

## **Tell us about yourself**

How long have you lived in this area?

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

Present and previous employment

City Committees

other boards and committees

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

I was born and raised in Nelson and spent over 30 years here.

I live in a house I rent with my girlfriend on Herridge Lane right downtown.

I have worked both in the private sector and as a public servant with the province of BC, where I have held positions with the Ministry of Forests, Environment and currently Transportation and Infrastructure. On a daily basis I work with teams of professionals to successfully deliver multi-million dollar infrastructure projects, while liaising and partnering with regional districts, other provincial governments, members of the public, special interest groups and other stakeholders.

I have an abundance of civic pride and am an active member of the community having been an auxiliary member of the Nelson Fire Department for 5 years and a volunteer on the North Shore Fire Department for 2+ years.

I have a balanced of education, with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a Project Management Professional designation that lends itself to people from one end of the political spectrum to the other. I pride myself on getting along with most anyone and am able to see other people's perspectives, envisioning what it would be like to be in their shoes.

My skillset in project management uniquely positions me to be an asset to Nelson City Council, as most any issues and topic require bringing the

right people together to collaborate and bring about real positive changes. This is something I already do on a daily basis.

### **Previous Nelson City Councillors:**

Tell us about some of the successes that you have championed in your tenure that you are happy about.

N/A

### **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?

I prefer to keep the conversation constructive and optimistic. A lot of great work has been done by Nelson's City Councils over the years. I'm happy to see the Water Management Master Plan being implemented by the current council to help secure Nelson's water supply.

### **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?

Anything the city can do to do what it can to be involved in the things that a number of nelsonites I support. I think that having committees setup to help special interest groups is one way to facilitate council keeping a finger on the Queen City's pulse.

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

I think the Mayor and Council's responsibility to committees needs to be evaluated on a case by case basis and council needs to keep the basic services and fiscal responsibility of the city first and foremost in its minds-eye.

### **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?

Yes. The city council can help bring the right people together to collaborate and make positive changes. In this situation, there is a need to bridge the gap for the people who find themselves on the fringes of society become contributing members of the community. Getting people ready to work by connecting them with temporary job opportunities and supporting training and skills development, will help empower people and give them purpose.

### **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?

I would encourage them to attend open council meetings where these items are on the agenda to be discussed.

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?

Shamelessly promote buying local. Find innovative parking solutions and make Nelson more cyclist and pedestrian friendly. Work with the

Chamber of Commerce to make a strong economic landscape for the 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?

Yes. The city can facilitate and incentivise affordable housing by applying for grants from BC Housing and working with developers on development permits/zoning that builds-in affordable housing units into new developments.

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?

The city can liaise with the provincial government to potentially construct a student housing project on the campus(s).

## **Services**

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

Yes and no. The heritage, arts and culture in Nelson are a huge part of what makes Nelson so unique. That being said, Nelson could modernize its mobility infrastructure to provide safer and more efficient accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians.

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

Dedicated cyclist corridors, indoor tennis, waterpark and art gallery.

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

Lakeside is already an amazing, well-kept asset. To make it even better, I would bring back lifeguards and clean the sand. Most all other parks in Nelson look great in my opinion and I like to thank the city staff for their efforts in keeping them in such good shape!

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

Absolutely. Revisit the city's Active Transportation Plan and work with groups like the Cycling Coalition to create cycling corridors and construct cycling infrastructure to incentivise people to cycle instead of driving.

Can our public transportation system be improved? How?

One idea might be to have a parking area outside of the downtown, i.e. in railtown, and use van or a small bus to transport people into the downtown core. How about a street car that runs to the top of Stanley Street with bike racks, so people can ride it to the top and coast most anywhere in town in very little time without breaking a sweat!

## **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?

I think both municipalities exist for a reason. It doesn't make sense to combine two populations that will always have somewhat different goals. I would work with the RDCK staff on challenging issues, such that the city and the RDCK are working together to deal with the issue with a win-win in mind and find common ground.

## **Cannabis**

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

I think the free market can dictate how many and at what location cannabis retail store will be economical. Educating nelsonites about the downsides of cannabis, especially impressionable youth is something we all need to work on.

## **Climate change**

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

We can liaise with our colleagues in the provincial government, such as the Ministry of Forests Wildfire Branch to create fuel breaks, manage the fuels in the forests around Nelson and conduct controlled prescribed burns to eliminate excess fuels.

In addition, the city can incentivise land owners, especially those adjacent to the forest, to firesmart their properties and homes.

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

Educate nelsonites about reducing and reusing, as well as the contamination that is happening to our recycleables and help provide ways for them to be more successful recyclers.

## **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?

Encourage everyone that is eligible to vote, to make a point of not only voting, but bringing someone 12-17 with them to see the process of casting a vote and explain the importance. Not voting, IS voting.

How can the Nelson & District Youth Centre be improved?

Overtime the parking will need to be enhanced, while promoting and providing facilities for bikes is essential.

## **Final thoughts**

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

People Ready/Ready to Work temporary employment opportunity program to help integrate the people who find themselves on the fringes into the community in a positive way.

How will you communicate with citizens of Nelson?

All forms of communication.

What makes for a happy community?

Easy access to affordable recreation.

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

When delivering infrastructure projects, I would like to ensure that those that will be effected given reasonable lead time to prepare and minimize the overall disruption to the public and businesses.

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

Both.