

Broad support among Guelph's municipal candidates for Grand Agenda for Groundwater Action

For Immediate Release

October 11, 2018

Wellington Water Watchers released results today of the [Report Card on Grand Agenda for Groundwater Action](#) - a survey of candidates for Guelph City Council regarding 12 specific actions to protect groundwater. 25 of 35 candidates (71%) completed the survey.

The purpose of the survey is to inform voters of where candidates stand on water issues, and to put 'on the record' the position of candidates who are elected. A summary of all the candidates responses can be seen at www.groundwateraction.ca and the complete survey for each candidate is available for viewing.

The Grand Agenda for Groundwater Action has broad support among Guelph's municipal candidates. Many indicated clear and consistent support for most (if not all) of the issues. Other candidates appear to support our agenda in principle, even if they are unclear on or disagree with some of the details.

Survey Highlights

- Sixteen candidates agreed that if elected, they would *“Support a Council resolution to oppose the renewal of Nestlé’s permit to take water in Aberfoyle”*. Several said they would act on this issue given evidence of a direct impact on Guelph’s water needs.
- Twelve candidates favour *setting a maximum population of 12,050 for Clair-Maltby*. Those opposed to this density level questioned if the City could meet its targets under the *Places to Grow Act* or meet the need for social housing. Some candidates did not understand the rationale for the target number
- Eighteen candidates supported *“Obtaining free, prior and informed consent from the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation”* before initiating Phase 3 development activities for Clair-Maltby.
- Nineteen of the 25 candidates who responded say they will act, if elected, to *ensure the Hanlon Creek Conservancy and Nature Reserve is fully established before any of the GRCA property in that area is sold for development*.

"I am encouraged by the amount of support there is among municipal election candidates for our Grand Agenda for Groundwater Action," says Robert Case, Chair of the Wellington Water Watchers board, "But there are some really important planning and development decisions coming up in the next term that could have a profound impact on the quality and sustainability of local drinking water supply now and in the

long term. It is important that we elect candidates who commit to protecting groundwater.”

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12
	DID NOT RESPOND											
Sudha Sharma												
Dorothe Fair	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?
Mary Thring	?	?	?	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	DID NOT RESPOND											
Jonathan Knowles												
James Gordon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓
Rodrigo Goller	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	?	✓

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About Wellington Water Watchers Founded in 2007, Wellington Water Watchers (WWW) is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization based in Guelph, Ontario, with a focus on the Grand River watershed. WWW is committed to the protection, restoration and conservation of groundwater. WWW works to affect local water policy and protect water sources. WWW also sponsors and supports guest speakers, debates, and are actively encouraging bottled-water free community events.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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