

**Brittney Anderson**  
**[www.brittneyanderson.ca](http://www.brittneyanderson.ca)**  
**<https://www.facebook.com/Brittney4Nelson>**  
**#Brittney4Nelson**

## **Tell us about yourself**

How long have you lived in this area?

**Brittney Anderson**: My parent's returned to Nelson when I was six months old. I was fortunate enough to go through all my schooling in Nelson with the exception of Grade 11 when I was given the opportunity to spread my wings and live in Ecuador through the Rotary Youth Exchange program sponsored by Nelson's Rotary Daybreak Club. As I pursued my higher education I studied and worked around the world and have lived in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. I would return to work during the summers and Nelson continued to be my home and community. Once I met my partner I knew I was ready to return home for good.

Do you live within Nelson City Limits or in Nelson's service area?

**Brittney Anderson**: I spent over two years looking at purchasing a home within Nelson City limits but felt priced out of the market. I purchased a home within the Nelson service area and our plan is to make improvements so we can build equity and gradually make our way back into Nelson.

## **Present and previous employment**

**Brittney Anderson**:

Young Agrarians – Program Coordinator for the Columbia Basin – June 2018 – Present  
The Cannabis Conservancy – Co-Founder and Director of Operations – 2014 – Present  
Regional District of Central Kootenay – Environmental Technologist – 2014 – 2015  
Regional District of Central Kootenay – Environmental Services Coordinator – 2015 – 2016  
City of Cranbrook – Water Smart Ambassador – 2015  
Yukon Wildlife Preserve – Coordinator of Programming and Education – 2014 – 2015  
Central European University – Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy 2012 – 2013  
Vandana Shiva's Earth University – Intern – 2011– 2012  
University of British Columbia Okanagan – Bachelor of Arts in International Relations 2006 – 2009

## **City Committees**

None yet.

## **other boards and committees**

**Brittney Anderson**:

**National Cannabis Industry Associations Scientific Advisory Committee**  
**Sun + Earth Certified Technical Advisory Committee**

## What's unique about you that you feel you can offer to the City?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Although I am one of the youngest people running for City Council I have a M.Sc, in Environmental Science and Policy and have the work experience to make me a well-rounded candidate. I am locally grown and globally informed and as a councilor. I will use evidence-based decision making to inform public policy. I hope to strengthen local business and economies, look to relevant and replicable policy examples that address the local environmental impacts of climate change, and provide solutions to the affordable housing crisis.

I have worked in local government and I am a small business owner. Both experiences are highly relevant for understanding how local policy impacts our community.

## **New to council:**

What decisions did the last council make that you would not have supported? What decisions did the last council make that you would support?

[Brittney Anderson](#): I would have liked to see our short-term rental bylaw be similar to Amsterdam's, allowing everyone to rent their home for up to 60 days per year. This enables all people to participate without impacting the local housing market. If elected, I would not be looking at shutting down current short-term rental properties as these must be considered local businesses that are helping families pay their mortgages. If elected, I will be looking at best practices from across the globe and tailoring them to Nelson.

## **Committees**

Nelson has a system of committees. How important are these committees to our city? Anything you would do to increase the efficiency and use of the committees?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Committees play an important role in our local government's planning and development processes. It is my understanding that certain committees are under-engaged and are not being utilized to their full potential. Committees are comprised of volunteers that help advise council and therefore they are a great free resource and should be continually engaged as appropriate.

I am a member of two committees the National Cannabis Industry Associations Scientific Advisory Committee and the Sun + Earth Certified Technical Advisory Committee. Both committees serve very different functions but the insight that I have gained from participating has been of tremendous value. If elected, I look forward to engaging with our committees to ensure the decisions council makes are alignment with our citizens values.

What are the Council's and the Mayor's responsibility to its committees?  
What are the committees responsibilities to council?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Mayor and Council are responsible for actively engaging the committees. The committees are responsible for providing council with advice and feedback regarding current and future projects and plans.

## **Street culture**

Some people have been concerned about Nelson's street culture, pan handlers and people without homes. Does our City Government have any role to play in addressing these concerns?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Local government has a role to play in addressing poverty and homelessness. I have heard people wanting to "clean up our streets" I find this phrase degrading. We must be compassionate and understand that many of the people we see struggling have mental health illnesses and many have faced trauma, often childhood trauma. We must help these people by increasing the availability of affordable housing and providing them with the services necessary to get well. We also want to ensure communities surrounding Nelson have sufficient service levels so people aren't forced to travel to Nelson to access these services.

## **Business community**

Some of our Nelson business owners have felt they have not been consulted appropriately about issues that affect them. What would you do to mitigate that feeling?

