

## Daniel Kaufmann - Personal Statement



I've spent the past 14 years living in all corners of Guelph, growing from my teenage years into my early adulthood here. Though I currently live in the north end, I've spent the past 6 years working in ward 6 at a local grocery store, making connections with many of the locals. It's surprising how much you can learn about the sentiment around town just by listening to people chat or striking up a conversation in the few minutes you have with them.

My interest in local politics stems from events in my own life, wherein I and others around me were unsure of what rights and supports we had in a precarious housing situation. Most of my neighbours, either because they were misinformed, had a family that could not handle the uncertainty of the situation, or did not feel like they would have the support they needed, left. However, through the publicity of our situation, I found there was a lot of support and words of encouragement to be received from the public. I had people from all over town, especially those who knew me from my work in ward 6, offer me all sorts of advice and support. I am very grateful for those connections I made, and all those who cared enough to periodically check in to make sure everything was alright.

The reason I'm seeking office is to be a liaison. I want to help strengthen connections between the city and its vulnerable populations in what ways I can. Be it students, the elderly, newcomers to our city, or anyone who might be in uncertain situations of their own. I want to seek out those that are either uninformed or apathetic about our local politics, help them see the support we can provide and have them trust in it.

Regardless of whether or not I'm appointed, I still plan to run in ward 6 during the next municipal election. The connections I make here are largely where I found support that helped me, and I want to be in a position to give back to the community in what way I can. Though I am young and may not have the same experiences as many of my potential colleagues, I hope to bring my own perspectives on Guelph to the table and work with them to grow alongside this city. I plan to work with local groups to learn and expand protections for those vulnerable in our communities, and through doing so, help create a better environment in Guelph for everyone. And no matter the outcome, I hope to meet and chat with whoever is reading this either around our city or on the campaign trail next year!