Candidate William Gordon
London - Councillor – Ward 5

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)		0
Lacking the resources to fully participate in social and recreational opportunities in the community		0
Lacking enough resources to be self-sufficient		1
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?

1. Provide a culture at city hall that permits growth in jobs. We need to attract companies that will employ Londoners, and we need to allow existing companies to grow and expand easily. When my family was just starting out and I was struggling to find employment, we couldn't meet our basic life needs such a food. Once I was able to find stable employment, I was able to provide for my family and move out of lower end of the economic scale. 2. Provide affordable housing. If your on social assistance, which I was for a brief time many years ago, your resources for shelter are limited. Providing safe affordable housing is key to starting to create a base by which you can then seek employment.3. Access to resources. If you're broke, you most likely don't have a computer or vehicle to seek employment or go to interviews. The council can maintain resources that help Londoners find jobs and get to interview via affordable public transit.

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	1	0	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	0	1	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	0	0	1
Discounted supplies for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs	0	1	0
Discounted registration/admission for municipal recreation, arts and culture programs	0	1	0
Free income tax clinics	1	0	0

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

How about offering a property tax credit for creating a unit for rent in a single family home for low income housing?Give business companies a property tax credits for hiring or training Londoner's that are currently receiving social assistance.

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?

I'm interested in the way the Affordable Housing for Ontario Program (IAH) program sets out spending on affordable housing. Leveraging our current inventory of vacant and unused second and third story floor space above street level commercial businesses. This type of planning permits us to rehabilitate and convert previously uninhabitable properties and stay congruent with the idea of building inward. Unfortunately we can’t do this as a city on our own; we need to continue to ask for funding from both the federal and provincial governments.

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 is a tough question. One method maybe to allow for greater use of city property for urban farming. London is 40% class one agricultural land and some of this land may be used. Secondly in our future planning initiatives we think can consider making healthy food related choices accessible via foot or public transit. Let's imagine a fresh affordable food market at a transit hub for instance.

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)	0	0	1
Financial assistance for child care	0	0	1
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	0	0	1

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

There are no responses to this question.

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.

No Comment