

I was born in Nelson, I'm going to die in Nelson. Never left. I have a wife Loree of 38 years , whom I love deeply. I'm very fortunate to have my son and daughter and 4 grandchildren live in Nelson as well. We recently sold our home in Nelson and moved to Queens Bay in May. Since then we have secured a condo at The Commons so I will be a happy Nelson Taxpayer again before you know it. My family owned and operated Nelson Toyota for 47 years, I sold in 2016, I was also a partnership owner in the Nelson Brewing Company for 17 years. I have been a longstanding member of the Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce serving as President, Past President and Secretary Treasurer. I have been active in the community serving on the Nelson & District Community Resources Society, Ernie Gare Scholarship Society, Touchstones, and just recently I was a juror for the NDAC Mural Festival. I have also been involved in organizing 2 international hockey tournaments as chair and co-chair, the Air Canada Pacific Cup and the World JR A Challenge in 2007 co hosted by Trail and Nelson. I think I can offer a business perspective I feel has been missing from the council table for a number of years. Being a leader and a team player are also qualities I feel I bring to the table.

New to Council

I applaud the last councils support of Nelson's Arts and Culture scene. Without the arts I think Nelson would be just another dot on the map! I have not agreed with all of the current councils decisions but I will say this; they are all fine people with the best of intentions that have my utmost respect. Being a public official is a thankless job and anyone that serves deserves that respect.

Committees

I think we have to be very careful with the committees we create. We elect public officials to make decisions on our behalf, we may not all agree all of the time but you can't please everyone. Committees should be struck when absolutely needed and there should be guidelines. A clear outline of the issue, a start date, an end date, a recommendation, and a city staff member should always be part of the committee. This however takes time away from that staff members normal duties. I think we should rename committees to Task Teams.

Cannabis

I think location of Cannabis stores is paramount we should be very careful with where they will be located. As for quantity I say the more the merrier. Why should the city dictate how many, that's like picking winners and losers, let the market decide. More stores, more jobs, more taxes paid.

Street Culture

We need a panhandling bylaw to deal with the faction of panhandlers that live elsewhere and come to Nelson daily or seasonally and engage in illegal or negative behaviors. The community also needs to be open and accepting of challenged peoples struggling to get by day to day. Council needs to support and encourage housing and shelter programs brought forward by Nelson Cares and Our Daily Bread. I also think the city should be engaging the Provincial minister to increase funding in this area.

Business Community

I believe I can foster a mutual respect and understanding between council and business. Business feels slighted when they are not consulted appropriately on downtown issues. Business pays almost 3 times the residential tax rate, that should be councils first stop when planning downtown initiatives. Council can continue to support the work the Chamber of Commerce does on behalf of business as well as ongoing support of the Nelson and Area Economic Development Partnership.

Climate Change

Having Nelson's own Emergency Management Program is vital. Creating this program is a huge undertaking and I believe Chief MacCharles brings a wealth of experience and understanding to develop this program. We all have to take ownership of the program and become educated and involved for this program to be a success.

Our current recycling program needs to be evaluated in terms of success, cost and ease of use. Also I would like to explore a composting program for the city as this can reduce a fair amount of waste.

Housing

Housing falls under the jurisdiction of the provincial government, not the city. The city should be lobbying the provincial minister for more funding towards housing. Nelson Cares does a fantastic job with their housing projects. The city should not overburden these projects with excessive regulations, fees, permits etc. What can we do to help? What can we do to get this project started and finished in a timely manner? This is the type of attitude the city should show towards housing developments and reduce the Red Tape burden.

RDCK and Nelson

Very complex issue that is not unique to Nelson and the RDCK. I don't know if we could be one regional district but that would be worth looking into. I own 2 properties in Area E and I don't receive anywhere near the services we get in the

city for very little difference in tax. The debate on this topic could go on well past my years.

Services

I love the look and feel of Nelson. Is there room for improvement, absolutely. I'd love to see the entrances to our city green and clean. Garbage and recycling, condition of our streets, parking, water, could all use improvement.

Money no object. I would love to see the streetcars running up and down Baker St., a downtown loop. Bike lanes would be great and help with the downtown parking situation but I think this is a tall order based on our city's layout.

I love our parks, let's keep them green, clean and maintained.

Youth

The Nelson & District Youth Centre is a great asset with excellent programs. Perhaps city hall can engage youth through the youth centre by creating a Youth Centre Municipal Gov't program. A mock youth Mayor and Council that could tackle some of the city's challenges from a youth's perspective.

Final Thoughts

The city has to do a better job of communicating with our citizens and taxpayers. Perhaps we need a full time communications officer. Over communicate if you will.

If elected I will be a servant to the community and leading by example. We are elected to make choices at the council table and a lot of the decisions we make will not be popular with everyone, but we have to make informed decisions for the greater good.