

## Personal Statement of Interest - Tobias Scott

Dear Council of Collingwood,

I am excited and honored to submit this letter in consideration for appointment to the position of Councillor for the wonderful town of Collingwood. It would be my great privilege to serve my new community with dedication, integrity, and a commitment to progress.

There has never been a more important time to be in politics than there is right now. People are frustrated, perhaps a little frightened, often feeling their voices aren't heard or worse, unimportant. As a former longtime business owner I am eager to be part of a team to bring a fresh, pragmatic perspective to a great local government.

For 12 years I had successfully run Lick It Gelato, an exceptionally busy Gelateria on Toronto's waterfront. This has given me first hand experience at budgeting, problem solving, and community engagement. I know and understand the challenges that not only small businesses face but, being a father of a young child as well, the challenges families face.

My experience in owning and operating a business has taught me accountability, collaboration, and making thoughtful decisions that will impact the lives of others. And yes, I am new to politics, but I believe this is a strength. I will bring a fresh voice, real world experience, and a no-nonsense approach that focuses on results. Running a restaurant has prepared me to work under immense pressure and to work with people from all walks of life - having a myriad of opinions. Those are the exact skills needed in government today, but a few still remain: care, compassion, empathy. As I now work happily with older people, the long-lived, the venerable I have come to understand that they are who to thank for this idyllic town and all that my family and the thousands of families that will come in the decades ahead love and will love about Collingwood and I am humbled to listen to what they are now feeling, at the most vulnerable time of their lives. We must remember, the greatest amount of change is occurring for them. That being said I am excited to be a listening ear and a helping hand to everyone in our community in these interesting times.

I must confess, a lot has lined up for me to get to this moment. I have always had an interest in politics as those calls decades ago to Andy Barrie as a 12-year-old being the dead giveaway, but I have never felt a drive to make a difference, to be part of a team at any level of government in this exceptional country of ours, as I do right now. I recently listened to the astute and laudable Elissa Slotkin - a newly elected Senator in Michigan, a young politician - give an inspiring speech, to not only her constituents, but to her country - unbeknownst to her - the world. Where her assurances and confidence about democracy and its greatness was felt by all that

watched her, I imagine, but it was her advice - her call to action, which made me understand that if I want to see a change, to be part of a change - I need to be that change. These changes can happen in politics and I would be thrilled to be a part of the greatness that is our democracy.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve and would be honoured to have your support in this bid. Together, we'll make Collingwood the only place we'll ever wanna live.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Tobias Scott

