

Schelley Bisson

Ward / Position: Ward 13 | Campaign Website: Bisson13.ca

Question	Answer
Q6 — Biggest Challenges Facing the Sector & Actions Candidates Would Support	I hear the same thing from people doing the work: short-term funding, late payments, and being asked to fix crises with no seat at the table when the City sets the rules. Nonprofits are holding people together on housing, mental health, addiction, and food — then scrambling every year for another grant cycle. What I'd push for: multi-year funding where it makes sense, clearer reporting so groups aren't writing the same story five times, and real partnership before Council votes on plans that dump more work on the sector. One councillor can't rewrite the whole budget. I can ask hard questions, bring motions, and track whether money and mandates actually match. Problem. Solution. Result. On the public record.
Q7 — Support a Formal, Ongoing Dialogue Mechanism With the Sector (Yes/No + Why)	Yes
Q8 — Support Multi-Year Funding & Longer-Term Partnerships (Yes/No + Why)	Yes — You can't run a kitchen, a shelter bed, or an outreach team on yearly cliff edges. People burn out. Programs stop. Clients lose trust. Multi-year funding and longer partnerships give groups room to hire, plan, and show results — not just survive the next RFP. I'd still want clear outcomes and public reporting. Longer money isn't a blank cheque. It's stability so the work can actually work. Where the City funds the service, the City should fund the timeline that matches the need.
Q9 — Ensuring Nonprofits Are Included in Decision-Making	Invite them early — not after the staff report is already written. Put nonprofit partners on working groups for housing, downtown recovery, and community safety where they're already doing the day-to-day. Ask who will deliver the service before Council votes on the plan. I'd use Living Reality the way I talk about it: problem, proposed action, who has authority, public feedback, then the vote and the result. If they're partners in the work, they should be partners in the decision trail.
Q10 — The City's Role in Supporting Nonprofit Infrastructure	The City shouldn't try to replace nonprofits. It should make it easier for them to do their jobs. Shared spaces, access to City facilities when they sit empty, help with capacity — bookkeeping, HR, grant navigation — and less paperwork for the same dollar. Collaboration infrastructure matters downtown especially. Empty storefronts, strained street outreach, and stretched shelters don't get fixed by one agency alone. City Hall can convene, open doors, and fund the backbone so groups aren't competing for scraps while the need keeps growing. Practical help. Not another logo on a press release.
Q11 — The Nonprofit Sector's Role & What Success Looks Like	Success looks like people getting help before they're in crisis on Dundas. It looks like housing that people can actually live in, not just announcements. Safer streets because wraparound care and enforcement both show up. Local businesses that aren't carrying the whole social load alone. Nonprofits are already economic actors — they employ people, spend locally, and keep residents stable enough to work and stay housed. Over the next four years, success means fewer emergency patches and more steady partnerships with measurable results residents can see. If someone's life got better, and City Hall can show how, that's success. Not a slogan.

Question	Answer
Q12 — Other Priorities Candidates Wanted the Sector to Know	I live downtown. I walk these streets. I see the people nonprofits serve every day, and I see the staff doing more with less. I won't pretend one councillor controls health funding or every provincial decision. I will bring motions, ask budget questions, and keep a public record of what we tried and what happened next. That's the deal. contact@bisson13.ca · 226-984-7889 · https://bisson13.ca
Q14 — Commit to Engaging With & Supporting the Nonprofit Sector (Yes/No + Why)	Yes