

July 16, 2025

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council,

**Re: Letter of Support for Ward 6 Candidate – Mr. Michael Keegan**

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I am writing to lend my strong support for the appointment of Mr. Michael Keegan to fill the Ward 6 vacancy on Guelph City Council. As a long-time resident and active contributor to both civic and professional life in Guelph, Michael brings a rare and valuable combination of experience, insight, and integrity to this opportunity.

With over 25 years of experience in both the public and private sectors, Michael has demonstrated a consistent commitment to building better communities through thoughtful leadership and collaborative governance. His tenure as President of Michael Keegan & Associates has allowed him to work directly with organizations across Ontario to address complex challenges, promote economic development, and navigate multi-level government relations with strategic precision.

Michael's background includes senior roles within the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, where he served as Chief of Staff and Special Advisor to the Minister, and held management roles in both intergovernmental relations and rural community development. This experience provides him with a deep understanding of provincial policy-making, intergovernmental collaboration, and the diverse needs of communities like Guelph.

I've personally had the opportunity to work with Michael through my role as Executive Director with the Beef Farmers of Ontario, based in Guelph, on numerous occasions over the last fifteen years and have found him to be an excellent communicator, strategic thinker, and bridge builder amongst diverse groups and organizations. Michael's experience and excellent communication skills allow him to navigate complex problems and competing interests with a level of skill and precision that I would argue would challenge even the most seasoned thought leaders and policymakers.

In a time when municipal governance demands both pragmatism and vision, I believe Michael would be an outstanding addition to Guelph City Council. He offers not only the professional acumen required to navigate complex civic issues, but also the humility and respect necessary to serve all members of our community with fairness and foresight.

I urge Council to give strong consideration to Mr. Michael Keegan's candidacy. His dedication to public service, combined with his breadth of experience, make him uniquely suited to contribute meaningfully to the future of our city.

Sincerely,



Richard Horne

*Who am I?*

*I currently serve as the Executive Director of the Beef Farmers of Ontario, an agricultural advocacy and farm policy association based in Guelph. I am the former President of the University of Guelph Alumni Association, and am actively involved with the Guelph Minor Baseball and Guelph Minor Hockey associations. I graduated from the Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute and the University of Guelph. My family I are proud to call Guelph home.*