

Sarah Lehman

Ward / Position: Ward 14 | Campaign Website: Votesarahlehman.ca

Question	Answer
Q6 — Biggest Challenges Facing the Sector & Actions Candidates Would Support	Funding is traditionally a challenge for nonprofits as the pools of money from all levels of government are not big enough. I would look at how we are allocating current budget items. We have a pillar in our strategic plan regarding safety that does not have any funding attached to it right now. I think that needs to be addressed. Also it is important to listen to the nonprofits in our city. They are gathering front line data that could be used to shape policy and procedure at the city level. We need to be willing to sit down and talk about different solutions with the folks who are providing the support services to community members and take into account their expertise.
Q7 — Support a Formal, Ongoing Dialogue Mechanism With the Sector (Yes/No + Why)	Yes — We need to recognize that issues in our city are bigger than council or one organization. We need to be willing to collaborate and listen to the experts on issues to support us in coming up with real solutions long term, not bandaids.
Q8 — Support Multi-Year Funding & Longer-Term Partnerships (Yes/No + Why)	Yes — It is difficult for an organization to run a program when they are concerned about where funding will come from in the next 12 months. As someone who has worked at nonprofits, multi year funding means a program has a chance to run, review, and improve for the next group of people. It is difficult to prove a program is successful in under a year.
Q9 — Ensuring Nonprofits Are Included in Decision-Making	I would be open to communicating with leaders and front line staff who are experiencing issues affecting the community day by day. An advisory table or a standing committee is something I would be open to. If those from nonprofits are willing to come to the table with ideas or solutions, it would be silly not to sit at that table with them and listen. When we next do a revision of the London Plan, it would be worth it to meet with organizations to see where gaps have formed.
Q10 — The City's Role in Supporting Nonprofit Infrastructure	The city's role is partially a funder as the municipal government but we should be treating this relationship like a cross-sector collaboration. Nonprofits and the city are both trying to provide a service to our communities and if we would put ego aside and listen to one another, we would know there is a way we could do things more efficiently to allow for more services to be provided. The city needs to take a leadership role in solving problems but also be willing to listen to those who know the issues better.
Q11 — The Nonprofit Sector's Role & What Success Looks Like	Nonprofits will be vital for community wellbeing as long as there is still a need in the community. Success would be needing nonprofits less because we have solved all the issues that determine the need for them. So zero homelessness, no violence against women, every person fed (as examples)- that would be the real success if we could ever achieve it. I knew someone at a nonprofit who told me once that the best day for her would be when her job is eliminated because we solved the issue. In reality we know in the next four years we most likely won't solve the issues fully, but if we can work together as a partnership, we can see real improvements being made in the lives of those who need support.

Question	Answer
Q12 — Other Priorities Candidates Wanted the Sector to Know	I want people to know that I spent over a decade in the nonprofit sector as an employee and volunteer. I understand how hard nonprofits work for their communities. I have been a frontline worker providing services to adults with disabilities, women exposed to intimate partner violence and others. The nonprofit sector is very important to me and will be important to our city in the coming months and years as we try to create a better city for everyone to live in.
Q14 — Commit to Engaging With & Supporting the Nonprofit Sector (Yes/No + Why)	Yes