

GET OUT THE VOTE

Navigating the Ontario Municipal Elections 2022

(St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara Falls)



What's Inside

Table of Contents

<i>General Elections Information</i>	3
<i>Candidates for Mayor</i>	5
DAMON FORD (City of Thorold).....	5
JOSEPH WHITE (City of Niagara Falls)	6
TERRY UGULINI (City of Thorold).....	6
<i>Candidates for Councillor</i>	8
RYAN SMITH (City of Thorold)	8
RACHAEL HAYNES (City of Thorold).....	9
TIMOTHY O'HARE (City of Thorold)	10
CARMEN DEROSE (City of Thorold)	12
ANGIE COATES (City of Thorold)	13
SAEED MALIK (City of Niagara Falls).....	14
MIKE CUSHMAN (City of Niagara Falls).....	15
PETER GIBLETT (City of Niagara Falls).....	18
JOEDY BURDETT (City of Niagara Falls).....	18
GUY GRAVELINE (City of St. Catharines).....	19
DAVID WHITE (City of St. Catharines).....	19
JOSH YOUNG (City of St. Catharines).....	21
DANIELLE ROMANUK (City of St. Catharines)	22
DAWN DODGE (City of St. Catharines)	23
N. CARLOS GARCIA (City of St. Catharines)	24
NOAH MACHEK (City of St. Catharines)	25
JACKIE LINDAL (City of St. Catharines)	25
REBECCA HAHN (City of St. Catharines)	26
BOB ROMEO (City of St. Catharines).....	27

General Election Information

On **Monday, October 24**, Ontario will be hosting municipal elections across the province, including elections in St. Catharines, Thorold and Niagara Falls. Residents will have the chance to vote for candidates who will become **mayors, councillors, regional councillors, and school board trustees**. This process happens every four years in Ontario

Municipal elections hold a focus on issues that are local level. Some issues of focus that affect the daily lives of post-secondary students include **transit, housing (inclusive of renting), food security and city by-laws**.

To be **eligible to vote** in municipal elections, you need to be:

- 18 years of age or older
- A Canadian citizen
- Either a resident of the municipality or an owner/tenant of land, or the spouse of such owner or tenant

Find out if you're on the list to vote for municipal council and school board elections at **voterlookup.ca**.

Contact your municipal clerk for information about whether your municipality is offering alternative voting methods such as vote by mail or internet voting.

Resources:

For more general information about the Municipal Elections in Ontario, visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/document/2022-voters-guide-ontario-municipal-council-and-school-board-elections>

For general information about St. Catharines Elections, visit:

<https://www.stcatharines.ca/en/council-and-administration/election-2022.aspx>

For general information about Thorold Elections, visit:

<https://www.thorold.ca/en/city-hall/elections-municipal-school-board.aspx>

For general information about Niagara Falls Elections, visit:

<https://niagarafalls.ca/city-hall/elections/default.aspx>

Being an informed voter is a belief that we hold strongly, be it our own elections in the GSA or in any other environment where voting takes place. We wanted to help our members become more informed of who is running in these elections and specifically what the candidates thought of some key issues affecting post-secondary and/or graduate students in this region.

For all candidates running for either mayor or councillor in St. Catharines, Thorold and Niagara Falls, we sent out a list of questions address three of the top issues that we have heard of from students in recent months, in particular.

Our questions to all candidates, mayor and councillor, were:

1. Food insecurity is a rising issue among many community members, including post-secondary students. What are initiatives you believe your region should and could take to address this? What role, if any, do you believe you could play in addressing this?
2. Noting the large population of international students who come to the area for study (international students make up nearly half of graduate students at Brock), along with an ever-growing migrant community in the Niagara Region, how would you approach creating a more inclusive community?
3. Students – undergraduate and graduate, domestic and international – are increasingly voicing their concerns about the lack of trusted, affordable housing in St. Catharines/Niagara Falls/Thorold. If students approached you with their concerns, how may you address this? Are there steps that you may take as mayor/councillor to navigate these concerns about housing?

We also gave each candidate to provide with any additional information they felt would be pertinent to graduate students.

This document shares with you the responses that we have received from all candidates who responded to our outreach efforts (all candidates were given the same opportunity to engage). Personal commentary of the candidates or other unrelated commentary outside of the questions asked has been removed from this document to keep the focus on questions. Any answers given from a candidate is the answer of the candidate, and that candidate only.

We acknowledge that some answers clearly align with the questions while others are larger portions of commentary. However the answers are presented, we hope that you take the time to read about the candidates in your area before you go to vote.

Candidates for Mayor

(St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara Falls)

DAMON FORD (City of Thorold)

1. Currently, the City of Thorold has a great Community Cares program that has been supporting the city for as long as I can remember. Through Community Cares, many local families are able to enjoy a meal they wouldn't have been able to otherwise. With that being said, nobody should need to rely on a food bank to survive, and that's why I plan to lobby for an incentive program to encourage our local businesses to pay their employees according to the Niagara Region's minimum living wage (\$18.90/hr) as opposed to Provincial minimum wage (\$15.50/hr).

Through this extra \$3.40 an hour, an employee working 40 hours would make an additional \$136 a week (before taxes). Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done at the Municipal level of government in order to reduce inflation and the cost of living. However, a Municipal government can certainly incentivize its businesses to work towards becoming certified living wage employers.

2. Our Brock students play a vital role in the community here in Thorold. As a Brock University student myself, I believe I understand more than anyone, just how important it is to make our international students feel at home in our community.

Recently, the City of Thorold completed a renovation of the Battle of Beaverdams Park in downtown Thorold. With the growing international student population in our city, I would love to organize various multicultural events and utilize this park space to the benefit of our Brock-Thorold community, bringing everybody together and showing off the true melting pot of cultures our great university has to offer.

It is important that we are continuing to promote the message that violence and discrimination based on one's race, gender or ethnicity is completely unacceptable in all regards.

3. Affordable housing is an issue on the minds of many Thorold residents and a key component of my election campaign. Rentals in Thorold are unfortunately amongst the highest in the region, forcing families and senior citizens out of their homes and into cheaper options elsewhere.

If elected mayor, I will work with both Regional and Provincial governments to provide a subsidy to non-profit housing developers, thus allowing for faster and more efficient production of additional affordable housing units, combined between low-rise apartment

complexes and single family homes so that everybody has an affordable housing option whether a student, single mother, senior, or just starting a family.

4. Currently, the Niagara Region has the highest suicide rate in all of Ontario. On top of this, the wait time for a young person under the age of 18 to see a mental health professional and receive life saving treatment in Niagara can range from 4 months to over a year.

