

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic and wholehearted support for Michelle Bowman to be appointed to fill the current vacancy for Ward 6 on Guelph City Council.

I have had the privilege of working with Michelle professionally, and I can confidently say that she exemplifies the kind of leadership our city needs—thoughtful, informed, inclusive, and future-focused. Michelle is someone who listens deeply, considers the needs of all members of the community, and takes action rooted in both compassion and evidence.

As a person with a disability, I have often witnessed how policies and conversations can overlook or exclude those of us living with additional challenges. Michelle, however, always ensures that everyone has a seat at the table. She doesn't just talk about inclusion—she lives it. She recognizes the value in diverse perspectives and works actively to make sure those perspectives are heard and integrated into decision-making. Her commitment to equity is not performative; it is woven into every conversation, every strategy, and every solution she puts forward.

Professionally, Michelle brings an exceptional level of experience and expertise. With a Ph.D. in Environmental Biology and Ecology, she has spent over a decade consulting on environmental issues for governments and NGOs. She teaches at Conestoga College, equipping future professionals with the tools to analyze data, understand environmental impacts, and communicate effectively. Her scientific background is matched by her political experience, having been a municipal candidate, a federal Green Party candidate, and a committed community organizer and leader.

Michelle's approach to governance is grounded in:

- Evidence-based decision-making that seeks out innovation and prioritizes efficiency.
- Active listening and bridge-building, even in polarizing conversations.
- Strategic foresight, anticipating both short- and long-term outcomes while keeping the big picture and intersectionality in mind.

In short, Michelle has the intellect, integrity, and empathy needed to serve the people of Ward 6 and the broader Guelph community. She is deeply invested in our city's success—not just environmentally, but socially and economically—and will work tirelessly to create policies that support sustainable, inclusive growth.

I urge you to appoint Michelle Bowman to Guelph City Council. Her unique combination of

qualifications, values, and lived experiences make her an ideal choice to fill this important role. Ward 6, and the city as a whole, will be stronger with her voice at the table.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Josh

[Joshua Redwood](#)

Guelph, ON

