

HOUSING AS A MUNICIPAL ELECTION ISSUE

*Town of Kentville
Candidate Responses*



www.homelessnomore.ca



Town of Kentville: Candidate Responses

The Homeless No More Initiative invited candidates to respond to questions about housing. Candidates were provided the opportunity to respond to our questions via email or complete an online questionnaire. Candidates who completed the questionnaire had the opportunity to provide responses to additional questions. This report includes publicly shareable responses.

Question 1: If elected, what action(s) will you take to address housing in your community?

Marc Charrier, Candidate for Council

a) discussion with provincial counterparts to help find solutions b) work with existing community organization to see the specific needs that their organization sees c) find which bylaws fit under the municipal mandate to help address the situation or create barriers to adequate housing, d) stress to developers the need to address housing and not profits.

Brent Platt, Candidate for Mayor

If elected, I will prioritize affordable housing by working closely with the provincial government and developers to create a comprehensive plan that benefits Kentville. I'll streamline the approval process to ensure timely completion of housing projects and advocate for sustainable, inclusive solutions. Exploring alternative housing models, such as tiny homes and secondary suites, will be key to providing safe, affordable options for all residents, including young families, seniors, and those with unique housing needs.

Paula Huntley, Candidate for Mayor

Education - we need current data Meetings with non profit programs for their help. (they have their finger on the pulse) Also what are those programs currently using for successes or obstacles to overcome. Ask the province for twice a year updates on housing - knowledge is power.

Roz MacKinnon, Candidate for Council

Consult relevant stakeholders, review current policies, advocate as appropriate.



Town of Kentville: Candidate Responses

Question 2: In your opinion, what are the housing needs of people living in your district or municipal unit?

Marc Charrier, Candidate for Council

A) there is not enough housing B) there are not enough rental units or they are overpriced which do not allow significant portions of the community to afford them

Brent Platt, Candidate for Mayor

Kentville's housing needs are diverse, requiring affordable options for a range of groups, including young families, seniors, and individuals who need supportive housing. There's also a growing demand for affordable, well-maintained rental units. Addressing these needs means being adaptable and proactive, as our community's demographics and housing demands evolve over time. By ensuring a flexible and forward-thinking approach, we can create housing that meets the current and future needs of all residents.

Paula Huntley, Candidate for Mayor

We need attainable housing. There are a lot of seniors downsizing but there are no apartments for them to get that are within a reasonable price. So if developers can't build something affordable in price for not just low income but even middle income then what are we left with? I know housing is a provincial responsibility but there must be a way for both to work together.

Roz MacKinnon, Candidate for Council

We have too many homeless. We have too many in substandard accommodation, afraid to speak out, because it's better than nothing. There is a lack of affordable rental units. There is not a range of housing options for homeowners who wish to downsize and still own. Condos, duplexes, townhomes, row houses are non-existent or in incredibly short supply.



Town of Kentville: Candidate Responses

Question 3: What role do you think municipal government can play in addressing those needs?

Marc Charrier, Candidate for Council

a) to eliminate barriers to adequate housing, ie establishing rules for developers, b) adaptive use of some buildings in Kentville that can be converted to housing b) provide funding to organizations helping with the situation.

Brent Platt, Candidate for Mayor

The municipal government has a pivotal role in addressing housing by adjusting zoning laws, offering incentives to developers, and ensuring that infrastructure is ready to support new developments. However, these changes should be made in consultation with residents to ensure the solutions reflect the community's needs and values. Facilitating partnerships between non-profits, developers, and local organizations will allow us to create housing solutions that are both comprehensive and truly beneficial to Kentville.

Paula Huntley, Candidate for Mayor

Municipal governments role is governance, making sure policies and bylaws are kept up to date and consistently need to be at the table for updates.

Roz MacKinnon, Candidate for Council

Work collaboratively with stakeholders. Advocate. Review policy and procedures that may be getting in the way.



