

Andrew Crook

Ward / Position: Ward 13 | Campaign Website: <https://www.AndrewCrook.ca>

Question	Answer
Q6 — Biggest Challenges Facing the Sector & Actions Candidates Would Support	London's nonprofits are being asked to respond to increasingly complex social needs while facing unstable funding, rising costs, staff and volunteer burnout, administrative burden, and growing demand for measurable results. The sector also faces a structural problem: organizations are often treated as grant recipients after policy decisions have already been made, rather than as experienced community partners who understand conditions on the ground. At Council, I would support: -Clearer and more predictable funding processes; -Multi-year agreements where outcomes and accountability can be clearly defined; -Simpler reporting and application requirements, particularly for smaller organizations; -Shared spaces, tools, training, and administrative supports; -Earlier consultation with organizations affected by municipal decisions; and -Transparent public reporting on funding, expected outcomes, and actual results. London should fund what works, be honest about what does not, and make it easier for capable organizations to spend their time serving people rather than navigating unnecessary bureaucracy.
Q7 — Support a Formal, Ongoing Dialogue Mechanism With the Sector (Yes/No + Why)	Yes — I would support a practical and ongoing mechanism for dialogue between the City and the nonprofit sector, provided it has a clear purpose and does not become another committee that meets without affecting decisions. The structure could take the form of a liaison, advisory table, or regular sector roundtable. Its purpose should be to identify emerging needs, surface operational barriers, coordinate services, and ensure organizations with direct community experience are heard before major decisions are finalized. Representation should be broad enough to include large and small organizations, neighbourhood-based groups, cultural organizations, social-service providers, and organizations serving different parts of the city. The success of the mechanism should be measured by whether it improves coordination, reduces duplication, and changes outcomes... not by the number of meetings held! (We have enough meetings. Outcomes is what matters).
Q8 — Support Multi-Year Funding & Longer-Term Partnerships (Yes/No + Why)	Yes — Only where there are clear outcomes, transparent reporting, and demonstrated public value. Short-term funding cycles can make it difficult for organizations to retain staff, plan services, develop partnerships, and respond consistently to community needs. Multi-year funding can provide stability and reduce administrative burden for both the City and the organizations it supports. However, longer-term funding should not mean automatic renewal without review. Agreements should identify: -The service being delivered; The intended public outcome; -The amount and duration of funding; -The measures used to assess progress; and What happens if results are not being achieved. Stable partnerships and accountability are not opposites. London should provide organizations with enough certainty to do good work while remaining honest with taxpayers about what public funding is producing.

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Q9 — Ensuring Nonprofits Are Included in Decision-Making	Nonprofits should be engaged early enough to shape decisions, not invited to comment after the direction has effectively been settled. I would support: -Including relevant nonprofit organizations during the early design of major policies and community initiatives; -Publishing plain-language summaries of proposals and trade-offs before decisions are made; -Creating accessible opportunities for written, verbal, and small-group participation; -Seeking input from both established organizations and smaller neighbourhood groups; -Showing publicly how consultation affected the final recommendation; and -Reporting back after implementation on whether the expected outcomes occurred. Participation is meaningful only when people can see where their input entered the process. The City should not surrender its responsibility to make decisions, nor should every organization expect agreement. Council's responsibility is to listen carefully, weigh evidence, explain its decisions, and remain accountable for the results.
Q10 — The City's Role in Supporting Nonprofit Infrastructure	The City should help remove friction that prevents citizens and community organizations from doing useful work. That does not mean City Hall must operate every program itself. In many cases, its best role is to provide the shared infrastructure that allows others to succeed. This can include: -Affordable and accessible meeting or program space; - Shared administrative tools and training; -Assistance navigating permits, insurance, procurement, and funding; - Support for volunteer recruitment and governance development; -Stronger connections among nonprofits, businesses, institutions, and neighbourhood associations; and -Access to appropriate municipal data and expertise. The goal should be to strengthen local capacity rather than create permanent dependence. I believe that the city staff are good at logistics, coordination, standards, and administration. Community organizations are often better positioned to build trust, understand local conditions, and mobilize people. London succeeds when those strengths work together. This is the role of council, to facilitate citizen engagement.
Q11 — The Nonprofit Sector's Role & What Success Looks Like	Nonprofits employ people, purchase local goods and services, attract funding, support culture and recreation, develop skills, strengthen neighbourhoods, help residents through periods of instability, and reduce pressure on other public systems. Over the next four years, I see the sector playing an essential role in: -Strengthening neighbourhood participation; -Supporting vulnerable residents; -Improving public spaces and community safety; -Expanding cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities; -Helping newcomers and young people establish roots; building partnerships among residents, businesses, institutions, and government; and -Identifying emerging problems before they become larger and more expensive. Success would mean stronger organizations, less duplication, more stable partnerships, better public reporting, and visible improvements in the communities being served. It would also mean that nonprofits are not merely managing decline. They should be helping London build healthier neighbourhoods, greater civic participation, and more pathways for people to contribute. That is what a healthy civic ecosystem looks like to me.

Question	Answer
Q12 — Other Priorities Candidates Wanted the Sector to Know	My campaign is built around a simple belief: Our city belongs to the people who participate in it. Nonprofits are among the places where participation already happens every day. They bring people together, preserve local knowledge, build trust, and turn concern into action. If elected, I will listen before I choose, explain every vote I cast, measure and report results honestly, and change course when reality demands it. I will not assume that City Hall has all the answers. Nor will I treat public funding as an entitlement without accountability. I want to build a relationship in which the City and the nonprofit sector can speak honestly about needs, costs, outcomes, failures, and opportunities. The goal is not simply to sustain organizations. It is to help citizens and communities become stronger.
Q14 — Commit to Engaging With & Supporting the Nonprofit Sector (Yes/No + Why)	Yes