If elected this October 24, I commit to doing everything in my power to aid in reducing the wait time for young people to receive mental health treatment and to raise awareness for the mental health epidemic that is taking the lives of those we love.

The City of Thorold has been governed by a council known as the “Old Boys Club” for as long as I have been alive. At just 21 years old and the Niagara Region’s youngest Municipal Election candidate, I will put an end to the Old Boys Club and move our city forward with young, fresh, community-driven leadership.

JOSEPH WHITE (City of Niagara Falls)

I get many requests, however, I will answer. I had just [yesterday] mentioned seniors and students were two sectors overlooked by government. I can't see our government giving money to assist with food needs. I just don't see it. Brock should be fighting for the students. I plan to have inclusion committees. Students being one. Students will have volunteer rep who will work with the elected council. LGBTQ+ . Indigenous and others will have reps as well. I will fight for more scholarships, I will have inclusion committees for the different cultures. Maybe not just for students.LGBTQ+ students will have a voice as well.

My plan is to get the city involved in the actual building of affordable housing. It can be done and must be done.. We can't wait for regional housing.

TERRY UGULINI (City of Thorold)

1) Food insecurity needs to be addressed in unison by all levels of government, it is a prevalent across the country. The Federal and Provincial government need to play a leading role because they are responsible for the key funding and policy programs required. Some areas we can work together on are dealing with supply chain issues that worsened during the pandemic, protecting our agricultural lands, supporting our local service providers (e.g. Community Care) and supporting a living wage. One issue that is making the situation worse worldwide, is the current rate of inflation which increases costs and reduces buying power.

2) The City of Thorold is a warm and welcoming community which supports diversity and inclusion. In September of 2020, Region of Niagara Mayors voted to join the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities, a network that brings together municipalities that want to improve their policies against racism, discrimination, exclusion and intolerance.

Niagara joined 82 other member municipalities across Canada who are working to advance initiatives that:

- Improve their practices to promote social inclusion
- Establish policies to eradicate all forms of racism and discrimination
- Promote human rights and diversity

3) Affordable Housing, Housing Affordability and Diversified Housing Options are extremely important issues being felt across all age groups, not only in the City of Thorold but across the Niagara Region and beyond.

Our City instituted a Residential Rental Licensing Program to insure safe rental accommodations not only for students, but all residents. We also promote purpose built student housing which can be found in our Downtown Area, as well as, in the Schmon Parkway (Brock Business Park) Area. In fact, six more Foundry Loft apartments are currently under construction on Schmon Parkway. This development will provide over 1,000 beds when fully built out with many units geared to graduate students.

The City of Thorold is committed to work with all of our Community Partners on affordable housing, as well as, other housing issues and concerns.

In closing, I am committed to working with Brock University on partnership and collaboration opportunities. This path forward will provide mutual benefit to the City of Thorold, our residents, Brock University, its staff and students.

Candidates for Councillor

(St. Catharines, Thorold, Niagara Falls)

RYAN SMITH (City of Thorold)

As a Brock graduate student alumni from the MBA program, it's one of my goals to support Brock students as I know how hard it can be to support oneself and be successful with studies at the same time.

1) If elected I would support the expansion of food banks and meal programs. Currently Thorold only has one of each, which are located in downtown Thorold - a fair way from Brock. Many students do not have access to a vehicle and this distance to travel for food is a time consuming burden while navigating evening bus routes outside of daytime classes. I also believe one of each is insufficient to support Thorold which is growing at a steady and quick pace.

2) If elected I would support and fill staffing positions that promote the development and implementation of diversity and inclusion programs within Thorold. I would also increase funding for inclusive programs that make use of our municipal parks to develop a stronger community.

3) My main goal if I am to be elected is to increase city investment in affordable housing through the development of low rise apartments and condos. Using a not for profit model, rent could be controlled at a reasonable level for both students and other Thorold residents while also maintaining public accountability. This would in turn increase the density of Thorold and create a case for the increase in availability and frequency of public transit.

4) Is there any additional information that would you want graduate students to know about you, your candidacy, and your goals if elected?

Here is a short list of my goals in no particular order:

- Create safer roads through traffic control
- Visit accessibility issues for people with mobility impairments
- Increase mental health support funding for Thorold public library to include ages 18+
- Increase transit availability to reduce the need for vehicles
- Increase park funding for reconstruction and upgrades to existing structures
- Increase development of affordable housing through the use of low rise condos and

apartments as well as smaller town or row houses

- Streamline the permit and zoning process for business aiming to repurpose Thorold buildings or open locations in Thorold
- Increase availability of health services to the people of Thorold and access to long term care
- Increase infrastructure spending for reconstruction of roads and sidewalks
- Create infrastructure incentives and pledges for medium sized businesses to move to the area

You can also read a little bit more about me, my thoughts, and plans for Thorold from a conversation I had with Thorold today here: <https://www.thoroldtoday.ca/local-news/meet-your-candidate-entrepreneur-wants-to-offer-younger-perspective-5814699>

Should any Brock students like to contact me directly I can be found by email at rsmit12.rs@gmail.com.

RACHAEL HAYNES (City of Thorold)

As an educator myself and an occasional Brock employee, I see many of the benefits of retaining Brock students once they graduate. My answers are below:

1) As an environmental activist, I would like to see updated bylaws that address our yard spaces and how they are used. I would put forth the motion to re-evaluate our front yards and what we view as 'weeds'; instead, encouraging native plant species and pollinator gardens. For back (and front) yards, I would like to see a 'yard share' program, where residents can volunteer their yardspace to an individual who may not have the space to grow their own food. Alternatively, I would like to promote a donation stand or shed (eventually moving to the goal of having a fridge), where people can donate their garden produce or other items.

2) A number of NGO's exist in the region that already assist with newcomer services (e.g., Niagara Folk Arts Centre) that the City could approach to host more events in Thorold. Our park space and public rentals are underused, and I would like to see more arts & culture events in Thorold. With my own background in grant-writing and arts advocacy, I know there are many community groups and charities that could partner up for festivals and celebrations.

3) Our rental licensing was intended to be an improvement to tenant living conditions. I would like to see a few additions to the licence, such as having a local agent for owners that live outside of the Region, and a criminal record checks for the landlord. As well, Thorold has a bad history of allowing houses to be turned into overly-large student rentals - "family" houses with as many as 18 tenants is unacceptable. We would need more building inspectors to assess the quality of renovations and review the intentions of newly-built houses.

I am an educator, arts & culture advocate, and environmentalist. With my experience in

these differing sectors, I want to bring more balance to Thorold. Right now, we are building housing at a rapid speed, but have not improved our infrastructure or amenities. In order to bring back a sense of identity to Thorold, we need to have more developer accountability, protect our green space, and foster healthy growth in our population.

