

To the Mayor and Councillors of Guelph,

I would highly recommend Michael Keegan for this appointment based on knowing and working closely with him over the span of 20 plus years. Michael was the lead Ministry staff liaison and later Chief of Staff for the Minister and Premier when I was CEO of the provincial crown corporation Agricorp. More recently I have worked with Michael on a number of challenging files in my current capacity as Assistant Deputy Minister, Economic Development, for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness.

Michael is one of the most competent, thoughtful, and exceptionally talented professionals I know. He is a team player, a consensus builder, and a seasoned leader with a pragmatic yet strategic approach to achieving positive outcomes. He has an impressive track record of working to solve complex difficult problems with a diversity of stakeholders often holding a range of conflicting opinions across all political spectrums.

He would bring a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience of all levels of government including governance, strategy, public engagement, business, and public administration to your council. I am confident you would find his perspectives, advice, and contributions on a wide range of topics and situations invaluable. He is expert at constructive sophisticated and credible engagement with upper tiers of government including identifying and influencing key decision makers.

I am confident that Michael would capably engage, advocate for the needs of, and earn the respect and support of constituents in ward 6. He would also capably take into account a balanced perspective on the priorities of the city as a whole, all in the context of the realities of the current political landscape.

I have observed Michael expertly navigate complex situations, and work tirelessly to achieve consensus in both leadership and team member roles. He courageously and sensitively approaches crucial difficult conversations. Michael keeps a focus on making things better while always being mindful of respectfully maintaining positive relationships.


Michael is trusted and highly regarded by his many colleagues, clients, staff, stakeholders he has worked with, many constituents, and leaders across the country and our local and Guelph community. He is a highly sought after talent.

He is one of only a handful of people I know who twice successfully navigated and transitioned between senior political and department roles in the Ontario public service while maintaining his reputation of high integrity.

Michael loves Guelph, and has committed many hours of service in a number of capacities. He possesses a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities that our city faces, making him well-suited to council.

He is a respectful positive force and influence, hard working , and passionate about our city.

I would be happy to discuss this further and could share a number of specific examples to further illustrate his character and fit for this role if you would find that helpful in your deliberations.

You can contact me through this email, or my personal cell at 

Randy Jackiw
Guelph, Ontario. (Since 1990)