

To the esteemed councillors of the City of Guelph,

I am honoured to be applying for the Ward 6 seat on the Guelph City Council. I have lived in Guelph for nearly 25 years, and during my time here, I have fallen deeply in love with the city and its residents. Having witnessed many different phases of growth, flourishing, and struggle in this beautiful municipality, I have often wondered how I could contribute most meaningfully to supporting my community. This desire, more than anything, is what led me to submit my application to join city council. Beyond my desire to contribute to my community, however, I have a diverse set of skills that will be a great asset to the council.

I have a BA in philosophy, and am currently working toward a Master's degree in political philosophy. Clear communication, actively working against personal biases, and considering all perspectives is woven into everything I do, and I believe each of these things is integral to successful and productive political engagement. I also completed a course geared specifically towards public admin and governance, which left me with a realistic sense of the bureaucratic process and an interest in seeing it in action. Moreover, I can speak to issues that directly affect a diverse range of individuals from many different backgrounds. I am a parent, I am a woman, I am an immigrant, and I am a tradesperson. I consider each of these things an asset, as they allow me to represent the needs of many different members in our local community.

I also have ample experience collaborating, leading, and working with people in many different fields. I have been a hairstylist for 10 years, during which time I have had the pleasure of developing a keen eye for listening to, interpreting, and making recommendations to meet the needs of my many clients. For approximately two years, I worked for an AI company and was responsible for training, onboarding, writing project instructions, providing feedback to operations leads and identifying bottlenecks in workflow. I am currently teaching at the local hair school, and I worked as a teaching assistant throughout the first year of my master's degree, which involved lecturing, as well as marking and editing student's work for clarity and correctness. Further, I have volunteered at Hillside for many years as both a crew lead and a coordinator. Each year, I am reminded of what can be achieved with a dedicated group of people working towards a common goal.

Perhaps more importantly than any of these things, I care about making the world a better place for everyone. I have been engaged in political discourse for the majority of my life, and I have ideas that I believe can bridge the gap between even the most contrasting stakeholders. It would be a great privilege to bring these ideas into reality, and I would be exceedingly grateful to be able to have the opportunity to do so.

Thank you for your consideration,
Annika Maldonado