

Tell us about yourself

How long have you lived in this area? *Since 1981*

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

Nelson

Present and previous employment: *Capitol Theatre manager 1988-2004, City Councillor 2005-2011, bookkeeper 1984 to present*

City Committees: *Liaison to Social services, library, youth centre, economic development (NBA and NAEDP), airport*

other boards and committees: *Kootenay Festival of the Arts*

Treasurer, Nelson United Church board and admin team, Theatre BC, BC Touring Council for the Arts, Rotary Secretary and former president

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

Long memory, hardworking, prepared, open minded, budget skill, ethical, wide background in civic affairs

Previous Nelson City Councillors:

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

The period of 2005=2011 was pivotal for the City of Nelson with so many new things launched, and a great deal of strategic planning that had rarely been done before: the Official Community Plan, the Path to 2040 sustainability plan, the long needed infrastructure upgrade, the hydro and power upgrades, many overdue bylaw revisions, broadband and technical innovation, geothermal upgrades, Rail town and Hall street planning, resolution of the civic centre venues, waste planning reconfiguration with the RDCK, parks like Davies Street and Art Gibbons, new housing projects and social planning defined, emergency planning, the Cultural Development Committee, the NDCC upgrade with the RDCK, a long-term financial plan, an effective state-of-the-art hospital emergency department through our regional cooperation, and a whole host of other things. It was a big overhaul. Subsequent councils have stayed the course of these plans.

I was there for the incubation and birth of these huge initiatives.

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?

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? *I think many of these committees do a lot of work that saves staffing time and money. It's not a requirement of a city Council to have such committees but there is expertise and background that councillors can offer, based on constituent input.*

What are the Council's and the Mayor's responsibility to its committees? *To hear the committee reports and make recommendations.* What are the committees responsibilities to council? *Advisory, recommendations and reporting*

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? *Street Culture: the street outreach program was highly endorsed by Council. The panhandling bylaw was seriously debated at Council – testing the limits of city responsibility. Homelessness provoked council to have a liaison with NCOH and develop a Housing Strategy, testing the limits allowed for municipalities.*

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 have found that many business owners are often too busy to attend informational forums and meetings; they usually come in after repeated invitations from the city to look at a plan and it is*

a new revelation, and most don't like surprises that likely affect what's going on outside their doors. It's a communication and engagement problem that needs to be addressed.

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? *Parking issues are actually a problem of success in a downtown. Nobody wants to go to an uninteresting main street. Yet the City has been trying to tweak parking here since cars were invented and it will never be satisfactory to all. We can't control online shopping, but it is interesting to note that most purchases are made after 6 pm, according to expert Roger Brooks, and the nature of our downtown businesses is not to stay open to seize that market, the way a mall can do. We need to think like a mall and the city has on hand many seminars from Brooks on a successful downtown that are a good template for us.*

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? *Tough to say it but it's not a municipality's function to house workers. That being said, the NAEDP, funded by the City, has employee housing in its strategy.*

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 dorm upgrade was helpful, but again, colleges need to provide housing for students. The city certainly has helped Selkirk through the Municipal Finance authority to get good rates on upgrade financing.*

Services

Does Nelson feel old and dated? Are you interested in improving the look and feel of our community? *I like it, the old and the new, the*

continuum of styles.

Money no object, what recreational and/or cultural facilities would you like to see here? *A university, another campground.*

How would you like to see Lakeside Rotary Park and Nelson's other parks improved? *I think the city has done a fine job on the parks.*

Would you do anything to help make Nelson more bicycle friendly and what would you do? Bike lanes? *Funny, but we live in the worst possible place for individual transport biking with our vertical terrain and heavy snow, yet it's marvellous for mountain biking.*

Can our public transportation system be improved? How? *I often think there should be a streetcar line above the rail tracks, a gondola to uphill. Blue sky-ing here!*

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? *Unless the provincial secretary declares it, and none will, this is impossible. We have to partner, service by service, with the RDCK folks and some very good things have come out of partnerships. That being said, I do think that Nelson pays too big a share in RDCK. And the library opt-out by nearby RDCK jurisdictions is still a sore point with me.*

Cannabis

Do you think the current regulations of quantity and location of cannabis retail stores are appropriate? *I'm only just now learning about the*

cannabis regulations, as many of us are, and I'm inclined to protect the local growers to some extent. The stores? I wouldn't like to see the number of them on the main street exceed the number of sports shops and coffee shops!

Climate change

What role does our municipal government have in helping to reduce the risks of local forest fires, floods and other environmental emergencies? *I'm glad there's an emergency evacuation plan afoot led by our fire chief and I know there has been significant mitigation done at the margins of the city to protect us from fires. All the work currently done underground on Front Street is a good way to stem flooding in that area in flash downpours.*

What can be done to improve the City of Nelson's recycling system? *Yard waste and compost pickup and removal of blue bags that go in the waste stream.*

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? *I'd be willing to teach civics (municipality 101) in the high school system!*

How can the Nelson & District Youth Centre be improved? *I think our youth centre (having been on its advisory board for several years) is a unique one, rarely taken on by a municipality, and certainly houses the only indoor skate park I know of in the province. It has challenges, in that its nature is to have much staffing turnover, and it is not a usual city service department so it may receive less attention and funding than the other departments. That being said, the centre does accommodate an*

active youth cohort in our community at a very low cost, unlike many other youth offerings and classes.

Final thoughts

Do you have a pet project you would you like to see happen in the next two years? *An additional water source plan: the lake.*

How will you communicate with citizens of Nelson? *I have lots of activities so I do much communication face to face. And I like to write.*

What makes for a happy community? *Celebrate everything. Do everything with kindness.*

Is there anything you would do to help the City government be more transparent and responsive to its citizens? *One thing I think I initiated on Council was to have a communication plan or lens on every decision. And I think they took it seriously. Trouble is, there are so many avenues of communication in this city; I discovered that while working and promoting at the Capitol. Word of mouth is truly still with us. And the newspaper still needs to be issued.*

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