

City of Ottawa - Cumberland By-Election - Oct. 5, 2020

Background: On Oct. 5, 2020, there will be a Cumberland by-election for Ottawa City Council. CPBH sent emails to the eight registered candidates requesting a response to three questions. Here are the responses received.

Candidates	Question 1. If elected, what will you do to help homeowners in your constituency still battling to get their Ontario Building Code violations properly fixed?	Question 2. If elected, what will you do to make sure that City of Ottawa inspections during construction are properly conducted in the future?	Question 3. Will you accept campaign donations from the building industry?
Yvette Ashiri	I would place the needs of residents above that of developers by reinstating vigorous oversight of all building projects from the get-go at the approval stage & beyond.	I would coordinate with residents to overhaul the current inspection protocols.	No, I will not accept donations from building industry companies, executives or management employees. Or any individual who is associated with business related to lobbying Councillors. I am here to represent families, entrepreneurs and young people. Not special interests.
Jensen Boire	No response	No response	No response
Lyse-Pascale Inamuco	Buying a home is one the biggest investments that a person will ever make. But when homes are poorly built, it becomes detrimental to their families, their finances, and their health. If elected, I will hold the city and the planning committee accountable by asking questions about home inspections and building codes on behalf of	I would urge more transparency on the part of the city when it comes to following up with builders who have constructed homes which do not meet building code. I would also urge the city to make the process for dealing with home inspection more consumer-friendly. But we also must deal with the shortage of building inspectors here in Ottawa.	No, I will not because I want to be independent and work in partnership with developers for the community's interests.

	<p>residents. I will also urge City staff to follow-up on all defective homes with a clear deadline.</p> <p>I will also organize meetings with Tarion and homeowners experiencing building code defects to demand immediate attention and action. Poorly built homes are a public health and safety issue that requires serious and urgent action.</p> <p>I will hold information sessions for the community with the City and Tarion to take steps that will help resolve radon issues.</p> <p>I will look at outstanding occupancy permits in new housing developments and work to find out why their status is not complete. If it's due to house defects, I will work toward getting the City to get these cases resolved more quickly. Indeed, building code violations prevent the City to issue a final occupancy permit.</p> <p>I will hold community meetings to bring homeowners together with Tarion and the City in order to get homes properly fixed and a resolution of issues.</p> <p>I will also request that what</p>	<p>If elected, I would work with colleges here in Ottawa to ensure that we are training enough new home inspectors to replace those who are retiring. We should also look at how to shift experienced construction workers into inspectors.</p>	
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	<p>was promised to homeowners, like those residing in Cardinal Creek Village for example, be realized: community centre, reliable and frequent bus service, a school.</p> <p>I will create a Cardinal Creek Task Force and an Avalon Task Force that will present recommendations to developers and the City.</p> <p>I will present a motion to change the statement that « City shall grant building permits » to « City might grant building permits if developer is in good standing ».</p>		
Catherine Kitts	<p>To answer your first question regarding helping homeowners in my constituency who are still attempting to get their Ontario Building Code violations addressed, I would work with our provincial counterparts, who have justification over TARION, to make sure every homeowner is treated fairly. I believe that my skills would allow me to leverage those community and governmental networks to ensure that we are able to bring this issue to the right level of government to seek</p>	<p>Your second question asked if I was elected, what would I do to make sure that City of Ottawa inspections during construction are properly conducted in the future. I believe that we need to hire more inspectors for the city to effectively review new homes coming on the market. A simple answer, I realize, but the challenge is as it is the city building inspectors who approve properties for the next phase of construction, according to the building permits, when there are large volumes of builds to</p>	<p>To your final question, similar to my campaign in 2018 (when I came second by only 264 votes on a very tight budget!), my campaign is a grassroots campaign and I remain grateful for the support that my friends and family provide me with their volunteer hours, donations of skills, and of course, financial support.</p> <p>That said, campaigns are expensive and I am willing to accept all personal donations.</p>

