

## Ward 14 • Somerset *in alphabetical order*



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### **Stuart MacKay**

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**Q1. Increasingly, Jewish Ottawans are concerned about rising antisemitism. As a city councillor, will you advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?**

Yes, if elected I would advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources as part of municipal anti-racism programs.

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**Q2. How are you going to push back against antisemitism in all of its forms?**

As stated above, we need to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of municipal anti-racism programs. But we also must ensure that groups which promote and foment blatant antisemitism or other racist behavior are not permitted to use city-owned facilities.

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**Q3. As with all at-risk communities, there are various times in the year when the Jewish community is required to hire extra security to protect our houses of worship and organizations. Will you support the use of paid duty officers to provide that needed security?**

The Jewish community in Ottawa deserves to feel safe in community meetings and during worship, and I would support the use of paid duty officers to provide that security.

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**Q4 . Are you in favour of continued funding for the Ottawa Police Services Hate Crimes unit?**

Yes, I am in favour of continued funding for the Ottawa Police Services Hate Crimes Unit.

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**Q5. The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. Would you be supportive of Ottawa adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?**

Yes, I would be supportive of the City of Ottawa adopting IHRA's definition of antisemitism.

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**Q6. Tamir is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting developmentally disabled people and those with autism. Plans for upgrades and expanded services stalled due to COVID. Will you be an ally and advocate for Tamir to receive help in upgrading their facilities?**

Yes. I'm very excited to hear about the proposed Tamir Centre, which will provide affordable housing, children and youth respite, and facilities to support medically complex individuals. If elected, I would be strong ally around the council table in ensuring that this centre gets built.

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**Q7. Food insecurity for seniors is on the rise. How will you support the city's ethnocultural (kosher/halal)**

**meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for those who are most vulnerable?**

If elected, I would endeavor to create greater awareness of the need for donations and volunteers amongst the city's ethnocultural food delivery programs for seniors. I would work to make sure that vulnerable seniors, especially those living in community housing, are aware of the programs on offer. We all have a part to play to combat food insecurity.



**Brandon Russell**

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**Q1. Increasingly, Jewish Ottawans are concerned about rising antisemitism. As a city councillor, will you advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?**

As the only Candidate in Somerset Ward to propose a Ward Council, I think this council could be a great place to have Jewish voices at the table. I also want to have many subcommittees that work on certin issues - like combatting Antisemitism.

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**Q2. How are you going to push back against antisemitism in all of its forms?**

By sharing stories and experiences I think we can humanize the issue.

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**Q3. As with all at-risk communities, there are various times in the year when the Jewish community is required to hire extra security to protect our houses of worship and organizations. Will you support the use of paid duty officers to provide that needed security?**

I would - and this goes for all at-risk communities, I think that until we can achieve equality we need to provide the services to do our best work.

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**Q4 . Are you in favour of continued funding for the Ottawa Police Services Hate Crimes unit?**

Yes, in-fact I want to increase funding to that, and other great programs.

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**Q5. The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. Would you be supportive of Ottawa adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?**

100%

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**Q6. Tamir is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting developmentally disabled people and those with autism. Plans for upgrades and expanded services stalled due to COVID. Will you be an ally and advocate for Tamir to receive help in upgrading their facilities?**

Yes! As a perosn with Autsim myself I understand frist hand the work that is needed to improve the lives of

those who need help the most.

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**Q7. Food insecurity for seniors is on the rise. How will you support the city's ethnocultural (kosher/halal) meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for those who are most vulnerable?**

I think we need more urban farming and food security projects. I would also like to pass a motion ensuring food is considered a human right and not being able to access it consistently would be a violation, allowing for more funding and resources to be allocated to this and many many more great programs to create progress!



**Ariel Troster**

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**Q1. Increasingly, Jewish Ottawans are concerned about rising antisemitism. As a city councillor, will you advocate to ensure that antisemitism is included in all resources and training as an integral part of all municipal anti-racism programs?**

Yes, absolutely. I am Jewish and this is personally important to me.

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**Q2. How are you going to push back against antisemitism in all of its forms?**

I was vocal against the antisemitism, racism and extremism that was on display when the convoy occupation was in town, and will continue to be now and in the future. I have a large social media following and am a frequent commenter in the media.

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**Q3. As with all at-risk communities, there are various times in the year when the Jewish community is required to hire extra security to protect our houses of worship and organizations. Will you support the use of paid duty officers to provide that needed security?**

Yes, although I would caution that for Jews of Colour and other racialized individuals, and increased police presence can trigger trauma rather than comfort. As a Jew, I understand the need for extra security at specific high profile events, but I would prefer to tackle hate and extremism at its root causes.

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**Q4 . Are you in favour of continued funding for the Ottawa Police Services Hate Crimes unit?**

Yes

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**Q5. The governments of both Canada and Ontario, as well as some municipalities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism. Would you be supportive of Ottawa adopting this definition of antisemitism as well?**

While I absolutely stand against antisemitism, I share the concerns expressed by organizations including the New Israel Fund, J Street and T'ruah about the IHRA definition. The "contemporary examples" in the IHRA defi-

dition risk wrongly equating what may be legitimate activities with antisemitism.

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**Q6. Tamir is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting developmentally disabled people and those with autism. Plans for upgrades and expanded services stalled due to COVID. Will you be an ally and advocate for Tamir to receive help in upgrading their facilities?**

Yes

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**Q7. Food insecurity for seniors is on the rise. How will you support the city's ethnocultural (kosher/halal) meals on wheels and food bank programs to help address food insecurity for those who are most vulnerable?**

They needed to be funded properly, but I also support a Housing First model, along with deeper investments in social services and mental health care. No one in our city should go hungry. Deeper investments in affordable housing would help alleviate rising household costs and could help reduce dependence on food banks.