



A PLATFORM  
FOR MOVING  
LONDON FORWARD

A BETTER LONDON FOR EVERYONE

# WHY?



I don't understand why we have one the of worst **homelessness** emergencies in the country.

I don't understand why there are not enough **affordable homes** in the city.

I don't understand why our streets can't be **safer**.

I don't understand why we are not able to attract **good paying jobs** and why we are not able to support and nurture **small businesses** in the core.

I don't understand why we are neglecting our **environment**.

I don't understand why we do not have efficient **transportation**.

...And yet we pay one of the highest taxes in the province of  
Ontario.

Residents of Toronto pay \$ 0.55 per thousand in taxes while Londoners pay \$ 1.38 per thousand. Add to this that we are struggling with growing poverty, insecure work, and no solutions in sight to the social issues we see on the streets of London every day.





# HOMELESSNESS- SOLUTIONS

## SOLUTIONS THAT WORK



As Mayor I commit to building two Centres for Homelessness, one in the core and one in the east end of the city, in partnership with the frontline workers and homeless leaders that is proactive and not the failed reactive approaches we've had so far.

The forgotten519 presented the following list to Council Leadership.

1. Immediate cessation of any removal of encampments, tents, campsites, or squats in City Parks, along the Thames Valley Parkway, and in empty city lots, or lots that have been left to fall into disrepair by the property owners.
2. Immediate transition of the City of London's Coordinated Informed Response (CIR) Team from a displacement model, to a team that offers meaningful support (based on the self-identified needs of the campers) to campers at their campsites.
3. Immediate creation of two indoor spaces (one in the core, one in the east end) that provide 24/7 support to people who are deprived of housing and shelter, or who simply need a safe place to be.

As Mayor i will bring these forward to council to be formally put into our cities budget, bylaws, and policies.

# HOMELESSNESS- SOLUTIONS

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING



## CONVERT EXISTING PROPERTIES

Transitional housing is not the only solution to homelessness, but it is a crucial steppingstone to help get people off the streets and provide a reliable bridge to permanent housing. That's why as Mayor, I will seek community investment to get transitional housing up and running as quickly as possible.

**I will identify all available Land, including city-owned and other government-owned properties that can be used to build transitional housing.** City-owned land is a great start because it saves taxpayers the upfront cost of land purchasing while providing the flexibility needed to build quickly. Londoners: **we cannot have empty buildings while our fellow Londoners are sleeping, cold, on our streets!**

By converting under-utilized city property and vacant commercial spaces to housing space, thousands of unhoused Londoners can be provided with safe, clean, and dignified transitional housing that respects their privacy and provides a stepping stone on the road to recovery.



# HOMELESSNESS- SOLUTIONS

## MOBILIZING PRIVATE SECTOR

Many engaged stakeholders have already approached me, offering to make substantial contributions to address the affordable housing shortage in the city. **As Mayor, I will partner with these individuals, community groups, and businesses to make sure we are working together to provide a safe home for the Londoners who don't have one.**



# HOMELESSNESS-**ADDICTIONS**

## **ISSUES**



Surveillance and Enforcement are not a substitute for care. We need to understand addiction as a medical problem that can only be solved by creating real and lasting community connections for our neighbours who are thinking of starting on the path to recovery. And when they decide to undertake that unbelievably difficult journey, we as a community need to be there beside them to ensure they have immediate access to timely intervention and addiction recovery care.

## **SOLUTION**

**That is why as mayor I will engage Carepoint Consumption and Treatment Services and the Canadian Mental Health Association to lead in the design and implementation of a compassionate and connected approach to help those seeking recovery. Further I will ask Safe Space London, Sanctuary London, and London Cares to be the intervening organizations and advocates for those who need addiction services.**



# HOMELESSNESS-**ADDICTIONS**

## **ACTION**

I will also work with organizations, charities, nonprofits, and individuals who are willing to immediately partner with the City and use their financial strength to provide the resources to implement these solutions. Further, I will ask every community group, agency, and organization that works with those who are homeless and addicted to come with me to Queens Park and to Ottawa to lobby for resources so that we can finally address this long ignored issue.