TIMOTHY O'HARE (City of Thorold)

Having spent a lifetime of learning (studied music at U of T and Royal Conservatory, Berklee College of Music, Furniture Design and Manufacture, George Brown, and Queens and UofT for my teaching qualifications and Honours Tech specialist), I know first hand the challenges facing students while pursuing their education and lifelong dreams. Without a doubt, I faced many challenges along the way as do today's students. I am very sympathetic to the struggles of pursuing a path of study at college and university and I hope that my own experiences will remind me of the need for support and assistance at all levels of education including elementary and high school.

1. As a high school teacher, I recognized the need for food programs within our schools. Without proper nourishment learning becomes a greater challenge. Luckily in our school we had a fully operational kitchen and culinary program that we could utilize with the help of donations to establish both morning and lunch programs to students needing support. As you know, many students at the university and college level struggle with the cost of food today more than ever. Here are some ideas that I support to assist students struggling.

Current grocery stores offer discounts for students once a week which is very welcome. I would lobby them to assist them even further through more reductions or even setting up a program for giveaways when food items are overstocked. Perhaps, we can even establish a weekly donation bin that can be utilized by those greatest in need. Food waste is a big issue today. I would hope that we as leaders could inspire the larger chains to work closer with student organizations to reduce food waste to ensure that it is being utilized and not tossed in the bin while still having acceptable best before dates.

Sponsors and donations play a big role in contributing to food insecurity in Thorold. Sponsorships could come from businesses other than the food industry. This is where education plays a role. Through awareness of the challenges of food insecurity, businesses step up and do assist when possible. Perhaps in the form of coupons or financial aid to alleviate the problems. And, lastly, it is important to advocate and educate about the challenges our students face. When brought to the forefront it is easier to find support in many different areas to help fight food insecurity.

2. Having taught in the Toronto Education system for a quarter century, I was immersed in a multitude of cultures from day one. And we celebrated our differences with pride. Here are some ideas I can borrow from my teacher experience that would work in Thorold.

First, celebrate international food day. We could use the downtown core to set up tables

and share with the residents all the wonderful foods found throughout the world that our international students are so passionate about. Food can truly unite. Sponsors could be found to once again help support our students with the costs involved. It could be tied in as well with an existing event such as Victoria Day or Canada Day. The Battle of Beaverdam's Park has been newly re-done and how about using the band-shell to promote a multi-cultural event with music and dancing. It could as well, be tied into another event. We need to promote unity and brotherhood throughout Thorold and so steps should be taken to include at as many events as possible which highlight our international students' countries and heritage.

3. Affordable housing is a big issue topic. It is part of my own platform and we must never stop to address the needs of everyone that needs affordable accommodation. I hear this at so many doors that I stop at. We can build million-dollar homes in our new suburbs, but no one truly addresses the need for affordable housing. As a councillor I would like to spearhead this drive to unite organisations and different levels of government to work together to address the affordable housing issue. It won't be easy, but I would be a strong advocate to keep pursuing an answer to our affordable housing issues. We can't just talk about this; I want to find solutions.

4. Lastly, is there any additional information that would you want graduate students to know about you, your candidacy, and your goals if elected?

The environment is a big concern to me. We must be able to think ahead and know that we need to make changes now. For example, we need a much stronger tree canopy. Thorold lacks in a healthy tree canopy and other cities do a much better job including.... Toronto. That's embarrassing. We need to get trees in the ground now! I would like to form neighbourhood hubs that would come together for a weekend and have fun while planting 8-10 trees. Then move on to the next neighbourhood and so on and so on. Before you know it, we will have planted many new trees to help offset our advancing climate crisis.

Bike lanes now! Again, our record of bike lanes is pathetic. I think there are 4 designated bike lanes in all of Thorold. We are encouraged to leave the car at home, but without the proper infrastructure nobody wants to cycle on the street and feel threatened by cars.

Reduce the speed limit. St. Catharines in reducing their inner-city speed limit from 50 kph to 40 kph. I propose to do the same. Any reduction in speed limits saves lives and makes our roads safer.

If you would like to speak to me directly you can email me at: tpsohare@hotmail.com

CARMEN DEROSE (City of Thorold)

1) I agree with your statement that " Food insecurity is a rising issue among many community members, including post-secondary students". As a city councillor, I feel it's my duty to help address this issue. Personally, some things my family has been doing for decades is to grow a vibrant pesticide free vegetable garden and to share with those in need. I have been encouraging residents to do this also, as many of my friends are excellent gardeners, having learned from our parents. We need more community gardens that will help fill this void. I also have partnered up with a local businessman, and during Covid, I helped give away 110,000 lbs of food to those in need.

I also am trying to discourage development that is taking over our local fertile farm land, all for developers' profits but at the detriment of our Food Security.

During this term of council, my fellow councilors voted themselves a 50% pay increase in the middle of covid. I voted against this unwarranted pay raise. With the pay increase that we have received, I have been buying weekly groceries and clothing for the homeless that have set up camps along the Welland Canal in Thorold. I am also actively engaged with several individuals that are trying to re establish a farmer's Market downtown Thorold. This will bring forward opportunities to help our local farmers connect with residents.

2) As son of immigrant parents, I have experienced the importance of inclusion in Thorold. This experience has shown me how to embrace diversity and inclusion. I was beaten up and verbally abused because I was a newly arrived immigrant in the 60's. This helped me to develop empathy for groups that are being targeted and marginalized today. I have been teaching grade 7 in Thorold for over 30 years, and I continuously strive to make our newly arrived students feel accepted and welcomed. I have also taught Economics at Niagara College for 21 years and have always embraced the diverse student community. The pursuit of an inclusive community is one of my goals over the next 4 years.

3) Affordable housing is a major hurdle facing all of us presently. I have had students reach out to me sharing horror stories of their treatment at the hands of insensitive, greedy landlords that lack any empathy toward this dire situation. I will continue to lobby Brock University and the Provincial Government to address the shortage of student housing on campus. This will allow for more opportunities for students to have more affordable options. There is not much I can personally do as a councillor in regard to dealing with unscrupulous landlords, other than report them to the University Housing Department.

4) Lastly, is there any additional information that would you want graduate students to know about you, your candidacy, and your goals if elected?

These are a few things, I will focus on in the first 100 days of a new Term of Council.

1) I have been working with an experienced medical consultant to help bring more

family physicians and medical professionals to Thorold.

