

Dear Mayor Cam Guthrie and Esteemed Council Members,

As a resident of Guelph for 25 years, deeply invested in our city's continued well-being and prosperity, I can't begin to express how effectively I believe **Michael Keegan** would fill the current vacancy in Ward 6. I have a brother Michael Clipsham, my older brother who I love dearly, who lives in Ward 6. What do the two Michael's have in common besides that tenuous link? They have earned the standing with me where I would trust them both with my life.

I've had the privilege of witnessing Michael's dedication to our shared goals and values firsthand over many years. I've wanted to see him run for office basically since the first instance when Shakiba Shayani introduced me to him when she was still new to the Chamber CEO role. So when he sent me a text a couple of weeks ago with the link to the public notice of candidates that included his name, my response was exactly this: "You really are? This made my day! Let me know how I can help when you start into things." And so this letter of endorsement is the first aspect of that.

If you don't know Michael's work firsthand, just ask around among influential Guelphites. He has been a trusted advisor to countless NGOs and boards. I've gotten to see him in action in some of those cases. As a past board member of the **Downtown Guelph Business Association (DGBA)**, he skillfully guided some of our strategic planning and communications, bringing the board and its stakeholders together to tackle challenging issues. He applied much the same effective leadership during his time volunteering with the **Guelph Chamber of Commerce**, where he engaged widely with the membership and made key recommendations that wound up being implemented and benefiting Chamber members like my own company.

Michael brings a profound understanding of the unique challenges and exciting opportunities our city faces. He combines empathy with good data and sound reasoning, which he communicates about as well as anyone I have observed in my professional life. Does that sound to you like something that would benefit Council? It does to me.

I am confident that Michael will approach this role with both passion and a commitment to effective leadership, ensuring that the diverse voices of our community are genuinely heard and thoughtfully addressed.

Thank you very much for considering my support as you deliberate on this important appointment for our city.

Sincerely,

Sandy Clipsham  
■ Preston Street Guelph