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June 06, 2025

The Office of the City Clerk
City of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Re: Declaration of Candidacy and Statement of Qualifications for the Office of City Councillor,
Ward 6

Dear City Clerk, Members of the Selection Committee, and Residents of Ward 6,

Please accept this letter as my formal statement of qualifications for the position of City Councillor for Ward 6. As a 5 year resident and an active member of the Guelph community, I am deeply invested in our city's future and possess the skills, experience, and dedication required to effectively represent our collective interests at City Hall.

My motivation for seeking this office is rooted in a profound commitment to fostering a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future for Guelph. I envision a ward where families can afford to live, local businesses can thrive, and our natural heritage is preserved for generations to come. I am running to bring a fresh, collaborative, and results-oriented approach to City Council, ensuring that the voices of Ward 6 residents are not just heard, but are central to the decision-making process.

Living in the Onward Willow neighbourhood, I have spoken with many of my neighbours about what matters most to them. I share their concerns about the rising cost of housing and the need for more diverse housing options that cater to all life stages. I have seen firsthand the traffic congestion on many of our streets during peak hours and understand the need for improved transit and active transportation infrastructure. I am also acutely aware of the desire to protect our green spaces from the pressures of urban intensification. My intent to be a voice and as a platform is built directly from these conversations and shared experiences.

As a seasoned IT professional, I bring a unique and highly relevant skill set to the dual roles of Policy-Maker and Steward for the City of Guelph. My technical expertise in managing complex IT environments from networking and virtual machines to system security and disaster recovery is directly analogous to overseeing the intricate operational systems of a municipality. My ability to analyze complex technical frameworks and manage budgets and vendor relationships translates into a capacity to scrutinize municipal budgets, assess infrastructure projects, and ensure the city operates efficiently and cost-effectively. Just as I would secure an organization's digital assets, I am prepared to act as a diligent steward of taxpayer dollars and city resources, ensuring our investments in technology and infrastructure are sound, secure, and forward-thinking.

Furthermore, my experience in leadership and project management aligns directly with the duties of a community representative. Throughout my career at organizations like Proto Makerspace, Lloyd's Register, and GE, I was responsible for more than just technology; I was responsible for people and outcomes. I have a proven track record of mentoring teams, managing customer and stakeholder relationships, and delivering high-quality results under pressure. This experience has honed my ability to listen to diverse needs, build consensus, and advocate effectively for a shared vision precisely the skills required to represent the residents of my ward. I am committed to fostering a collaborative environment between residents, city staff, and council, ensuring that community voices are not only heard but are the driving force behind policy and progress in Guelph.

In my current professional role as the Administrative Lead at the Indigenous Friends Association, I have honed my ability to listen to diverse stakeholders, build consensus, and advocate for effective solutions. Furthermore, my volunteer work with the Guelph Indigenous Community Council has provided me with direct experience in representing community interests, organizing public meetings, and ensuring transparent communication.

My background in technology in both public and private organizations requires rigorous analysis of complex data and legislation to inform strategic decisions. I have experience reviewing multi-million dollar budgets and understand the importance of fiscal responsibility. I am prepared to delve into the City's Official Plan, zoning bylaws, and strategic plans to ensure that Guelph's growth is managed intelligently and aligns with our community's long-term goals.

I believe that being a City Councillor is a role of public trust and stewardship. I am committed to upholding the principles of accountability and transparency. I will work diligently to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and that city services provide excellent value. I am particularly interested in contributing to policies that address pressing local issues such as mental health and addiction supports, workforce development, and climate action, ensuring Guelph remains a vibrant and resilient community.

I am confident that I possess the qualifications, temperament, and passion necessary to serve the residents of Ward 6 and the City of Guelph effectively. I am eager to contribute my skills to build a better city for all of us. I look forward to engaging with many more residents in the weeks and months to come and respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,
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