- 2) I will continue to lobby the Region to build a long term Care facility in Thorold.
- 3) Stop deferring important infrastructure projects
- 4) Spending Taxpayers' dollars with respect.
- 5) Continue to embrace a cooperative mutually beneficial relationship with Brock Student Union and all the Student stakeholder

ANGIE COATES (City of Thorold)

Food Insecurity has many Facets and Opportunities not even touched on by Council and Brock University. One in particular Business that would be interested in a Contract to offer his excellent Soups, Salads, Subs is Coatesy's Kitchen in Thorold 905-227-5554. The thoughts I liken Food Opportunity to could be similar to the Bus Pass that is included with Tuition Fees, ongoing for Brock Students, Graduate Students, Alumnae, Faculty and more.

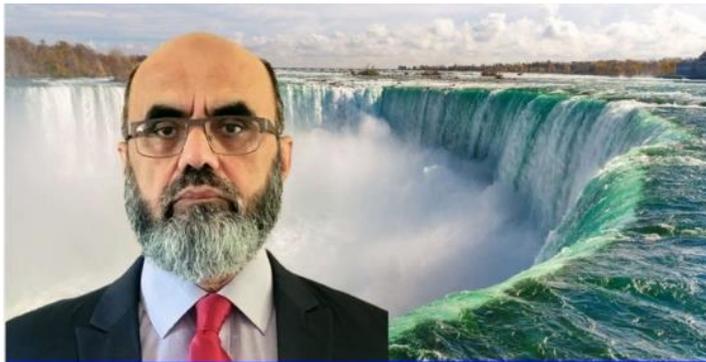
The possibilities are endless to help with foods available at "Brock" rates. This is just one venue to explore. I strongly Believe that not only Brock students could benefit but all Students located in Thorold. I sat on the Fiscal Advisory Committee of The Shaver Hospital as President of Local 122 ONA across from Brock University for over 15 years and in Fact was able to prevent Nursing LayOffs by identifying Revenue Generating strategies not even thought of. I Think outside the box and would do this on Council.

Affordable Housing is Paramount for All. It is Critical to maintain a balance not just for Students, but the Community as a whole. Again, thinking of ways and means to Facilitate this outside the realm of what and how it currently is. This will be my Strength on Council. Don't tell me why it can't work, as I will tell you how it can work with ways and means not thought of.

I thrive on others' knowledge, and know that the Benefits of Graduates staying in Thorold, sharing their areas of expertise is a Great Benefit to Thorold and its Community Leaders.

In summary, I would like to share my areas of Expertise; Healthcare, AODA Disability, Business in the Downtown, Diversity and Local Attributes; these are key areas I will bring to the Council. As well as knowledge of Legislation, Ethics, Standards, Parliamentary procedure and do the Research to make the best decisions with respect to specific questions and concerns and look to others for their areas of expertise.

SAEED MALIK (City of Niagara Falls)



Please
VOTE

**SAEED
MALIK**

For Niagara Falls City

CHANGE is required for **GROWTH**

- ◆ Proponent of true democratic values
- ◆ Your priorities will drive my actions
 - ◆ Accessible and transparent

Vote October 24

www.saeedmalik.ca | 416 554 1909

Grow your Vision

Being a proponent of true democratic values, your priorities will drive my actions. Accessibility and transparency are what should drive our city's future. I will ensure to be available to all residents and be transparent to build our collective course of action.

Key areas of focus

Employment → Diversification to bring in more industrial/technological employers

Affordable Housing → Ensure city plays its role to the fullest in making affordable housing available for the existing and future residents

Infrastructure Improvements → By improving our fiscal management we should be able to deliver in this area

Property Taxes → Appropriate fiscal management to lower property taxes for the residents

Water/Waste Water charges → Lower the water/waste water charges by improving the cost of treatment through world best practices

Elections Advance Poll Dates

Saturday, October 1, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
MacBain Community Centre – 7150 Montrose Road

Sunday, October 2, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Optimist Club – 7085 Morrison Street

Friday, October 7, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Firemen's Park Hall – 2275 Dorchester Road

Saturday, October 8, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Niagara Falls Convention Centre – 6815 Stanley Avenue

Friday, October 14, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Chippawa Willoughby Memorial Arena – 9000 Sodom Road

Saturday, October 15, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
MacBain Community Centre – 7150 Montrose Road

Sunday, October 16, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Gale Centre Arena – 5152 Thorold Stone Road

September 28 to October 21, 2022 – Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
City Hall – 4310 Queen Street (closed Monday October 10, 2022 for Thanksgiving)

You can further visit my website at [Elect Saeed](http://ElectSaeed). You will see the emphasis that I have put on inclusiveness and diversity.

MIKE CUSHMAN (City of Niagara Falls)

Thank you for writing to me. As you know there is a problem with voting. 31 percent of the voting population voted in the last election. This is horrible. I hope all that are able to vote, vote. As for your questions, I am happy to answer them and any others you have as I feel my job as city council is to represent you and your concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to talk.

Stop urban sprawl is the first thing. Building on agricultural lands when they say our population is growing and we need more homes...If our population is growing then, we need agricultural lands to grow food for them. Community farming is another answer where there are lands not being used for farming and we can rent those lands and farm them for us all. Education, we need to start educating our young people how important it is to farm and do it right. Even how to grow food. I believe we should have programs for the students to work the farms. If the covid experience has taught anything it is our people should be the ones working the farms and it should be taught how important it is.

A more inclusive community must start at the municipal level. Our downtown and main street should have developments done and with those development include spaces for all genders, all cultures. We need development on main St. and our downtown, this should be done by asking those corporations that pay min. wage to help pay for development of geared to income housing so their employees can afford to live. This will also create a hub where people do not have to drive to work, living so close to the hotels and places of work. Once the development is achieved invite all cultures and genders to make restaurants... to bring community back to downtown and Main St. We need to main venues one for downtown and one for main St. We must embrace our culture through the community center we have in Niagara Falls inviting all different peoples to teach us of their cultures and learn to erase bigotry, we are afraid of what we do not understand. our community center should try to help with this..

First Air BNBs are a huge problem. they cause more harm than good. Shut down all air BNBs as they are a reason for the high real estate costs. they over bid on a house for 100000 dollars, then they ask another 100000 for the house they just bought. now the house is 200000 more than what it was and while they wait to get their price they apply for air BNBs licence and get the right off for the property while waiting to get their over inflated prices for the housing. The real estate association states that housing is going up due to lack of availability. Well if there is 3000 air BNBs in Niagara Falls, there is your availability problem. shut them down and the 3000 homes Doug Ford says we need to build on wetlands and agricultural lands will be freed up. The other problem in our real estate market is accepting drug money and money laundering. which must be followed up on by all levels of government. The places of work that must pay min. wage, should help with development to develop geared to income housing. The recent numbers state you need to make 45000 dollars min to rent and 89000 min. to own a house. People working in the hotel industry on one income cannot afford to live in Niagara Falls. They must live in Fort Erie or Welland and commute to a low wage job. This is unsustainable. We need geared to income buildings built from Zimmerman Ave up Queen St. and Main St. then people can afford to live, walk to work, save money.....