# HOMELESSNESS-POVERTY

## ISSUES



Randy Richmond of the London Free Press reported “In 2019, the rate in London-Fanshawe was 26 per cent, with 7,150 children living in poverty. In London North Centre, the rate was 24 per cent, with 5,460 children living in poverty,. In 2017, the rates were 27 per cent for London-Fanshawe and 25 per cent for London North Centre.” Glen Pearson recently shared in the London Free Press that a record 20,000 people can’t afford to buy food in our city.

## SOLUTION

**As your mayor I will work with the London Food Bank to help them boost their innovative greenhouse program that provides fresh and healthy food to Londoners who can’t afford it. I will also work with The Food Bank to create a green house in every area of our city that needs it. Likewise, we will work with our regional agricultural and grocery partners to take food that is unsold and direct it to those Londoners who need it.**



# HOMELESSNESS-**POVERTY**

But to truly reduce poverty, we must attract good-paying jobs to London. Jobs that create the opportunity for Londoners to thrive and not merely survive. Too many hard-working people have to work 2, 3, or 4 part time jobs that do not provide them with the security to move ahead.

**That is why my platform is focused on work as the tool to reduce poverty in London.**



# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

A Home is the base from where we build our lives. Sadly to many Londoners today do not have a Home they can afford.

## ISSUE

The time has come to get serious about social housing in London. The time has come to get serious about creating genuinely affordable housing. The time has come for every Londoner to have a home. Our city needs 6000 units to be built by the next 4 years if we are to finally put an end to the unfair waitlists we have for affordable social housing.



And while 10 members of city council decided to vote against more affordable homes, the price of rent in our city has escalated to over \$1504/month. That is more expensive than many areas in the GTA!

## SOLUTION

**In my first month as your next Mayor, I will work with already existing and committed partners to build hundreds of new truly affordable homes for the people of London. I will put a stop to the inaction on the issue of housing and finally build the homes that our community so desperately needs, and that Londoners deserve.**



# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## ISSUE

We have had decades of inaction, blaming and criticism. Now is the time for change. My commitment to the people of London is one of specific actions, not endless reports and incessant finger pointing. As your next Mayor I pledge that I will work from day one to get shovels in the ground and people into homes.

## ACTION

**I will expand partnerships between non-profit organizations, faith-based communities, cultural groups, and businesses to build new housing across the City in locations that are ready to go. I will also reach out to communities that have already been successful in creating affordable homes and we will learn from their successes.**

**We will work with the Chamber of Commerce, Fanshawe College, Western University, The London Community Foundation, Indwell, our major health care providers, and industry to lobby our Provincial and Federal Governments with one voice to prioritize the rapid building of truly affordable homes.**

**As taxpayers in London, we DESERVE to see our share of the contributions that we make to the Canadian Economy.**



# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Inaction must come to end. As your next Mayor I will act from day one to create truly affordable housing.

**But that is not all. As Mayor I will also:**

## **ACTION**

**Reintroduce the RentSafe Program to protect London renters from absent and negligent Landlords.**

- **Ensure that we meet affordable housing guidelines whenever there is a new development being built and not leave affordable homes on the table.**
- **Work with Council to make sure that London renters are taxed at the same rate as those who own their own home.**



# SAFETY

Londoners are feeling less safe on our streets. And we need to do more to ensure everyone can feel safe and included, whether they are downtown, walking through the university and College campuses, using bicycles and walking paths, or simply walking around the block.

## ISSUE

Violent crimes in London rose from 2,765 cases in 2017 to 4,135 cases in 2021. Property crimes went from 14,623 in 2017 to 15,536 in 2021. Stats Canada pointed out that “In 2018, London police reported an overall crime rate of 5,963 incidents per 100,000 inhabitants, 45% higher than in Ontario (4,113) and 9% higher than in Canada (5,488). Things were bad then and are worse now.



