

Candidate Details

Eve Elizabeth Simson

Regional Councillor (Kitchener)

What is your motivation for running for election?

Tired of the wrong agendas being focused on such as building condominiums for profit as opposed to affordable housing (10% allocation is an outrage and does not even cause a dent in getting rid of homelessness), majority of budgets fixing roads but nothing to improve and encourage transit use, and keeping people in the cycle of addiction recovery but no real support after the program but putting them back into an environment where people use and in illegal rooming houses which does not boost their self-worth or dignity.

What are your top three priority issues you want to address at Regional Council?

I shared a video that addressed drugs that used to be legal (on my Facebook page) and one of them is methamphetamine.

It got me thinking and wondering; as I always try to understand people who struggle with drug addiction, and I questioned if it can affect generations later considering it was prescribed to women and mothers. Here is what I discovered in Google:

"Yes, current science suggests that drug-induced epigenetic changes can affect multiple generations, though the impact generally weakens with each subsequent generation..... No, methamphetamine use does not alter your underlying DNA genetic sequence to mutate genes and pass those mutations down to the next generation. However, it can cause 'epigenetic' changes—meaning it can alter how genes are turned on or off—and recent scientific studies show these changes can be passed to offspring. When looking at how substance use affects future children, science divides the impact into three main categories: 1. Epigenetics (The ""Volume Control"" of DNA) While meth doesn't rewrite the letters of your genetic code, it changes the chemicals attached to your DNA (such as DNA methylation). Think of it as changing the volume control on certain genes rather than changing the song itself. bioRxiv Paternal Inheritance: Studies in animal models show that paternal exposure to methamphetamine changes the epigenetic markings in sperm. This can lead to offspring having a higher susceptibility to addiction or altered brain responses to stress and stimulants. National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov) +2 Maternal Inheritance: Maternal use also shifts epigenetic profiles in the brain regions of offspring responsible for reward and motivation, predisposing them to a higher risk of substance use disorders. 2. Direct Cellular Damage to Sperm and Eggs Methamphetamine causes significant oxidative stress, which can damage cells. National Institutes of Health (NIH) | (.gov) +1 In biological fathers,..... "(Google search)

Now I wonder, why are new methods not being used in conjunction with recovery?

Something to explore and push for additional support and not feeding the addiction to save future children who most likely will be born to the addiction, recovering addict and recovered addict. While we like it or not, recovery help needs to span minimally 3 generations.

I am running for Regional Councillor and when elected this is one platform I want to tackle; in addition to homelessness, especially the new category which includes Canadians who worked hard all their lives and now, as seniors, are losing their homes (rentals and/or homes) with no programs to help them keep their dignity. To see a senior man who comes in and starts physically crying because he has lost a roof over his head or about to lose one and to see the lack of programs is heart wrenching. It is time to act to help seniors maintain their dignity and self-worth that they had while working their entire lives.

My other platform is supporting local businesses in particular mom and pop stores from being squeezed out and, yes, this includes our taxi industry that is being squeezed out of the business.

Finally, improving and building our transit system which includes the ION service. The goal is to getting people out of their cars to using transit to alleviate the gridlock we are seeing increase which is starting to contribute to road rage and dangerous driving.

What is your vision for each of the issues you identified above?

Regardless your financial situation that every person has a life with dignity, respect and opportunities to a better life which includes generations still to be born.

What tangible steps would you take to increase the supply of affordable housing across the Region?

Increasing requirements for affordable units in new builds, looking at limiting rent increases and converting region owned properties into affordable housing. I strongly believe that the Region of Waterloo can become a model for other municipalities when it comes to creating a great quality of life for all citizens in our community and not just a few.

What is your plan to expand access to affordable, high-quality child care and create additional child care spaces?

I understand the shortage of affordable childcare spaces. I'm open to working with the community and getting input to come to a working solution that is fair to everyone.

What is your position on the Provincial government's efforts to increase private sector involvement in drinking water and wastewater services

It is the most stupidest move any government agency can make. To keep costs down and to stop hoarding of wealth all resources from electricity to water to toll roads need to remain in the hands of the government. This includes government departments changing their attitudes about spending their allotted spending on unnecessary things at the end of the year. We need to ensure that there is surplus so when a department needs the necessary budget for legitimate improvement they are not beating their heads against a concrete wall. Hence, financial accountability needs to increase as well as responsible spending - after all, we all would like to see our taxes decrease and services improve so we can have more disposable income to spend in our community to support local businesses.

What is your position on the Provincial government's efforts to increase private sector involvement in drinking water and wastewater services

Region should play a very active role. It becomes very dangerous and opens up to corruption when only one arm is in charge of making decisions about our natural resources without accountability and equal decision-making to major changes. All one has to do is look at the financial ramifications when the 407 and electricity was sold to private industry.

What forms of inequity do you believe are the most significant challenges in our community? How would you address them?

Discrimination of people with disabilities who are facing lack of accommodation in workplaces. Uber supported in thriving their business squeezing out the taxi industry - more regulation such as having Uber vehicle owners carry own commercial insurance as is required with cab owners, permit requirements for out of town companies picking up at our Waterloo Region Airport (similar to Pearson Airport) and more designated taxi stands to bring order to the industry and educating the public to take cabs in order as they stand on line. Finally, lack of funding for those legitimately serious about recovering by providing after rehabilitation support with legal housing, work search and next generation rehabilitation support.

What organizations, initiatives, or movements have you supported that work to address systemic discrimination or oppression? Please describe your involvement.

ACORN regarding renovictions which was, and is, used to squeeze out long term tenants with low income to get higher rent. I addressed council regarding the negative impact renovictions have and why there was a need for a by-law addressing renovictions.

Through lived experiences and being exposed to the marginalized community and having a wealth of knowledge and experience, I have volunteered to helping individuals connect with resources that could help with them getting into shelters, connecting with employment agencies and ow/odsp by assisting them with completing applications.

As a Crisis Responder with Victim Services I provide support to those in crisis to connect with community programs.

Can you commit to publicly speaking up in favour of these demands, including at Council meetings?

Yes