I have 35 years experience in politics from environmental to human rights. I am a husband, father, grandfather, and blue collar worker. I am running for city council as I think our government has left us , the people of Niagara Falls, behind, I put to you, that the government and their stakeholders, have left us the people behind. We live in a tourist town, with tourist wages. The government has allowed the stakeholders to manipulate the real estate market to the point where their employees cannot afford to live in this city. It takes 45,000 dollars to be able to live here if you rent. It takes 89,000 dollars to be able to live here if you own a house. People that have a single income cannot afford to live in Niagara Falls. They keep crying they are short labor, no one wants to work. We cannot afford to work for you. We have to live in Fort Erie, or Welland and commute to Niagara Falls for a low wage job!

Tourists do not vote, the people of Niagara Falls, Chippawa and Willoughby do. We need places to live if you are going to keep letting our real estate to be run this way. We need major development downtown. The hotel owners, and big corporations that pay low wages, can you invest in our down town, with geared to income housing?, Apartments and buildings with restaurants... that reflect the diversity of the people in this city. This investment is a huge bonus to you. Workers will live within walking distance to get to work. Down town will get a huge lift for the people that have businesses there and have been ignored. Can city hall put as much emphasis on developing downtown as they do with tourism, so the people that live here and work here can do so? So, all the low wage corporations that want to keep your wages low, make it so we can afford to live!! Invest in downtown for geared to income housing so we can survive the outrageous real estate costs. This will help the people, which is missing in the equation. The most important part of the equation is if we the people cannot afford to live on the wages being paid, then the system is broken. Investing in downtown would also ensure the business owners already down there, how important they are to us. Lets bring all the diversity in this city down town and make everyone feel they are welcome. This should also be applied to Main St too in the exact same manner.

This will also address the so-called huge amount of houses you claim need to be built and stop urban sprawl. To add to this I put to you to abolish air BNBs. This corporation is giving out permissions to houses in neighborhoods that are not suppose to be air BNBs according to bylaws, take their power away. This will help in availability issues too. Where if there are 1500-2000 air BNBs illegal in the city, that 1500-2000 homes for families to live. This will help address the housing crisis, and the urban sprawl again. Not to mention will help address the reason our real estate is over priced from these Air BNBs.

The ward system. Since the city has gotten rid of the ward system we are left with over development and tourism investment, leaving the people that work in tourism behind as they cannot afford to live here anymore. We need our Councilors to never lose sight that the people are the ones that elect you. the people's needs should come first. We always need to ask the question, how is this going to help our people. The ward system ensures you have to represent the people. It also limits the allows amount of people

running in the election and allows everyday people like you and I to run without the high costs of campaigning city wide.

With the ward system I would like to explore participatory budgeting. I believe we need a community and with this system it will help people be a part of the city decision making on projects that effect their neighborhoods. You set aside money from the budget and the people vote on what project to do with the money. With 61 percent of the people of Niagara falls not voting, I would hope these 2 issues help people to know how important they are.

Environmental policy, stop urban sprawl, stop the building on wetlands, protected lands and review the availability in housing after the changes I have suggested. With the growing population we need wetlands, farm lands or agriculture, animal corridors... like never before. Build up instead of out in the right places like down town. From Zimmerman Ave to the top of Queen Street develop our downtown to match the growth and have the investors invest in the people by geared to income housing for the low wage jobs you provide. Also do the same for Main Street. After closing air BNBs and developing downtown, review the number of houses you need I am sure you will find that you do not need to build on Oaklands golf course... While building up review heat sources to heat the buildings, , and ensure 30 percent tree canopy before any development.

Look at programs for addiction and mental health and ask the hard questions of why no one goes to them? No one trusts them to go for help, why? We need to change what is being done if it is not working. We have a new hospital being built; I hope these issues are number one. In speaking with people during my campaign it was suggested that this new hospital be a teaching facility. We are in dire need of doctors, make it a teaching facility and offer a program to entice doctors here call it Niagara recruitment.

I am running a no money campaign. I believe this is where the corruption starts, If you take money from a developer, then vote for his development... If I receive 10,20, thousand dollars for a campaign, I would never feel right wasting these precious, hard earned dollars on politics. That money should go to food banks, or homeless shelters, I could not justify taking money to waste on such a thing. the third reason, if you spend 10, 20, 30 thousand dollars on a campaign that pays 30 thousand dollars, something stinks.

I will not create pollution by making signs and pamphlets when I am an environmentalist. Do as I say not as I do is too popular. I am available, to meet, to talk to listen. I am going door to door and releasing things via Facebook and YouTube.

I am a father and grandfather and watch as our children's futures slip away. Financially and environmentally, we need to change things to ensure our children have a future. I am a regular guy like you. I have had many types of jobs which will help me understand you needs more. I feel you are the reason for this election therefore you should have a

voice on neighborhoods being built wetland being lost...How you feel about something is very important it is your city.

PETER GIBLETT (City of Niagara Falls)

I am very interested in Niagara being an area which will encourage students to stay.

What you say about food security is important. It is vital we look into options. I have little knowledge in this area, but am always willing to learn and understand options.

Having international students is a powerful advantage for Brock. I have housed international students in the past. However one aspect that is vital is the need for high value jobs to be built in and around Niagara Falls. We need to provide a local future for the students I would like to work with many organizations to make that happen.

As an immigrant myself I know the value we bring to the community. Inclusion is vital to a successful community.

Affordable housing is the greatest challenge faced locally. However not all of the answer comes from local planning. There is a need to change provincial laws to allow affordable housing development.

That said the cost of housing is only part of the problem. The other part of the solution is the improve wages. Niagara Falls needs to change employment focus from low value tourism jobs to high skilled, high value jobs. The solution is to encourage local entrepreneurs to grow their businesses.

I believe Niagara Falls needs to be open and accountable to its residents. The city budget needs to be refocusing towards the needs of residents, but in doing that financial efficiency is essential.

