



111 Larch Street | Sudbury, ON P3E 4T5 Canada | 705-674-0721 | www.st-andrews.ca/church

To the candidates seeking election in Ward 10

- Tay Butt
- Cora DeMarco
- Trinity Mary Hollis
- Cathan Pasanen
- Suzanne Seiling
- Paul Stopciati
- Derek Young

Thank you for offering your service and time to our city. We are grateful for the vision each of you brings to this campaign.

Our church community, St. Andrew's United Church, is located in Ward 10, on Larch Street in the downtown core. For many years our community of faith has been aware and tried to find ways to connect with the unhoused and at-risk populations near our church. We see such despair in our downtown core, and we long to know that our elected officials are not only aware of the issues, but have concrete strategies to address the needs. We understand that one person can't do it alone; but we do believe that good people with good intentions and solid ideas could make a world of difference to our at-risk populations. Many people in our church community have connections to those who find themselves living in Energy Court. The people who live there are our grandchildren, our neighbours, students we taught, and people who worked in our local businesses.

As the election nears, our church has decided to ask the candidates of Ward 10 for their views on the issues of housing, homelessness, washroom facilities in Energy Court, drug treatment initiatives and ideas for our city, and how we might better support people through the winter weather, especially the unhoused who are living in tents in Energy Court.

We would invite each of you to send us an email outlining the approach you would take to these pressing issues as they come before the council table at City Council meetings.

Our email address is church@st-andrews.ca

We would welcome your response by Wednesday October 14.

Your responses will be shared with our congregation through our weekly emailed announcements and through our church's Facebook page.

Again, thank you for allowing your name to be put forward in this election. You are making such a difference to the life and well-being of our city.

Respectfully,

Rev. Dave Le Grand, and Perry Ashawasegai, Kathy Brankley, Joyce Dickson, Marian McKnight, Anne Pile, Sylvia Carscadden, Freda Wilson, Catherine Somerville
on behalf of St. Andrew's United Church members and friends.

Dear Reverend Sommerville and Members of St. Andrew's United Church:

Thank you for your interest in the municipal elections and for providing an opportunity for the ward 10 candidates to address your concerns.

As a member of All-Nations church, I believe the community and its people are what make Sudbury a beautiful place to live. I appreciate everything that St. Andrew's United Church does for the community, and everything you've done supporting social housing and the wellbeing of seniors to have active and healthy lifestyles. It's important that you lead by example with the Out of Cold hot meal program and provide a homebase for Réseau Access Network to deliver harm reduction services.

I empathize with the circumstances and generational trauma that leads to addiction and homelessness. As a resident of Downtown Sudbury, I experience similar issues to what you may encounter every day. I see the effect it can have on morale and its negative impact on our small businesses, festivals, front line workers. The homelessness crisis is also affecting the paramedics and police that respond first to the issues, creating a negative effect on their mental health and high risk of burnout or leaving the job.

Throughout the summer months, I have had the chance to participate in a number of learning events around homelessness and the opioid crisis. My first was the No Shame No Blame opioid workshop hosted by The Go-Give-Project and Rotary Club, and I was inspired and heartbroken by the stories I heard at International Overdose Awareness Day. The indigenous community is important to me, and I've learned a lot about their outreach programs along with their history through various Truth and Reconciliation events.

I would first address the Roadmap to End Homelessness by 2030 and identify gaps that can better connect the organizations and the work they're doing. There are many silos within the Homelessness Network, and it's important that they all work together to coordinate their efforts better. I've spoken to people on the street, and the homeless are stuck after breakfast waiting on the streets until 6pm dinner at Elgin St. Mission.

I think we could explore more options for realistic long-term affordable housing alongside short-term options like old schools, tiny homes or pods. This would be important during the winter as well, since warming shelters are just a temporary Band-Aid. Before the council terms ended this month, Mike Parent brought forward a motion to launch a Deep-Core affordable housing study in Q2 of 2027 that will help reveal these opportunities as well.

I would like to see a dedicated public works crew for downtown Sudbury. Similar to keeping a shopping mall clean, downtown Sudbury deserves the same treatment to make sure it's welcoming to everyone. Streets covered in used needles and overflowing garbage bins isn't productive for community safety, and puts the homeless at health risk as well. I've been told stories of by-law and city workers destroying tents and plowing snow into their shopping carts, which could be avoided with a more empathetic and organized city staff downtown.

Following this, a public washroom is crucial downtown. I understand that it has been a space to use drugs in the past, but the lack of it has led to using the streets as their washroom instead. Using the

bathroom is a human need, and having facilities in Energy Court or at Memorial Park keeps the streets clean without forcing the homeless to search for the nearest shelter. If the city is able to rent porta-potties for events at Memorial Park, there is the chance to have a permanent washroom somewhere downtown.

I don't support involuntary rehab until we have the services to provide the proper support. Our system is at capacity, and the city can't help more people until more rehab centers and shelters are built for the homeless in Sudbury. Council can create the infrastructure to convert unused spaces for people seeking help, along with an adjustment in the Mental Health Act to be more realistic around the 72 hours hold and systems in place. Meetings with homelessness organizations have revealed a similar stance, and I believe that our drug treatment plan needs a strong base before any true progress can be made.

Finally, I would like to propose a "Changing Hearts Program", that can provide day programs and employment opportunities for the homeless. With daily activities and income-earning tasks, we can reduce the panhandling and loitering that happens around the city. These could include cooking classes, art programs and more from organizations that normally don't deal with the homeless, but have activities/workshops already in place. One example would be Spark Employment Services, and the potential for partnerships with other homeless organizations that go beyond the self-referrals and community-driven referral system from ODSP or OW.

Sudbury is a tale of two cities, and I believe that there is a lot of positive change happening with homelessness even though the negative is most visible and gets the attention. Over the years, I have developed excellent working relationships with organizations like Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre, Resseau Access Network, Downtown Sudbury BIA, and the Greater Sudbury Police Service. When the issue of homelessness comes to the table in council, these relationships and my understanding around the socio-economic issues will help make an effortless transition to begin making improvements.

If you have any questions about my platform and have interest in reading all 9 of my policies, you can visit my website at www.downtownderekyoung.com. The Time is now to move forward together, and my Plan 180 platform offers practical solutions that addresses public safety and community wellbeing to begin a turnaround for the city of Greater Sudbury.

Thank you again for this opportunity, and conversations like these are important to have when there are so many candidates to choose from.