Women are feeling less and less safe in our community and very recently a respected member of the London Police board called for a crisis of femicide to be declared in the City.

## ACTION

**I will work with London Police to make sure we have the staff needed to address the issues of safety and crime in London. But Council also has to help the police. Police constables are not social workers. Yet shift after shift they are called upon to deal with the incidents related to the pandemic of homelessness in our city.**



# SAFETY

## ISSUE

This is unfair to the Police, and it is unfair to our unhoused fellow Londoners.

It is unfair to women when police are called, and they have to wait hours or days to be seen by a police officer.

It is unfair to residents when they call to say their property has been stolen and yet have to wait days to get a response. It is even sadder when in some cases residents find a stolen item and the person responsible for the theft and still the police do not respond.

We expect the Police to be the magic solution to so many of our problems that it becomes an impossible task for the LPL to manage everything they are called on to do.



# SAFETY

**I propose the following immediate actions to address the issues faced by Londoners and by the Police who serve them:**

## **SOLUTIONS**

- 1. Hire 50 new frontline staff to work directly with police in responding to homelessness and addiction emergencies in London**
- 2. Work with the Canadian Mental Health Association to enlarge their crisis centre so that they become the primary diversion site for mental health emergencies in London**
- 3. Work with Ark Aid, The Unity Project, Sanctuary London, and most importantly Carepoint Consumption and Treatment Service and CMHA to increase their capacity so they become the diversion sites for those afflicted with addiction rather than being put in our jails.**



# SAFETY

## SOLUTIONS

- 5. Increase the number of walking patrols in the downtown core by 75%. A visible community policing presence is a critical component of Community Safety and will help Londoners feel safe in our core again. Police need to be a visible and trusted presence in our streets.**
- 6. Task The Abused Women's Centre and Anova to work with London Police front line staff to train them on how to work with women who have been physically or sexually assaulted in our community.**
- 7. Meet weekly with the London Police Board and The Chief of Police to create and implement concrete response times and set goals while enhancing community policing guidelines in the first year of council.**



# JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

## ISSUE

How is it that while job availability in Canada is soaring, in London we keep losing good paying jobs because companies are closing?



**As the Mayor of the City, I will engage the Province of Ontario and make sure the urgency of the situation is understood. I will also make sure that the city benefits from the Federal money that is available for affordable housing, job creation, and business incentives that our Municipality has not yet fully taken advantage of.**

## SOLUTIONS

**I will also work with our existing large businesses to find the bottle necks that they face when trying to expand their companies. I will offer my decades of experience in international business to all our large employers in London that pay a living wage and personally work with any new or existing large company that is creating opportunity for Londoners.**



# JOB, JOB, JOB

## ISSUE

Our small businesses have faced perhaps the most difficult struggle in the last two years. The pandemic created enormous pressures on small businesses and the people they employ. Yet they worked hard before, during, and after the pandemic to keep Londoners in jobs and to keep their businesses going.

**As your next Mayor I will work to build new, direct, accessible incentives to small businesses in London. While our large employers are invaluable so too are our small businesses and we must provide them the same opportunities we offer our larger partners.**

## SOLUTIONS

**That is why I will work with Council to create a Small Business Development Office (SMDO) that will work with all of our Business Improvement Areas to deliver grants and incentives to those small businesses that commit to providing a living wage to their employees**



# JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

## SOLUTIONS

Further I will work with Council, LEDC and the SMDO to create opportunities for these small businesses to expand their reach across our city, our province, our country, and our planet to deliver their goods and services.

We cannot forget our Tourism and Arts sector, that has suffered from the global Pandemic. Our incredible artists will not be left out in this administration and culture and art will once again be fully supported to make London's tourism prosperous.

Finally, I will work directly with the Business Development Bank of Canada to create opportunities for expansion for all our small and large business partners to build a more prosperous future for our city.

# TRANSIT & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

## ISSUE



Some have suggested that we build 50,000 new homes in our community in the next ten years. A big goal. But if we are going to build tens of thousands of new homes, we also need a way to move people across our city. We need a fast, efficient, and effective transit system in London so that the people who chose to live here know that they can easily get from one place to another. Commuting is a big equation in modern day cities.