JOEDY BURDETT (City of Niagara Falls)

1. City level governance cannot change the cost of food, with that understanding, as an individual council member I could personally attend functions to draw publicity to a worthy cause. On a Council level, Council should and does subsidize programs to assist. Project Share is most likely the highest profile organization to these matters. Council members tend not to dedicate their careers to address an individual concern, but what they should do is help the organizations and individuals that do. This is my view of things, if an organization or individual is willing do dedicate their time and effort to providing a needed service the least council can do is support that initiative. Indirectly, less expensive everyday service fees allow people to retain more of their finances which in turn can help offset food costs, it should be councils objective to reduce these fees to the bare minimum.

2. I have done a lot of international travel, mostly away from the influences of North America and Europe. I personally am very capable of translating “different cultural idiosyncrasies”. This tends to result in instant acceptance of differences of cultures on my part and I tend to not notice them (instant integration so to speak from my perspective). Not everyone can do this of course. For me it was the immersion in different cultures that taught me this, I was the migrant. I choose to traveled to other countries to learn, you are asking how to teach, clearly everyone cannot travel around the planet as I have done. I sense it would be up to the migrant community to present methods to further this understanding, it would be up to council to support their initiatives within the community.

3. Affordable housing is an expensive fix. So much so it appears to be beyond the city level. From my understanding Niagara Falls has never created affordable housing on its own, they always require Region council assistance and Niagara Falls is always subservient in these matters. The Council of Niagara Falls will have to press the Region to support more developments in the city, Niagara Falls can subsidize aspects of the builds but I suspect, in reality, cannot create them. I will need to get greater access to the workings of council to understand the processes completely, as they say, without a seat at the table to don't have a voice. I am a very smart person, you put me in a room with other smart people with all the information and I am pretty certain a solution can be found.

4. Me personally, my advice would be, people tend not to be able to change their thought process once established. If the people in control have demonstrated that they cannot achieve the desired result, then do not trust in hope that they will spontaneously change the way they think and achieve those goals. You would do well to change the people who have be making those kind of decisions. At the very least, you can restore trust in hope, in that the new people have not yet demonstrated failure.

GUY GRAVELINE (City of St. Catharines)

I have knocked on over 3,000 doors so far in my Ward and in some areas issues related to students and student housing have come up at the door. Nothing overly negative, but concerns nonetheless. And for myself, I recall being a student living in Ottawa, and there were things that I could have done better or been more respectful when I lived in that community. Your other questions are interesting as well.

DAVID WHITE (City of St. Catharines)

You have brought up some very valid concerns and I will be happy to give you my input.

1. Food insecurity,

This is a must solve problem. People can choose not to do a lot of things however eating is not one of them. I have had the opportunity to work with the community care food bank in the ward I am running for and the increase in demand amongst all age groups is devastating. With food inflation at over 10% this is putting strain on almost

everyone's budgets including mine. As a candidate I am hoping to increase funding to nearly all community kitchens and food banks . I believe a community must be judged by how it looks after its most vulnerable and sadly Students, Single parents and seniors are suffering the brunt. The tricky part is to raise the funds, Raising taxes is a double edged sword. For people already strapped raising taxes on the house to help with food would be no benefit at all. I would like to see us as a council achieve some of the following if elected;

Some initiatives I believe We should pursue are:

- Take inventory of current programs, reanalyze them to ensure there is no duplication or waste that can be redirected
- Meet with community stake holders to ensure that we are holding up our end and help with efficiencies
- Have an open and honest discussion with both Brock and Niagara College about providing either tuition relief or Food credit to students in need, this must have an easy and transparent application process so no one is left behind
- Work with the community at every chance to raise funds, volunteers and food drives to help relieve the pressure on our current system

2. Community inclusiveness for international students and Migrants

I truly believe that as a community St. Catharines is already quite a welcoming place with decades of experience with international students. The economic impact of these students is huge and they deserve to have every opportunity to succeed. I have a couple of ideas that would be relatively simple to install and could be done relatively quickly and I am honestly hoping to see some of these in the first year of my term if elected:

- Have a look at current city staff to see if we are properly representing the mosaic of communities in St Catharines to ensure proper representation
- Ensure that there is access to services in more than just French and English especially in areas that are common hot points for persons who have English as a second language
- Highlight and sponsor community events that promote different communities and encourage participation across all communities !!
- Look at developing a community ambassador system with a dedicated individual that would act as a liaison between the city and new comers !!

3. Student Housing

On this one I have a ton of experience. I have 4 children my two oldest have either finished grad school or are still finishing. I have also had to try to secure out of town rental units for them and avoid the nightmares involved with lousy landlords. Some ideas I have on this are;

- The city should maintain a website of known student rental locations that allows for reviews from current and previous tenants.

- All rental units directed at students should have to get a specific license to do so.
- I would Like to coordinate with both Brock and Niagara a hotline allowing students the ability to go to a place they trust and have problems reported to the city
- I would like to see a points system for landlords where if the amount of complaints merits they could lose their rental license or face a fine for devious or illegal acts towards international students
- We need to look at current city zoning and try to find areas where we can increase the supply which will help bring the prices down !!!

4. My goals and candidacy

My Goal is to make city council a place where our constituents feel free and safe to speak openly about their ideas, concerns and opinions. Our city council over the last couple of terms has transformed into a place where the voters of St. Catharines are now being told what will happen and told they will have to like it and they aren't encouraged to ask questions and raise concerns without being made to feel they are an imposition. I want to change that and give them back their voice. I want to help make St. Catharines a place My kids can afford to stay in and help it develop into a town to be envied as forward thinking and inclusiveness of all cultures , Not a place where international students and new comers are warned in advance to watch out for rip offs and to be prepared to feel like an outcast.

JOSH YOUNG (City of St. Catharines)

1) Approximately forty percent of post-secondary students are concerned of food shortage and affordability according to Maclean's magazine. As a Brock alumni, I do remember affording healthy and nutritional meals was challenging. Brock's Graduate Students' Association has done well in creating on-campus programs to tackle food insecurity among students. I do understand that students can not tackle this challenge on their own. Brock University has played an intergral role in the growth of St. Catharines, and the City needs to do more to strengthen the relationship with university and city. One of the ways the city can work with Brock University and Student Association is by listening to your needs, and expanding on-campus food initiatives to the wider Merriton and St. Catharines public. This topic also extends to housing affordability as we continue to see the rise in rental cost.

2) Over the years working as a Financial Advisor at RBC in St. Catharines, I got the opportunity to meet alot of international students who were just starting life in Canada and I got to learn alot about their experiences. The need for inclusive community engagement is very important in our diverse community. First step is listening to students stories and experiences to better understand the issues. Employment and Immigration are two areas that are most important to many of the international students i've worked with. City can work together with public agenices and planning groups to develop programs and services that educate students on how to effectively intergrate into society. For Example, voting for Niagara Region to become a member of the 'Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities'. A network that brings communities together to

improve policies against discrimination and exclusion. Building a more inclusive community is an ever evolving goal because it's about transforming attitudes, behaviors, and policies. We would need all community groups working together to achieve this collective goal.

