

# Alex Main

## London – Mayoral Candidate

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### 1. How would you define poverty? Please select all that apply.

Response	Chart	Count
Lacking the resources to meet one's physical needs for survival (e.g., lacking shelter, food and clothing)		1
Lacking the resources to fully participate in social and recreational opportunities in the community		0
Lacking enough resources to be self-sufficient		0
I don't know		0
Other (please specify)		0

### 2. What do you think are the 3 most important actions City Council can take to help reduce poverty in London?

Ensure that this city is affordable place to live, there must be a plan in place to get people employed and keep them employed in real jobs and keep property taxes low so that people can afford to live in their homes whether it be rented or owned

### 3. In your opinion, rate each of the following on their responsibility to reduce poverty. Please select one response for each item below.

	No Responsibility	Some Responsibility	A Lot of Responsibility	Don't Know
Charitable Organizations and Not-for-Profits	0	0	1	0
General Public NOT Living in Poverty	0	1	0	0
General Public Living in Poverty	0	1	0	0
Private Business	0	1	0	0
Municipal Government	0	0	1	0
Provincial Government	0	0	1	0
Federal Government	0	0	1	0

**4. Based on the review of the evidence, there are a number of different roles municipal government could play in poverty reduction. Read each of the statements below and state whether or not you think London City Council should play that role.**

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Attractor of new businesses to the City of London, including tax incentives and programs and policies that support new business growth	1	0	0
Connector of organizations and partners from various sectors to work together on poverty reduction	1	0	0
Exemplary employer, including implementing employment practices that reduce poverty and providing a living wage to internal staff and outsourced services	0	1	0
Investor in community programs and processes that support poverty reduction	1	0	0
Leader and champion for community based poverty reduction initiatives, including raising community awareness about poverty and advocating to the federal and provincial levels of government	1	0	0
Provider of services that support local business development, job skills and training	1	0	0
Provider of social services that help reduce poverty, such as child care, social assistance, arts and recreation	1	0	0

**5. Based on the review of the evidence, municipal governments across Canada are taking various steps to assist in poverty reduction including:**

**Affordable housing strategies which identify the ways in which the municipality will assist with housing affordability**

**Affordable transit programs and services to increase residents' ability to participate in employment, attend important medical and other appointments, and participate fully in community life**

**Affordable library services to support literacy, skill building and access to technology**

**Food policy councils to support a variety of community food initiatives and promote a healthy sustainable and accessible food system for all**

**Housing First Policy, an approach to ending homelessness that involves giving people direct access to permanent housing, along with the services they need and want to maintain it**

**Sports, recreation and other leisure activity access to promote inclusion and are associated with an enhanced quality of life through gaining new skills and improved physical and psychological well-being**

**Free income tax clinics to help residents access the tax credits available to them**

**a) If elected, would you support the implementation of any of the following public policies and programs in London? Please select one response for each item below.**

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Affordable housing strategy	1	0	0
Affordable library services	1	0	0
Affordable transit programs and services	1	0	0
Food policy council	1	0	0
Housing First Policy	1	0	0
Discounted supplies for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs	1	0	0
Discounted registration/admission for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs	1	0	0
Free income tax clinics	0	1	0

**b) Please list below any other public policies or programs related to poverty reduction that you would support in London.**

As a person who has lived in poverty I understand the struggle, it becomes a horrible cycle for which it should be a joint effort between the individual, the city, the province along with the federal government. These are our residents and as such we ultimately must take the initiative to work with them to make their lives better for all of our community.

**6. London has an affordable housing reserve fund. The fund was developed to help create additional affordable housing units. How should the affordable housing reserve fund be used?**

Affordable housing funds should be used to help fix the current issues within the program because like many government programs there needs to be a complete over haul. This is only a bandage solution meant to work on getting people back up on their feet until they are able to get something more, but time and time again you hear about people remaining within the system so this tells me that like other programs we need to review how well the system actually works. By getting people real opportunity we can get the people the help they need and work on building better communities where everyone can afford to be.

**7. Nutrition-related diseases (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers) cost London and Ontario millions of dollars annually. Low income residents can't afford to eat a healthy diet, once housing and other essential bills are paid. What do you think London City Council could do to increase access to and availability of healthy foods?**

This again falls back to making this affordable, unfortunately you can not tell people what to eat nor force them to eat well so the only solution is education and ensuring they can afford to follow through with it. People deserve a place to live that they are not required to live pay cheque to pay cheque and have the choice to enjoy a better life.

**8. Children in low-income families have significantly more psychosocial difficulties than other children, including more mental and physical health problems, academic troubles and behavioural issues. Quality early childhood interventions have been shown to improve performance in school, lessen the learning risks associated with low income and enhance parents' childrearing and coping skills.**

**a) If elected, would you support the implementation of any of the following initiatives in London? Please select one response for each item below.**

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Advocacy to the Provincial and Federal levels of government for the development of supportive public policy	1	0	0
Educating parents/caregivers about available subsidies and programs (e.g., tax benefits, Canada Learning Bond)	1	0	0
Financial assistance for child care	1	0	0
Funding of community programs and services that support early child development	1	0	0
Leading and/or participating in the development of a community plan for children and youth	1	0	0
Providing centralized intake to licensed child care centres	1	0	0

**b) Please list below any other initiatives related to poverty reduction that you would support the implementation of in London.**

The children are our future, it would only make sense that we should treat them as such and give them the tools and resource needed to live well and healthy. I would personally work within the community actively talking to parents and children about the importance of healthy diet and an active exercise programs.

**9. Is there anything else that you would like to add? Please provide any additional comments, opinions or ideas that you would like to share.**

As a child who grew up poor, an adult who was homeless and a person who has lived most of his life pay cheque to pay cheque I am a person who can understand the troubles associated with living in poverty. By working together we can make a difference and make London a poverty free place to live providing a model for the rest of Canada to follow.