[Brittney Anderson](#): As councilors we must be engaged in our community and be open and available to listen. I have had many conversations with local business owners and people looking to start businesses in Nelson and many of them have articulated that the City of Nelson did not seem to have a welcoming and engaging attitude. The local business community is the economic engine for our region. I envision the City of Nelson to be actively supportive, welcoming and efficient when interacting with the business community. We need to foster good relationships and strengthen our vibrant local economy.

The downtown business community suffers from such issues as limited parking, increased parking rates, competition from online shopping and the mall. What actions would you take to let the downtown business community know you are pro local business?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Nelson's downtown core is the heartbeat of our community. If elected, I would actively engage with local businesses through available platforms such as the Chamber of Commerce to ensure the business community felt heard and consulted regarding decisions that impact the downtown core and business community. As a small business owner, I know it can be challenging to work through bureaucratic structures. We need to streamline processes so business owners can focus on running successful businesses that employ many members of our local community.

## **Housing**

Some businesses in the service industry are concerned about the lack of affordable housing for their workers. Can the City do anything to help provide worker's housing?

[Brittney Anderson](#): The housing crisis has impacted me personally. Nelson must increase our affordable housing units. One way to do this is through densification, such as the lane way housing bylaw that was recently adopted by council. I have heard from two different developers that wanted to provide affordable housing options in Nelson but found the City of Nelson to be challenging to work with. One of those developers decided to construct affordable housing (3 bedroom apartments for \$1000 monthly) in Spokane. The other developer is still in the process and hopes to have 10 units available next year. Our Daily Bread's housing project would be complete by now if the City would have been more collaborative. We are in a housing crisis and housing needs to be a priority for the city. We need to be open to exploring all options available and working with organizations and developers looking to construct housing in Nelson. We need to have shovel ready projects so when federal and provincial funding is available we are able to leverage that money and capitalize on those investments.

Selkirk College has many students who need accommodation. This has put further demand on our already scarce available housing. Can the City do anything to help provide student housing?

[Brittney Anderson](#): The City of Nelson must be more proactive in addressing the housing crisis. Previous councils and organizations in our community have worked hard to address the housing crisis but there is much more work to be done. I will be seeking relevant and replicable solutions to address the housing crisis. In many cases tweaking existing bylaws, programs and policies will go a long way in increasing the availability of affordable housing in Nelson.

## **Services**

Does Nelson feel old and dated? Are you interested in improving the look and feel of our community?

[Brittney Anderson](#): The City of Nelson's sign was constructed by one of my father's childhood friends so although it has some sentimental value it needs to go. Nelson has such a vibrant arts community and we should have signage that reflects our heritage in a beautiful way when welcoming visitors to our great city.

Money no object, what recreational and/or cultural facilities would you like to see here?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Since I was a child I wanted to see a chair lift from Baker Street to the top of Stanley so I could ski to school. I don't think that is realistic, but I do think that we need to make Nelson a city that is easier to get around using methods other than personal vehicles. I would love to see the trolley travel from Lakeside Park to Railtown, through downtown and then back to the park as part of our transit system. This would also help to alleviate parking downtown as people would be able to leave their vehicles outside of the downtown core while easily accessing our finest assets.

How would you like to see Lakeside Rotary Park and Nelson's other parks improved?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Nelson's dog walk needs invasive species remediation. Let's get some goats and replant with local, native species that attract native pollinators and provide habitat for birds and beneficial insects.

Would you do anything to help make Nelson more bicycle friendly and what would you do? Bike lanes?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Yes, Nelson's bike route is not safe. Thanks to the electric bike we are seeing more and more people cycling around our city. I hope to see this trend continuing to grow but we need to ensure people are safe when cycling. Dedicated bike routes are great but dedicated bike lanes that are separated by a [barrier from traffic are far safer](#). Worried about loosing parking spaces to bike lanes? By making biking safer we are going to increase ridership and decrease the number of vehicles on our roads. I would love to see the Nelson Car share include electric bikes in their collection of vehicles. Vancouver's bike share program allows people to access bikes across the city. It would be fantastic to see Nelson do the same with electric bikes.

Can our public transportation system be improved? How?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Firstly, we need to restore regional public transit services on Sundays. We also need service later into the evening so people are able to enjoy evening activities and transit home. Currently if you use Route 99 to travel between Nelson and Castlegar the last bus departs Baker Street at 5:25 pm. This limits people's abilities to work past 5:00 pm if they aren't a car owner. The better our transit systems are the more people will use them and the less dependent we are on personal vehicles. This is good for our communities and the environment. Interested in supporting bus service on Sundays. [Sign the Petition](#).