3) The housing crisis has become a national issues and its not a suprise that students are among those people heavily impacted by the crisis. This crisis is a basic supply and demand issue and one of the most effective way to address the issue is increasing supply. A lot of pressure continues to be put on the federal and provincial governments to address the strict red tape in the industry. Fortunately, we live in a community that is taking strides to address this issue as Niagara Region contributes more funds to housing than other regions according to KPMG. My team will continue to advocate on council for the provincial and federal governments to make more investments and review to policies.

4) Once again appreciate this opportunity to reach out to Brock University's graduation and international students. I am a graduate of Brock University (Bachelor of Social Sciences- BCOMM). Class of 2015. I also do come from an international background as I am Canadian-Nigerian. Having moved alot as a child, I do understand what it means to relocate to a new society and the challenges of integration. I understand how misrepresented international students are in the community and I beleive education and community engage will be an effective way to address the barriers students face. I am seeking a seat on Council because we live in an awesome community that has a unique character and has shown resilience in difficult times. I want to do my part to keep St. Catharines great and I see opportunities to make it even better.

DANIELLE ROMANUK (City of St. Catharines)

Food security:

Niagara is home to beautiful farmland, and it's strange to think that food security would be an issue here. I believe that our region and municipalities should be supporting local farms when buying food, especially the hospitals.

The St Catharines Farmers' Market needs to go back to having farmers selling produce. It's become more like an artisan market, and there are fewer farmers than ever. The artisans are nice, but they detract from downtown businesses, and the farmers market used to act as a place to get produce downtown for the businesses and restaurants. We need that back to support our local farmers and to promote local food in our downtown restaurants. There is no other place to get fresh food downtown.

The university as well should favour local farmers for their food buying. This would help support local agriculture and ensure that Niagara maintains its food growing power.

There are multiple farms in the region who do CSA boxes/bags, including the Promistery and Small Scale Farms, and I encourage you to reach out to them to learn more: <https://promistery.com/> and <https://smallscalefarms.ca/>.

Inclusivity:

I am a human rights defender, and I believe that education on human rights is paramount to making sure our rights are respected and upheld in the community. I believe a refresher in the Ontario Human Rights Code would benefit all business and social areas as well as the people who visit them. I will bring a motion to council that business be required to revisit the Code as well as display the poster for it stating that the Code is being upheld. The Code has a wonderful teaching guide you can find here: <https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/teaching-human-rights-ontario-guide-ontario-schools>

Housing:

This is a huge issue. The region is responsible for affordable housing, and they have mismanaged funds. The city needs to hold them accountable for this as well as create it down incentives to landlords. I will propose that incentives be given to landlords of people on the wait list and landlords of vacant units to convert those units and reduce the wait list. We also need to petition the province to put rent controls back in place, which they removed a few years ago.

There is another huge issue of corporate landlords taking advantage of a loophole that allows them to put in Above Guideline Increases which is raising the price of rents across Ontario significantly. In my opinion, the Landlord Tenant Board as well as the legislation needs a complete overhaul.

Additional Information about me:

I am running because I found a lack of representation due to my differences. If elected I will represent any resident, regardless of my personal opinions.

I have been dismayed that there is no mental health committee at the city level in St. Catharines, and I want to create one, as it is my belief that better mental health services would help fix other problems in the city. We need more happy, resilient, hearty people, and this begins with mental health.

I'm willing to listen, and I'm willing to learn. I am only one woman with one perspective, and I rely on the people to bring me their perspectives so I can be as effective as possible and help as many people as possible. Helping people is what I like to do best.

I hope this sheds some light in these areas.

DAWN DODGE (City of St. Catharines)

1. If a delegation by concerned citizens were made to Council, I could see the City providing some space for community vegetable gardens, in some areas. This is already happening in some communities within the city, but they do have a problem with people stealing the grown food. This something I could support.

2. I would want to hear from those groups as to what resources they need from the City. I certainly support an all-inclusive community and racism, which can take multiple forms, is never acceptable.

3. Our city lacks affordable housing, as do many other communities in Ontario. Developers are looking to build luxury condominiums, which may provide them with the most dollars but does little to help those in need. The city might consider subsidies/tax incentives for developers to turn their minds to more affordable housing. Affordable housing needs to be placed where people can access mass transit as well, preferably near the downtown core or areas within a short distance to Brock University and Niagara College.

4. Lastly, is there any additional information that would you want graduate students to know about you, your candidacy, and your goals if elected?

I would like them to know that I am approachable and available to discuss any issues they may have about the City. I'm retired so I have the time to meet with them as schedules permit. I want St. Catharines to be the city of choice when it comes to the needs of students.

N. CARLOS GARCIA (City of St. Catharines)

Thank you for reaching out and for the questions. As a former graduate student with two Master's degrees, I am fully aware of the challenges and the hard work you face. Below are my answers to the questions.

1. Food Insecurity. I understand the concern as I remember my eating habits were not the best while in grad school. As a City Councillor I have always been a strong supporter of Brock. The University controls what food is available within the school. However, I also always support our new businesses and, particularly restaurants, many of which provide relatively inexpensive meals.

2. International Students. Again, I was once an International grad student. Today, these students are particularly critical in our community since they are such a large proportion of the student body. I always support the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre on Church St. in St. Catharines that provides so many services to people from outside Niagara. I support Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and am a member of the Performing Arts Centre's EDI Task Force.

3. Affordable Housing. Our City recognizes the extreme need for Affordable Housing and has many initiatives on this issue. Of particular relevance is the fact that all home owners across the City now have the right to add accessory units that could be rented out.

4. Other Information. I emphasize that I am the only current member of St. Catharines City Council with extensive experience as an international grad student and therefore understand and appreciate the issues much better.

NOAH MACHEK (City of St. Catharines)

In regards to food insecurity I feel there are a few initiatives the city can take to help with this issue, some of which are already started and could be further supported and expanded. This could include community fridges, community gardens, encouraging residents to grow their own food, supporting local food banks and fostering partnerships with restaurants and grocery stores so more food is donated and not wasted, local farmers markets and bringing mobile markets to underserved areas, lunch and breakfast programs in schools (this is in place in many elementary schools but a similar model could be introduced to support students in college and university.)

First and foremost I think it is important to include these communities in the conversation, so I would listen and learn how we can do better in the area of inclusiveness and move forward based on that advice. I think there could be a focus on outreach programs and community groups where people can feel welcomed into the city and schools and find a sense of belonging. Events bringing people together can also be a part of this.

