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Candidate For Mayor

1. Collective bargaining is well recognized as the best means of obtaining a solution in labour negotiations. It is often described as an adversarial process yet historically it has shown itself again and again to be the primary means of achieving settlements that both parties find acceptable.

Of course, like all proven systems, it is not perfect and impasses in negotiations will occur. In some cases, government will intervene and declare it is in the public's interest to settle and as a result, will legislate a return to work.

I for one feel the use of legislative power is overused and seldom is the public's interest in jeopardy to the degree stated...excepting health and safety issues which are generally covered under separate essential service agreements.

I have seen the threat of legislated solutions used effectively to bring both sides back to the table but only when bargaining had become truly intransigent with both sides iron-willed in their determination not to move. In fact I have often wondered if both parties waited for and needed the threat in order to save face and get back to the table. If so, it usually works.

Bargaining is the key to arriving at a good agreement and a method I fully support. Collective bargaining is most successful when the resulting agreement is to some extent, disliked by both parties as it demonstrates all involved did indeed give, in the give and take. Whereas, legislated settlements, which often ignore the give and take, will rarely be seen as fair and equitable.

2. I have yet to see a successful 3P and firmly believe this failure can be attributed to the differing roles of the private and government sectors.

A government's role is primarily service based and relies upon a predetermined and mostly legislated revenue stream. The well being of their citizens or stakeholders is not driven by the need for profit but by the needs of those they govern.

This is in direct conflict with the private sector, where the duty to the shareholder is to achieve the highest possible return on investment. Success is measured by ROI and the well being of the shareholder is the prime driver.

These two roles are by their very nature, incompatible and a government unable or unwilling to hold the private sector to the same high standards of service delivery and accountability will by default, allow profit to determine quality of program services.

Government generally provides services the private sector is unwilling to take on, simply because there is no profit in providing these services. As such, when working with the private sector, government is forced to either subsidize or reduce quality levels to a point where profit becomes possible.

Given the lack of success 3P's have shown and the need for government to provide basic and essential services, I see no future for private/public partnerships in service provision.

3. In my opinion, a referendum, unless previously promised or a legislated responsibility, represents a shirking of one's duties and is simply a means of evading decisions you promised to undertake in the first place.

If for example, I run on the promise to bring a plan forward for building a new Performing Arts Centre but promise to hold a referendum on the costs before proceeding, then a referendum it is. On the other hand, if I make the same promise but state it has to come in under a certain amount or it won't go ahead, then no referendum is required as long as I have met the stated condition.

One, I was elected on the promise to call a referendum and the other on the promise to build it if the conditions are met.

4. Easy, short answer on this one. Yes to a local procurement policy and yes to an ethical procurement policy.

5. Sorry, not sure what City accessible you mean. Accessibility to government or accessibility for those with limited mobility, vision, hearing impairments etc? Perhaps, we can leave this one for clarification during the discussion part.

6. Yes, it is very important as transit plays a vital role in the social and economic health of the community. The process of expansion may take time but that is no excuse to delay starting and I would begin by proposing two shuttle style bus routes that tightly looped our downtown cores. One on the North Shore that was centred around a Tranquille/Fortune loop and the other on the downtown Seymour/Victoria loop plus RIH.

Using smaller "Dart" style community buses, riders would need purchase only one ticket that would then allow them on/off service use for several hours...ideal for such things as multiple doctor appointments, shopping, business meetings etc.

A city core transit solution, downsized and equipped appropriately for a smaller city like Kamloops.

Regular transit could feed the shuttle system, eliminating the need for a car and helping those without a car by providing an easy way to access services and merchants in the downtown core.

7. There are any number of challenges inherent in a typical core review yet the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) may have set a new standard when they conducted their review in 2014.

Until then, most saw core reviews as a tool for justifying reductions in services and staff or an excuse for outsourcing work traditionally handled from within government. The RDN chose another route and began the process of the review by adding two key stakeholders to the process, CUPE and members of the public.

As a result, the core review became an inclusive and open examination of the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization with priority recommendations even including the identification of, “a number of gaps in the organization where additional resources are required to meet service expectations.”

It was a different approach. One that was not fixated on a quick list of savings but instead saw it as an ongoing process, “that will continue to identify new and ongoing costs savings and improvement opportunities.”

It appears to have followed the goal of efficiency and effectiveness but focussed primarily on effectiveness of service as evidenced by the recommendations for the need for more resources in some areas instead of less.

Involving everyone in the process and moving from an adversarial approach to a set of shared goals seems to have worked for the RDN. If elected, I would spend considerably more time reviewing their methodology and seeking advice from all stakeholders.

8. The City’s role is that of leadership and direct help and it is taking the whole concept of food and urban agriculture back to it’s roots of nourishing a community.

The City can play a truly effective role through use of land they control and I would like to see each City park contributing to the solution through meaningful land use in the form of community gardens and edible landscapes including fruit trees that feed and nourish those who walk by.

And from there, advocacy, education, partnership building, political influence and being a community champion for actually solving problems.

9. It is no longer about the possible effects of climate change. It is about dealing with the actual effects we are now experiencing.

This past spring, we felt the effects of climate change with the rapid snowpack melting and unseasonable amount of rain combining to create extensive flooding throughout the region. From there, it was months of drought making for the worst wildfire season on record. This is climate change in action and many are now predicting that this will become our new normal.

We need to begin preparing for this new reality. Infrastructure (diking and storm sewers) to limit damage from spring floods and getting seriously involved in fireproofing the City for the eventual fires that will return.

A community forest licence and a plan similar to Logan Lake's will go a long way towards protecting the City while simultaneously generating new jobs and a positive cash flow for the City.

Accessing federal and provincial matching infrastructure grants will significantly reduce costs for an extended diking program while also providing recreational opportunities along lengthen dike pathways.

And of course, we are contributors to the problem as nearly 90% of local greenhouse gases are generated by our lifestyle and energy use choices. More rapid transit, more energy efficient homes, better lifestyle choices (vegetable gardens, zero landscaping etc) could have a huge and beneficial impact on the City.

10. I believe it is vital for the City and the Labour Council to re-establish a strong working relationship.

Our goals for a better and healthier community are not at odds with each other. For instance, my belief in providing a living wage is founded on the understanding that everyone needs to be able to enjoy living in Kamloops. That work and the individuals creating it are equally valued. Equality is another foundational item that we all strive for. We agree on so much but where strong healthy relationships come to the forefront is on those times where agreement is difficult. To that end, having a well established and trusted working relationship becomes the cornerstone to building consensus and solutions.

Will consensus always be possible? Of course not but chances for success are exponentially higher when there is an ongoing and respected framework already in place.

As Mayor, I would like to see us establish and build that network with the Labour Council and will do what it takes to make that happen.