Today driving on Wonderland Road, or Oxford Street from Wonderland to Adelaide, or to Highbury during rush hour is almost hopeless. Traffic is slow, people are frustrated, and it takes too long to commute from home to work and back again.



# TRANSIT & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

## SOLUTIONS

**Adding new lanes only takes us so far and that is why as Mayor I will work with Council to create a fast, efficient, and responsive transit system. I am proposing that over the next ten years we replace and increase our aging fleet of LTC buses with electric vehicles. There are already industry partners ready to work with us on this today.**

**We need to finally complete the Western and Northern legs of the transit plan that Council has been putting off for years so that workers in Masonville or students at Western will get the same service that the eastern and southern legs of the rapid transit system enjoy today. I will not let the people in the west end of the city be left out in the cold either. We need to create effective transit on our major roadways today and not wait for some vague future date.**



# TRANSIT & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Other municipalities in Ontario such as Hamilton and Kitchener - Waterloo are already reaping the benefits of increasing their transit capacity. Londoners deserve the same unified approach to transit that other municipalities have and not a haphazard, fly by wire plan that leaves half the city without the transit service they deserve.

I have also heard loudly and clearly from major employers along Veterans Memorial Parkway and The London Chamber of Commerce that transit is critical to growth in our city.

**I will work with The Chamber and these businesses, Council, and the London Transit Commission to solve this problem as soon as I take office.**

**Increased, Efficient, and Effective transit in London creates prosperity for everyone. And every Londoner deserves the opportunity for prosperity.**

## SOLUTIONS



# TRANSIT & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

We need to do more and enhance our active transportation network in London. We need to do this for our health, the environment, and for children.

## ISSUE

**As Mayor I will take up this critical piece of our transportation infrastructure and work with neighborhoods and stakeholders to create a city wide safe and effective walking and cycling system.**

We cannot have a future facing city without the ability to reduce demand on our road system and environment without this critical system.

**I propose enhancing and growing safe cycling lanes on our already busy streets.**

**We must also make it safe for pedestrians to walk across our city without being in danger of congested traffic. I will work with our city's active transportation community to put in place a safe active transportation network by the end of my first term as Mayor.**

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## SOLUTIONS

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Also, in this difficult financial time, I will create a Bus Pass for Seniors, so that all London residents over the age of 65 can ride in the London Transit buses for Free.**



# ENVIRONMENT

## ISSUE



## SOLUTIONS

We all know that we are facing a climate crisis that will, if not addressed, change the entire face of our planet, and leave millions to become climate refugees. Our city is affected by this climate crisis as well, and I know that Londoners want to do their part.

**That is why I am proposing to electrify our transit fleet over the next 10 years. I know Londoners care about our planet, country, province and especially our city. I know they want to be stewards of our environment and leave the planet a better place for future generations.**

**So, we must find a solution today to stop having our sewage be dumped into the Thames every time we have a major storm. Extreme climate events are projected to get worse and that is why it is our responsibility as Londoners to solve this issue. I will work with our environmental non-profits, our post-secondary institutions, industry, and our provincial and federal partners to clean up our waterways and create a lasting legacy for our children and grandchildren.**



# ENVIRONMENT

## SOLUTIONS

**Further I will propose we start a fully implemented Green Bin Program in the first two years of the new Council. I know that Londoners are willing to do their part to protect the environment and that is why the Green Bin program must be up and running in the next term of Council.**

**We are the Forest City and it is time we restore our urban forests to a 40% canopy. Reforest London has worked hard and reached the goal of planting half a million trees. The City of London needs to do its part and ensure that our municipal canopy is restored to create a greener future for our community. I will work with Council, Reforest London, and our provincial and federal governments to ensure we reach this important goal.**

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THANK YOU

*Khalil*  
**RAMMAL**  
**FOR MAYOR**



LET'S BUILD A BETTER LONDON TOGETHER

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