As a renter myself, I can see how lack of affordable housing is very much an issue in our city. I would like to see what options we can pursue in terms of making rent more affordable, and preventing renovations so the property owner can further increase the rent. I also would like to see unused buildings in our city be converted into safe and affordable living spaces to support our growing population.

I am an 11 year resident of St. Catharines (7 of those years in St. Patrick's Ward) and I work in Construction as a Form Setter on local projects where I have gained a lot of knowledge pertaining to city infrastructure. I am a long time supporter of the Rankin Cancer Run and Gillian's Place, and have volunteered in other areas of our city as well. Some of my priorities if elected include: minimizing homelessness by addressing the underlying causes, upgrading our city parks, and focusing on affordable housing. I am a compassionate, hard-working and driven individual and will serve the residents of St. Catharines with honesty and integrity, helping their voices to be heard. I love this city and want to be a part of making it a better place for everyone.

Instagram: @noahmachek_stpatricksward

JACKIE LINDAL (City of St. Catharines)

1) We are all feeling that but I get that students are feeling it more. Tuition and the cost of living is making things so far out of reach for students, and not only will they come out with debt that may take them years to pay, they can't afford housing and food. Which are basics. There are all kinds of community supports for people who are suffering from food insecurity. Encouraging people to donate is the hard part of Community Care and food banks. We have a neighbourhood pantry because of the amount of people who just can't make dinner for their kids.

I would be encouraging food drives in High Schools and elementary schools. I would encourage Brock to start a University food bank. I would challenge every student at

Brock to donate a jar of peanut butter. That is the most needed food in food banks and the cost is 5 dollars. Can you imagine what you can accomplish with just this small gesture?

2) I am a high school teacher in Stoney Creek. Our school has one of the most diverse populations in the board. Inclusivity and division is something we address on a regular basis. Everyone should feel safe and needed in the communities they live in. Some people need to be educated further on how amazing these cultures are and what they bring to our area. Knowing and learning are what help with understanding. Our multicultural group is great at championing all cultures and helping people see what each one has to offer. They help with educating the public on what they need to know to understand and accept. You also need more people championing the cause of Diversity and Inclusivity. Its no longer acceptable to stand by and hope for the best. You have to speak up and challenge current norms.

3) Housing is a major concern in all areas of the community. My son is living in my basement because he can't afford a place of his own because he doesn't make a living wage. We have to, as a council, work closer with the Region to shake money from them to help with housing. The Region is in charge of making sure the money gets to organizations that help with affordable housing. Working with our Provincial MPP Jennie Stevens so she can navigate the provincial part of it is also key. Making sure that when someone develops a piece of land for residential (like the Queenston St. Hospital Site) that there is a percentage that can be allocated for affordable housing. All of these can help alleviate some of the push on affordable housing. But there is always room for doing more and I know I am open to any and all ideas.

4) My entire platform is about your voice. Voices that need to be heard and taken to city council so things can change. I would welcome any discussions on how we can help students who live and work in our community

REBECCA HAHN (City of St. Catharines)

I have provided my answers below. If elected, I look forward to working with [the GSA] to address the needs of students.

1) This issue is very concerning; the cost of food continues to increase to levels that are unsustainable for many people in the community. The role I believe the city should take, and the role I would play in addressing this issue would be to reach out to local farmers and ask for assistance in helping those in need. I would also reach out to large grocery store chains and request a social program to help people who cannot afford food. No one should go hungry, especially in a first-world country. The government needs to do better at addressing these issues.

2) When I attended Niagara College many years ago, I was elected President of Student Council. During my tenure, I made myself extremely accessible to international students, as I really empathized with the difficulty of coming to another country to study.

They quickly recognized me as their go-to when they needed anything, and I was honoured to help. If elected, I would reach out to Brock International and ask what the student needs are, and how I can help. Once I understand their needs, I will do my best to assist in meeting them...just like I did at Niagara College.

3) Affordable housing is a very big issue in our city, and our entire country. As councillor I will be exploring the reasons for delays on projects. There are a number of developments in the works, however, they are taking far too long. We need to cut the red tape and allow developers to develop. We also need to utilize existing city programs to incentivize developers to focus more on affordable housing to meet the ever-increasing needs of the people.

4) My goal is very simple, bring the community together to focus on ways to make our city a great place to live and grow for everyone. I believe in the power of harnessing the community to meet the needs of all people regardless of age, race or sexual orientation. We have so many caring people in our city who want to help, we simply need someone to bring them together and that person is me. I love people, I love bringing people together and my heart and passion is to see everyone thrive!

BOB ROMEO (City of St. Catharines)

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to address the graduate students on these important issues.

Here are my responses:

1. Food insecurity is directly related to affordability. Food banks, meal programs, and emergency food are available but are being stretched thin given the widespread need. This is going to take a commitment from the provincial and federal government to take legislative action aimed at tackling affordability. While municipal council does not have that type of legislative power, if I'm elected, I will use my voice to amplify the needs of those who are experiencing food insecurity, and I will develop relationships with our MP and MPP to keep this issue on the top of their priority list.

2. I believe in status for all. If people are deciding to live and work in St. Catharines, they should have the right to contribute to shaping how our community moves forward. I believe this especially for the migrant farm workers who are directly responsible for the harvesting of crops in east St Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

3. Affordable housing is one of my top priorities. I believe housing is a right that everyone should have. I work for Goodwill Niagara and one of our key mandates is to provide affordable housing to seniors in Niagara. So this issue is very important to me personally and professionally. One way I can do my part is to ensure current city policies, such as the Community Improvement Plan (CIP), are updated to make sure developers build affordable housing units, rather than million dollar luxury condos in our city. Affordable housing and homelessness is a complex issue that I wish I could say

I've got the solution for. I will use my voice and my vote on council to support policies and funding programs for agencies that directly deliver services to those who need that type of support. And if I'm elected, I will certainly look into if there is something else to be done at the municipal level that maybe no one has thought of before. I would also look to in-filling as another option, but I would want to see that it will yield a positive result with the least environmental and resource impact to the surrounding area. And of course, not displace those of a lower socioeconomic status by those of middle/high status.

4. I am a life long resident of St. Catharines and have lived in the Grantham Ward for 18 years. I'm very involved in our community, working in the non-profit sector for over ten years. I am a member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines, a volunteer for the United Way, a host on YourTV Cogeco programs, and a Brock Radio Alumni. My background will make me a strong voice for Grantham at City Hall. If elected, my work will be guided by three pillars: transparency, accessibility, and fiscal responsibility. Simply put, *Bob Can Do The Job!*