## **The Regional District of Central Kootenay** **and the City of Nelson**

Over the years the **RDCK** and **City** have had conflict over jurisdiction and services such as the Nelson Municipal Library, and Nelson & District Community Complex . These conflicts caused many tough decisions over the years. Is there anything that can be done to encourage better cooperation between the **RDCK** and the **City**? Should we be one Regional District?

[Brittney Anderson](#): While working at the Regional District I became acutely aware of the interconnectedness of the RDCK and City. We must work collaboratively with the RDCK to ensure projects are able to be accomplished efficiently and effectively. As per the [Resource Recovery Plan](#) the RDCK is developing plans to construct an organics composting facility at the Central Transfer Station near Salmo but it needs municipal partners to make the project go. Nelson has not shown the collaborative leadership the RDCK was hoping for. If elected, I would work ensure this project and projects like these were a priority for city staff.

## **Cannabis**

Do you think the current regulations of quantity and location of cannabis retail stores are appropriate?

[Brittney Anderson](#): When the local dispensaries close their doors on October 16<sup>th</sup> many members of our community will lose access to their medicine. These are very sick people who do not have connections to the underground cannabis market. With legalization of Cannabis on October 17<sup>th</sup> the Canadian Government has failed to facilitate the transition of businesses including growers and dispensaries from the grey market to the legal market. I would like to see our local dispensaries stay open so they can serve those who are ill and are finding relief in the cannabis products they have had access to.

When we look at how alcohol is regulated, there are several places you can purchase it across town, in a bar, in a liquor store, and nobody seems to have a problem with that. I believe the market should dictate how many cannabis stores are in operation. I understand wanting to protect our children and just like alcohol, we do not need to have a cannabis business across from schools.

## **Climate change**

What role does our municipal government have in helping to reduce the risks of local forest fires, floods and other environmental emergencies?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Climate change is the biggest threat to society that we have ever faced. I will use my M.Sc. in Environmental Science and Policy to inform decision making and ensure that we are proactive in protecting our city. We must leverage available funding to clean up our forests so when, not if, a forest fire occurs near Nelson, it is not able to reach the status of a mega fire scattering burning embers across our community. Forest management is expensive but it is far less costly than rebuilding a city destroyed by forest fire. Improving the sewer system is critical to mitigate flash flooding. City infrastructure and planning is required to ensure we are resilient.

**What can be done to improve the City of Nelson's recycling system?**

[Brittney Anderson](#): Nelson needs an eco-depot and the RDCK is working with the Nelson Leafs to develop a centralized location with the ability to accept recyclable products. The City of Nelson needs to be more engaged in this process.

## **Youth**

**Youth, while not yet able to vote, will be an important part of future elections. How will you involve youth in understanding and participating in our civic government?**

[Brittney Anderson](#): While I was a student at LVR an assembly was held and municipal candidates were invited to participate in a town-hall style debate. I thought it was fascinating and believe that by engaging with youth we will increase voter-turn out and civic engagement. I think it would be wonderful to have a City of Nelson Youth Committee that helps decision makers engage on issues that are important to our youth.

**How can the Nelson & District Youth Centre be improved?**

[Brittney Anderson](#): I think we need to ask Youth that question. I would like the NDYC to have a youth Board of Directors that help further improve upon all the great work the organization is already engaged in.

## **Final thoughts**

**Do you have a pet project you would you like to see happen in the next two years?**

[Brittney Anderson](#): Childcare is a huge priority and many parents are struggling to find affordable care. I will work with community organizations to leverage provincial funding to increase childcare spaces.

I will engage with the federal government to help cannabis growers transition to the legal market so they can continue to infuse Nelson with cash.

## How will you communicate with citizens of Nelson?

[Brittney Anderson](#): I will have an open Facebook Account where Citizen's will be invited to comment on issues addressing them. I will have frequent "coffee talks" so people can come and meet with me and have their voices heard.

## What makes for a happy community?

[Brittney Anderson](#): The key variables that have been found to support well-being are a vibrant economy, healthy life expectancy, social support, freedom, trust and generosity.

## Is there anything you would do to help the City government be more transparent and responsive to its citizens?

[Brittney Anderson](#): The City of Nelson has done a good job at publishing it's documents online so citizens are able to track the work the city is doing and is planning to do. One of the best ways to improve transparency is to provide citizens with a means to provide feedback on how government is performing. A recommended way to do this is through citizen satisfaction surveys. These can be inexpensive and provide people with a way to easily engage and address topics important to them.

## Do you see yourself as a leader, or a servant to the community?

[Brittney Anderson](#): Both, as a member of City Council you are a community leader who is a servant to your constituents.