	<p>resolution and action. Residents need someone who is willing to advocate on their behalf, and I believe that it is a fundamental responsibility of being a city councillor.</p>	<p>approve, they have to rush. This creates a larger risk of error. I believe that a solution to this would be to hire more inspectors for the city, especially as our city grows and the number of builds increase.</p>	<p>However, I am not in anyone's pocket, nor can I be bought for \$1,200. I, too, am quite concerned about the appearance of a conflict of interest in accepting personal donations, and assure you that no donation would prevent me from working in the best interest of the residents I am elected to represent. Holding developers to a high standard of accountability is something you can expect from me, if elected.</p>
<p>Denis Labreche</p>	<p>first I would setup a meeting to identify all concerned homeowners and to asked them to provide a list of issues to us. Then depending on jurisdiction I would discuss the issues with the builder inspector supervisors to examine what can be done to create a case to have the builders fix these issues and see how the City can help.</p>	<p>the second question is harder. There is still it seems a lack of inspectors. What we would need is to create a partnership with either Colleges and Universities to create a program or promote the programs in place with them to recruit additional inspectors. This would also be combined with re-hiring some former inspectors that recently retired on contracts to fill the void and bring back some experience. I work at the federal government and many time we re-hire recent retirees to help junior employees during transition periods to help them acquire on site training and learn</p>	<p>My modest campaign is all financed personally by myself only. I will not be accepting donations from the building industry.</p>

		<p>from inspectors with years of experience. There are no easy solutions but a good plan in place would help ease the demand and alleviate the issues. We also need to slow down the process and the pressure by the builders so the inspections are done properly.</p> <p>I would also bring this issue to other Councillors that are in similar situations where there have been lots of new construction in the past 3-5 years, including Riverside South, Barrhaven and also in Findley Creek.</p>	
Bruce Faulkner	No response	No response	No response
Craig MacAulay	No response	No response	No response
Mark Scharfe	<p>Building code violations: Your elected representative has to investigate any of the complaints that come through his/her office. I can tell you that I have been a police officer for almost 30 years, as well as a farmer that has built a number of buildings, as well as my own house. I am "not" easily fooled, and will certainly do what i can to address these concerns.</p>	<p>Our city staff are required to do inspections that are complete and competent. Sometimes, people slip into the system that should not be there, or do not do their jobs. It happens with the police....when to much force is used....in the school system when pedophiles are teachers, when lawyers have to have their stamps seized because of fraud. I will do what I can to ensure homeowners are not taken advantage of. This is the best I can do. In a democracy like ours, people do not expect our politicians,</p>	<p>I have "not", nor will I ever, be accepting money from the building industry. Your municipal councillor must represent everyone in the community, and should not be seen to represent one group of people over another.</p>

		<p>police officers, and judges to be "rocket scientists", but they have to be honest and fair.</p>	
Patrick Uguccioni	<p>I would take these steps to assist the homeowners.</p> <p>I would get a briefing from the City Building Code Director on the current state of the Building Code issues for these homes, including any legal actions underway. While the builder and Tarion are clearly the main parties responsible, the City has publicly acknowledged staffing issues in the Building Code Services Branch as an aggravating factor.</p> <p>The City gave occupancy permits, so the City bears some responsibility if work was not completed in compliance with the Ontario Building Code.</p> <p>I would meet with property owners to get an update on their progress with the developer and Tarion, the provincial warranty agency.</p> <p>I would make the case to the Ontario Government with regard to these</p>	<p>When the story referenced first was reported, and generally over the last several years, the City acknowledged a problem with getting and keeping an adequate supply of experienced building inspectors.</p> <p>The City promised action to correct the situation, including a program to enlist new young inspectors in university and get them committed to careers with the City doing inspections. I would be briefed on where the City is on hiring and retaining inspectors, and the rate of attrition. We also need to know how many inspectors are working in the east-end, to ensure there is a balanced use of resources across the city.</p> <p>If the City has not made meaningful progress, this issue would have to be addressed with the General Manager of the department, the Chair of Planning Committee, and ultimately full City Council.</p> <p>As well, on taking office, I would raise this matter with the Auditor General, as</p>	<p>My little sister, my big brother, my boss, friends, mentors, colleagues, and, yes, individuals who have helped build this city, are contributing to my election campaign.</p>

	<p>specific problems and the need for reform.</p> <p>If we see continued delays in resolving the situation, I would go public with the latest developments, pointing out the lack of significant action.</p>	<p>there has been audit work done on the Building Code Services Branch in the past.</p>	
Henry Valois	<p>I have looked at the media reports concerning the building code deficiencies that were missed by city inspectors. I think that big builders like Tamarack and all other builders should be required to fix the deficiencies within a certain time frame. If repairs are not done in time, the homeowners should be able to hire a contractor to repair the problems and then signed off by a city building inspector. The cost of these repairs should be covered by the builder and the city should be making sure that the homeowner is not responsible for the cost.</p>	<p>I know that the city is short staffed for building inspectors but if the builders have to start paying for their deficiencies, it would certainly make them more responsible for not missing any steps while building homes.</p>	<p>I am not receiving any money from any builders for my campaign.</p>