

To: All Candidates for: Waterloo Regional Council; Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge City Councils; Wilmot, Wellesley, Woolwich, and North Dumfries Township Councils; Regional Chair, and all city and township Mayorships,

On August 18th, 2022, Waterloo Regional Council took a step in addressing the Region's homelessness crisis by approving an Interim Housing Solutions strategy. The tools that Waterloo Region intends to employ in this strategy are:

- Expanding the Transitional Housing Program
- Expanding the Home-Based Support Program
- Expanding the Emergency Shelter Program
- Permitting a temporary managed Hybrid Shelter/Outdoor Model

In presenting the strategy to Council, Peter Sweeney spoke to the crucial importance of consulting and involving unsheltered residents of Kitchener, Waterloo, and Cambridge. However, despite this strategy being approved, Waterloo Regional Council has **not** dropped their eviction lawsuit against residents of the 100 Victoria St. encampment, nor their new eviction date in November, 2022. Further, in the time since the strategy was approved, we have seen the [closure of an emergency shelter](#) in Kitchener, and a lack of [options for the residents evicted from a Cambridge encampment](#).

Our unsheltered neighbours in Waterloo Region deserve more! The Municipal Election on October 24th brings with it a wealth of possibilities for a progressive and just future. As part of their election platforms, we are inviting all candidates to pledge to the following three key commitments to housing:

1. I pledge to approach housing and homelessness from a human rights-based perspective: Housing is a human right.
2. I pledge to fight for the rights of unsheltered residents by urging Waterloo Regional Council to end their lawsuit against residents and others involved in the 100 Victoria St. encampment.
3. I pledge to urge Waterloo Regional Council to approve the sanctioning of all encampments on Regional land as an interim measure to keep unsheltered residents safer while they await permanent housing.

**Candidates can sign the #UnshelteredPledge by [clicking here](#).** We welcome you to tweet your support with the hashtag #UnshelteredPledge and tag @UnshelteredC. We are also inviting all candidates to a virtual Unsheltered Campaign Town Hall on Monday, October 17th, at 6:30pm to discuss their plans to address the ongoing housing crisis and meet the needs of unsheltered residents. Registration is available within the pledge form.

Sincerely,  
Unsheltered Campaign