Town of Kentville: Candidate Responses

Question 4: If elected, what are you willing to do to ensure that your council addresses the issue of housing in your community?

Marc Charrier, Candidate for Council

Making sure that a holistic approach is taking where it is discussed in topics which at first glance do not touch on housing. Invite counsellors to see for themselves the issues.

Brent Platt, Candidate for Mayor

To keep housing at the forefront of our council's priorities, I will push for the establishment of a dedicated housing task force, which would be responsible for developing a strategic housing plan and tracking key performance indicators (KPIs). This task force would help ensure that housing issues are regularly addressed and that we remain accountable to the community. Transparency and community engagement will be central to our approach, ensuring that residents have a meaningful say in shaping housing policy and decisions.

Paula Huntley, Candidate for Mayor

Housing should be addressed at every CAC meeting , whether it be updates on land use bylaw, current developer plans or things that need to be done (these discussions should have current data for council to be informed on) from Planning and also any discussions held with our provincial partners.

Roz MacKinnon, Candidate for Council

Be present. Be up to date on the issues. Advocate for reasonable solutions.



Town of Kentville: Candidate Responses

Question 5: Which of the opportunities for municipalities to address housing needs in your community would you be committed to supporting as a member of Council?

Vacant Property Registration	Brent Platt
Vacant Property Taxes	Brent Platt Paula Huntley
Incentives for Renting Out	Marc Charrier Paula Huntley
Registration of Tourist Accommodations	-
Elimination of Non-Owner-Occupied Tourist Accommodations	-
Landlord Licensing/Registration	Marc Charrier
Developing a housing plan/strategy	Marc Charrier Brent Platt Paula Huntley Roz MacKinnon
Initiatives to support energy efficiency for homeowners and renters	Brent Platt Paula Huntley



Town of Kentville: Candidate Responses

Question 6: Which actions will you commit to doing, as a member of Council, with respect to supporting community housing needs?

Adopting a Municipal affordable housing plan that increases the supply of safe, affordable housing that meets peoples' needs

Marc Charrier
Brent Platt

Championing the role of Municipal Government in addressing issues related to housing

Marc Charrier
Brent Platt
Paula Huntley

Ensuring local policies reflect the vision of Federal and Provincial housing policies

Marc Charrier
Paula Huntley
Roz MacKinnon

Engaging with local agencies, NGO's and stakeholders in creating a community driven action plan

Marc Charrier
Brent Platt
Paula Huntley
Roz MacKinnon

Ensuring local agencies are heard by funders and Government stakeholders

Marc Charrier

Ensuring local businesses are supported in the effort to make a living wage the baseline for all employee compensation

Marc Charrier



Town of Kentville: Candidate Responses

Question 7: If you have identified other opportunities for action on housing, please share them with us here.

Brent Platt, Candidate for Mayor

While I'm not sure it's another opportunity in itself, I strongly believe in the importance of implementing a clear and accountable Key Performance Indicator (KPI) report card for the public. This tool would allow our citizens and surrounding municipalities to see exactly how we're performing in addressing housing concerns. By providing transparent and measurable data, we can ensure that the public is informed about our progress, hold ourselves accountable, and foster trust in the community as we work toward meaningful housing solutions.

Paula Huntley, Candidate for Mayor

Should there be a goal -# of housing units needed, what is the timeline for how many need to be completed per quarter etc. Then a follow up on how it's going? Obstacles or celebrations along the way etc. Residents need to see effort and success

Roz MacKinnon, Candidate for Council

Promote tiny homes, consider year round RV parks. The latter more as a temporary measure.

Question 8: What are your questions or comments about housing?

Brent Platt, Candidate for Mayor

I'm eager to hear your experiences with housing in Kentville. What challenges have you heard that residents have faced, and what solutions do you think would work best? Your input will help shape effective, inclusive housing policies that serve the entire community. Together, we can build a more supportive housing environment.

Roz MacKinnon, Candidate for Council

NFA pretty much cancels individuals.