



## Lindsay Bell

### Candidate for Council

#### Question #1 - Transportation

*There is increasing frustration among citizens and visitors alike regarding traffic congestion, particularly on the major routes around and through the city. This is resulting in added commuting time for employees, and delays for trucks and services vehicles moving around and through the city. A previous vision of Council and the City included placing a high priority on the north end connector to ease congestion while reducing green house gas emissions. There have also been past discussions on a second crossing and an improved regional transportation network to make it easier for semis, logging trucks, delivery vehicles, etc. to move through the city to keep the economy moving while ensuring efficient supply lines for commercial businesses.*

**Q:** If elected, aside from improved transit for those that don't require a vehicle to commute or as part of their employment, what would you do to further improve the City's/region's road/transportation network?

**A:** The regions transportation plan has been a work in progress. We have staff from the highways and the communities through our corridor looking at the issues on a regulator basis I would encourage further collaboration between neighbouring communities and pushing our collective agenda with Provincial Government. Collaboration is the key to success. After Speaking with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, Blake Dickinson regarding improving the flow of traffic, he responded ' it's as good as it gets'. Blake goes on to say that the city needs to improve there own infrastructure, come up with a plan that reroutes the traffic and that driver's need to be more patient, to go the speed limit in order to avoid congestions at each light. I would like to see an increase in roundabouts in the city to increase the flow of traffic.

#### Question #2 – Downtown Kelowna

*The downtown Kelowna street environment has changed over the past twelve months. There has been an increase in criminal and nuisance behaviour.*

**Q:** If elected, what role would you as Mayor/Councillor play in ensuring a safe environment for businesses, their employees & customers, and for tourists and residents visiting and living in the downtown area?

**A:** The Gospel Mission needs to be relocated as soon as possible. The best way to deal with crime is to understand what is causing the crime and why. Crime in the downtown, for instance, is driven by substance abuse-substance abuse is often driven by an underlying mental disorder. Treating both simultaneously is the key, often referred as the Collaborative Approach or the Dual Diagnosis. I would make it my goal to set up a mental health and addiction committee to solve this crisis and lobby the Provincial government. In order to keep our town safe, numbers in the police patrol have increased. Longer sentences and treatment of mental and addiction while incarcerated would be an excellent step. On a local, immediate level increase the number of security cameras in the downtown, improve the lighting at night and create a neighbourhood watch

### Question #3 – Cost of Government

*The increasing cost of government (municipal tax hikes beyond the rate of inflation, raises in services fees, and development cost charges) are a concern. The Chamber understands the City has a critical role to play in providing services and regulating businesses, but believes in continual efforts to cut red tape, streamline approval processes and explore cost-saving service delivery options.*

**Q:** If elected, how would you address this concern?

**A:** A strong assessment management plan will assist in ensuring our business is in order and will assist us all on balancing priorities.

In order to streamline process and red tape it will take all of council to work together to ensure there is balance in the costs we as a city implement. I have first hand experience watching development projects go belly up because the process has taken to long and become too costly. I can be the voice for the Chamber at the council table and ensure the message is being heard and acted upon.

### Question #4 – Variable Tax Rates

*Municipal governments have the authority to establish variable tax rates for the various tax classes. Many organizations have called for a ratio that should not exceed 3:1 for commercial vs residential class.*

**Q:** If elected, what would you do to ensure businesses are not carrying an unfair amount of the tax burden, given business owners don't have a vote but still are required to pay for public services, they don't use?

**A:** This is a tough question because we all pay for services we don't use. Such as, schools when our children have grown-up, snow removal when we are away on holidays. The services that business community is provided may help to draw folks into the downtown to ensure people are exposed to the business. Tax classes are hard to balance as we know the business owner paying property tax on their

family home and this can be overwhelming. I can assure careful consideration will be provided at the council table when it comes to reviewing and evaluating tax rates.

### Question #5 – Dealing with other governments

*Local Government is often called upon by citizens who have concerns about new or existing taxes/regulations that are in place at the provincial/federal level. The proposed speculation tax and provincial health employers' tax are two recent examples of provincial policy that will have a negative impact on small businesses and the economy in Kelowna and elsewhere.*

**Q:** What do you believe is the Mayor's/Council's role in dealing with these concerns?

**A:** We need to take a strong voice to or meeting at UBCM on our own or collectively with other local governments in BC to ensure the Provincial Government know we are not please with these decisions. Have the Premier come to our council and provide further insight and request the Province be more collaborative in there planning

### Question #6 – submitted by the Canadian Home Builders Association - Kelowna

#### **BC Energy Step Code**

*Research indicates that homes built pre-1985 use 100% more energy than homes built today. Statistics Canada reports 60% of homes in BC were built before 1985. New homes built this year account for only 1% of housing stock in BC.*

**Q:** If elected, would you support government bringing existing home stock's energy efficiency on par with today's standard of efficiency, before further increasing costs to new construction?

**A:** The city could promote programs with the energy providers that could assist with the retrofitting required. There are some programs in place that are lead by our energy providers that are required to provide these incentives to home owners. Every bit of energy counts and therefore no change would be considered insignificant.

### Question #7 – submitted by the Urban Development Institute - Kelowna

#### **Affordability.**

*The issue of housing affordability has grown in prominence over the years with many people finding it more difficult to afford to live in the place where they work.*

**Q:** If elected, what would you do to help address this difficult and complex issue?

**A:** Housing affordability was the biggest agenda item for the current Provincial Government, based on the press releases from the UBCM convention 2018. We would need to establish models similar to other communities that are facing the same issue. Rather than spending significant funding reinventing the wheel, we could consider other models and adapt them to our community. The issue is based on many criteria that would have to be considered such as land values, DCC, construction costs and taxation levels associated with services. As local government we would need to ensure we are considering all aspects of construction costs we control and consider that anything the city require in cost will be passed along to the home purchaser.