

2024 Kincardine Council Vacancy: Councillor Ward 1

Expression of Interest

Stellina Williams

Qualifying Address: 586 Lynden Cres, Kincardine

Thank you for the opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest to serve the public as a member of the Council of the Municipality of Kincardine for the position of Councillor for Ward 1.

I have been a part of the Kincardine community for nearly 15 years. It is the home my husband grew up in. It is the only home my children know. It is the home where we embrace the lakeside sunsets; brave the winter storms; walk through trails mesmerized by fall colours; join in celebrations at festivals, parades and events; watch theatre performances; bid on cakes at fall fairs; shop at stores and markets; dine in restaurants; catch up with family at car shows; march behind the pipe band; support local charities and fundraisers; anticipate Santa's arrival in Victoria Park; cheer on each other at the soccer field, ball diamonds, gymnastics club, ice rink, swimming pool, basketball and tennis courts, and perhaps join in an old boys reunion (or two).

It is the home where we work, learn, and play. It is the home I've come to call my own and a community I am proud to be a part of. The resiliency, sustainability and well-being of this community matters to me because it is my home, and I would be honoured to serve the public interest as Councillor of Ward 1.

My commitment to this community, combined with my lifelong passion to serve the public interest, is what drives me to submit this application today. I have experience in the development and delivery of accountable, responsive public policies, always adhering to the highest standard of trust, transparency, accountability, and the prudent use of public funds. I welcome the opportunity to apply this knowledge and experience serving the Municipality of Kincardine's residents as Councillor.

I have nearly 20 years of professional experience providing sound policy, program development and operational advice, guidance, support, expertise and recommendations to Ontario Government Cabinet Ministers, and Deputy Ministers, private and not for profit Board of Directors, CEOs, and executives; Municipal and County Councils and other senior managers. I have developed and provided guidance and advice on: sector and industry economic development (specifically a deep understanding of the nuclear industry); rural and business immigration, regional economic development; innovation ecosystem development; not for profit governance; finance and business planning; facility management; capital improvement projects; human resource policies; local training and education, and rural economic development. I have a range of knowledge and experience in a multitude of functional areas and which can bring a depth and breadth of knowledge to the Council chambers.

Below is an overview of examples of how I will fulfil the responsibilities and duties of a Municipal Councillor as set out in the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

I will represent the public and consider the well-being and interests of the municipality. Access to participate in the democratic process is of primary importance and I welcome the opportunity to represent the public in the decision-making process. I am thoughtful and careful in my considerations. I am open minded and willing to listen; accept input and feedback and make

meaningful informed decisions. I have a strong desire to listen and learn all perspectives and would be pleased to help represent the interests of the municipality at the council chambers.

I have **experience in developing and evaluating policies and programs**, including writing and designing numerous policy papers, reports, strategies and funding programs. In 2016, I led the Nuclear Economic Development and Innovation Initiative where I designed, developed and delivered the *Nuclear Industry Investment Strategy*, and helped support the successful expansion of over 50 suppliers into the region in less than 5 years. Having worked in the Ontario Government for over 10 years, I have significant experience developing and evaluating government policies and programs, taking into account the overall impact (intended and unintended) that policies have on a demographic or a population. This includes having developed and delivered the Eastern Ontario Development Fund and the Southwestern Ontario Development Fund - multimillion dollar, multiyear funding programs that remain operational today.

I will **help determine what services the municipality should provide**. I have Master's in Public Administration (MPA) and an undergraduate honours degree in Political Science and am currently completing a Diploma in Municipal Administration through the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO). Having worked for the County of Bruce, I understand the roles and responsibilities of service delivery of the county and municipal governments and the relationship and responsibilities of all levels of government. I understand the role of government and look forward to the opportunity to help drive decision making to ensure the municipality continues to deliver value to its ratepayers by providing the services it needs to thrive.

I will **ensure that administrative policies, practices and procedures and controllership policies, practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of council**. Responsible for establishing the operations of the Nuclear Innovation Institute, I developed and implemented the organizations governance framework, policies, practices and procedures and continue to develop new ones. As the organization grows and evolves, I monitor and continue to ensure they are adhered to today. I know that good policies and practices make for better governance, and I will strive to ensure that those continue to be upheld in the Municipality of Kincardine.

I am passionate about ensuring **that the accountability and transparency of the operations of the municipality, including the activities of the senior management of the municipality are upheld**. I have spent my career developing strong political acumen with an admiration and deep respect for the relationship and role between elected officials and the administration - to work together to advance the public interest. I have extensive experience in managing the relationship between political officials and the public service when I worked in the Ontario Government directly with elected officials and their staff daily. Transparency and accountability are critical to ensuring public trust is paramount.

We are at a pivotal time in the Municipality of Kincardine – where thoughtful leadership is critical. I welcome the chance to be a part of the opportunity that is before us.

Thank you again for the opportunity.



Stellina Williams