>
<p>The City of Waterloo is extremely fortunate to have two universities as well as a college located in our city - the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University and Conestoga College. These academic institutions play a significant role in the success and prosperity of our city and the benefits are many-especially when you look at the fact that we have close to 45,000 students in our community. The economic benefit of 45,000 people purchasing goods and services, food, paying rent and utility bills, using our transit system, going to restaurants, movies, cultural events, the purchasing power is significant and extremely important for our local economy and our local businesses. Post secondary institutions attract the best and the brightest from not only Canada, but from around the world and with that comes global recognition to Waterloo. I have travelled to several countries as part of my duties as Mayor, and everywhere I have travelled, I have met people who have either been to one of our universities or have a family member who has. This global recognitio</p>	<p>There are challenges to being the host community of post-secondary institutions. The challenge that the City of Waterloo has is student housing and the issues of absentee landlords, poor property maintenance and people not feeling they are responsible for snow shovelling, picking up litter and maintaining their property. There are behavioural issues of noise, public nuisance, vandalism, property damage, litter, large house parties, excessive drinking, drugs, and how to manage the impact of these behavioural issues on the surrounding neighbourhoods. It is a challenge all communities with educational institutions deal with. With policing and bylaw enforcement comes additional costs to city budgets. Dealing with absentee landlords and poor property standards adds additional pressures to maintaining a clean, safe, healthy city for everyone. Late night partying, groups of people creating noise and havoc after leaving the local entertainment establishments, drunkenness and violence, issues of crime - there are challenges that come with having 45,000 students attending school in our city.</p>	<p>We are all working together to deal with these challenges. We have a very effective Town and Gown Committee that has been instrumental in bringing all stakeholders together to discuss these challenges and to provide workable solutions. We have instituted a "Welcome Back" program - each year 1500 welcome packages are handed out door to door to students by police and volunteers. We work closely with the universities at all levels - from the Presidents to the Student leaders - and meet when required, communicate when needed and call on each other for collaborative support. We have a very positive relationship. Our police, bylaw and university police all work together, they communicate, share resources and have established strong networks of support for each other. We also work with our other levels of government - for example - when the students arrive and when they depart, we have arranged with the Region of Waterloo waste department to have additional pick ups of garbage and furniture that is on the curbside - we get this off the streets as soon as possible. Each year we have a dinner r</p>

<p>Research shows that a universal postsecondary education policy benefits everyone. Randall Eberts, Executive Director of the Upjohn Institute, penned a study of the benefits of a post secondary anywhere, and this would apply also to the Municipality of Waterloo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> A 1% increase of college graduates in a region's workforce increases wages by 1.3%.</li><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> A 1% increase in the share of college graduates increases the number of patents by 0.9%.</li><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> An increase in the percentage of people with bachelor's degrees of one standard deviation (about 23 parts per thousand) increases per capita income by 1.4 percent.</li></ul> <p>Post-Secondary institutions such as Conestoga College, the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University also provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging high schools to increase the number of advanced, challenging classes.</li><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> Making post-secondary institutions become more responsive and cooperative with high schools.</li><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> Fostered more competition. We all benefit when competition increases among higher education institutions. As high school los</li></ul>	<p>One of the major issues relates to the relationship between university students and members of the community. Communication is a sticking point. Because of the generational differences, and the fact that many students see themselves a "transients" in the community, there is little incentive to integrate themselves into the community. There are also competing interests for housing space as well as dependency based on this very need. In the Northdale area of Waterloo, all the residents, and I spoke with each of them - call it a "dying neighbourhood, because of the estrangement between themselves and students. Many residents said that university has shirked its responsibility for housing students, sending students into apartment buildings. They also told me that the city has been lax enforcing zoning and other codes. The residents told me exactly what they wanted and in a nutshell, their plan related to medium density intensification and beautification. Students readily concurred.</p>	<p>I would suggest for this area a return to mixed-use zoning, where housing, commercial, recreational, and office spaces are located within walking distances. Such implementation will ameliorate many of the factors problematic to the Northdale residents of Waterloo. I would also ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing agreements are reviewed and regularized</li><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> Insert a clause for licensing that landlords live on site</li><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> Institute and enforce a zero tolerance policy on violence.</li><li>• <input type="checkbox"/> Bring permanent residents and students together on a regular basis. being a university professor - and if elected Mayor, I would handle this aspect personally.</li></ul>
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