

My name is Rob Richichi. I am 56 years old and married to my wife Rebecca. We have a 9-year-old son, Jeremiah, who we are proud to raise in Nelson. I have a Bachelor of Education Degree as well as Master of Arts and Organizational Management Degree. Rebecca and I own and operate several businesses in Nelson and the surrounding area.

My reasons for running for City Council are simple. I would like to help bring Nelson back to a respectable, clean, and healthy city. A city we can all be proud of.

My goal is to work with council and our Mayor, to treat the City of Nelson as a business. We have a lot of management controlling how the city is spending our resources. I would like to suggest that the councillors together with the Mayor become more involved in day to day operations. In approving an increase in salaries for council and Mayor, I think it is time we treat these positions as full time jobs.

I don't believe in "empty campaign" promises but I do have a wish list, based on discussions with our constituents.

My wish list includes:

***Reduce high paying management positions. (Lower the ratio of managers to employees)**

***Return to weekly garbage pickup**

***Prepare a common-sense snow removal schedule**

***Reduce senior parking passes to \$50.00 per year**

***Suggest a tax freeze for the next two years (while we get management spending to an acceptable level)**

***Increase police presence in the downtown core (Full time beat cop as necessary)**

I will bring fresh ideas to the table. I would like to look at the potential to move our City campground to the old garbage dump site. This will enable large campers to stay while they explore our town. If this is possible, I would then recommend the city create an affordable "Tiny Home" park where the city campground currently sits. I would recommend twenty tiny homes to start.

With regards to homelessness, low-cost housing, and affordable housing, I believe these are all separate issues. Homelessness is working with the provincial government to provide short-term shelters to homeless people, while they adapt into the next phase of housing.

This next phase of housing is low cost housing. Jim Reimer is ready to go with low cost housing for people in need. The city is holding him up due to a personality conflict, from what I understand. Jim is not asking for anything from the city and has the money in place and is ready to build. He has rubbed some of our councillors the wrong way and they in turn, have made it very difficult for him to proceed. Jim is willing to help us with a problem we have all recognized. We should help him and other developers in every way we can.

Affordable housing is an issue we all love to talk about. There is no such thing as affordable housing in Nelson. Our city planning department has instructed people to put in secondary suites. The costs associated with putting in secondary suites has forced us all to charge a ridiculous amount of rent to offset the costs associated with building the suites. The city has also made it easier to put in laneway houses. The cost to do so is around \$300,000.00. The homeowner now has to charge \$2,000.00 per month to recoup costs for the laneway house. The city is making affordable housing almost impossible, rather than making it more accessible.