**WE ARE GUELPH 2018 PLATFORM**

**(by Guelph and District Labour Council)**

**Guiding Philosophy**

*To implement a strategy and vision for a future that meets the needs of Guelph. Investment projects will be paid for by a combination of economic growth and responsible tax rates. All residents, present and future, should be engaged in a review process of Guelph’s priorities and needs.*

**Resilient and Healthy Communities**

* Work towards achieving the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report and the action items included.
* Acknowledge and commit to eradicating hate in all of its forms in our community.
* Support initiatives that promote food security and healthy local food production.
* Meaningful steps to address the shortfall in affordable housing and advocate for the implementation of the Ontario housing benefit**.** Uphold and advocate for access to municipal utilities including electricity and water.
* Challenge urban sprawl through community investment in livable neighbourhoods and public spaces, including parks and recreation centres.
* Support The Guelph and Wellington Taskforce for Poverty Elimination priorities and work to address livable incomes and decent work, affordable housing and homelessness, food insecurity and health inequities.
* Build on the city’s water conservation efforts to protect our local water supply and systems. Support the objectives outlined in the Groundwater Action Agenda of the Wellington Water Watchers.

**Services That Meet the Needs of Guelph**

* Support affordable, accessible, sustainable and safe transportation for both users and workers, including: buses, trains, bike lanes, and routes that minimize traffic congestion.
* Promote equitable and sustainable service growth, while considering the unique interests and needs of different neighbourhoods.
* Provide strong public services that act as a direct source of good jobs.
* Oppose in principle the contracting out of work and privatizing of services
* Advocate for the continuation and expansion of community resources dedicated to addiction and mental health.

**Public Education and Participation**

* Facilitate involvement of community members in setting the future vision of Guelph.
* Continue to support increased capacity within neighbourhoods so residents can create the community supports they require.
* Work to increase public participation on municipal politics through public education and effective representation to meet community needs.
* Recognize and value the diversity of Guelph residents through inclusive community engagement strategies.

**Strong Local Economy and Fair Working Conditions**

* Promote secure, permanent full-time employment and good quality jobs.
* Support local businesses to create sustainable enterprise and local jobs.
* Advocate for a $15 minimum wage and uphold the changes to the ESA and the LRA in Bill 148, and commit to develop Guelph as a living wage community.
* Uphold and protect the rights of workers, including the right to collective bargaining.

**Municipal Revenue and Responsible Taxation**

* Ensure that people receive value and quality for the taxes they pay.
* Recognize the challenges faced by municipal governments as result of the downloading of responsibilities for service provision by the Provincial and Federal governments.
* Support lobbying efforts to increase Federal and Provincial financial support to municipalities, rather than increasing property taxes and fees to account for shortfalls.

**School Board Trustees**

* Given the importance of a relevant sex education curriculum in our schools, trustees will work towards re-establishing the sex education curriculum introduced in 2015.

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