

DEBBIE CANNON - Incumbent Councillor

Three Most Significant Issues

1. Major Capital Infrastructure and Funding

My number one priority is securing funding for the major capital infrastructure our city needs. The **Wastewater Treatment Centre**, estimated at approximately **\$90 million**, is the most significant project. I would like to see this project well underway, with both **federal and provincial funding** secured to help make it possible.

2. Recreation Facilities and the Future Aquatic Centre

Once we have secured funding and made significant progress on the wastewater treatment project, we need to move forward with our **recreation facilities**, including planning for a new Pool/Recreation Centre.

In early **2027**, mayor and council will be working on a **Master Recreation Plan** that will examine all of our recreation facilities and identify future needs and priorities, including the pool. I would like to see our existing recreation facilities maintained while we develop a long-term plan for a new aquatic centre. Depending on our readiness and the results of the planning process, I would support moving toward a **referendum within four years—or sooner if we are ready—to determine the community's direction on a new aquatic centre.**

3. Active Transportation and Community Connections

Active transportation must also remain a priority. We need to continue building and improving our network of walking and cycling routes so that we can better **connect our neighbourhoods with each other and with downtown**. Continuing this work will make our community more accessible, connected, and enjoyable for residents of all ages.

Looking Ahead

My goal is to see tangible progress on all three areas: **The Wastewater Treatment Centre well underway with senior-government funding support, recreation facilities being maintained while we plan for the future aquatic centre, and continued investment in active transportation to connect our neighbourhoods and downtown.**

Year-Round Economic Vitality and Resilience

Building **year-round economic vitality and resilience** is important for our community. The increasingly unpredictable wildfire season is something we cannot control, but we can take steps to reduce its impact. We should continue supporting the **FireSmart BC wildfire mitigation program** and work with residents and partners to make our community more resilient to wildfire.

Our **Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT)** program is a great example of how we can support our economy, particularly during the shoulder and off-seasons. Attracting and organizing major events such as the **55+ BC Games** brings significant economic activity to Salmon Arm and benefits local businesses, accommodations, restaurants, and other services.

The City has always recognized the importance of supporting major events that bring people to our community. I also support the MRDT application to the Province to increase the tax collected from **2% to 3%**. This would provide additional resources to help promote tourism, attract events, and strengthen our local economy throughout the year.

My goal is to continue building a resilient local economy that does not rely solely on the peak summer season, while also preparing our community for challenges such as increasingly unpredictable wildfire seasons.

Growing and Protecting Our Downtown

A vibrant and successful downtown is essential to the health of our community. We need to continue supporting the services that keep residents, businesses, and visitors feeling safe. Our **protective services represent close to 27% of the City's budget**, and maintaining a strong complement of these services is an important investment in our community and our downtown.

At the same time, we need to continue supporting initiatives that bring people into the downtown core. **Summer patios, weekend markets, festivals, and other community events** all help increase foot traffic and create a more vibrant atmosphere for residents and visitors.

I would also like to see **more high-density residential development in our downtown area**. More people living downtown can support local businesses, create activity throughout the week, and contribute to a stronger year-round downtown economy.

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Increasing our **bylaw officer presence and providing coverage seven days a week** would also help support a safe, welcoming, and well-maintained downtown.

Our goal should be a downtown that is **safe, active, welcoming, and growing**—a place where people want to live, work, shop, dine, and spend time.

Infrastructure, Economic Growth and Community Attractions

Maintaining and improving our infrastructure comes with significant price tags, but these investments are essential to the long-term growth and sustainability of our community.

The biggest example is the need for a new **Wastewater Treatment Centre**, which could cost upwards of **\$90 million**. Getting this critical infrastructure project underway must be a priority. Once we have made significant progress on the wastewater treatment project, we need to turn our attention to our recreation facilities and other community amenities.

These facilities are more than just places for recreation—they can play an important role in **attracting new residents, professionals, families, and businesses to our community**. When people are considering where to live, work, raise a family, or invest, the availability of quality recreation and community amenities can be an important part of that decision.

Over the next four years, I would like to see us make meaningful progress toward a **new aquatic centre**, as well as explore the development of an **indoor sports facility**. These investments would enhance quality of life for current residents while helping position our community to attract new people and support future economic growth.

My goal is to ensure that we are making the necessary infrastructure investments today while also planning for the community we want to have tomorrow.

A Safe and Welcoming Downtown

I strongly believe our downtown needs to be a **safe, welcoming, and accessible place** for businesses, their customers, residents, and visitors.

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I fully supported **Bylaw 4273**, as well as increasing the bylaw presence in our downtown. We need to support our downtown businesses and ensure that their customers and our residents feel safe. The doors of our businesses need to remain accessible, and people should feel comfortable shopping, dining, working, and spending time downtown.

The City has partnerships with organizations such as **CMHA and BC Housing**, and I support continuing to work collaboratively with these organizations and other levels of government. At the same time, I do not believe it is the City's role to fund or provide all of the services required to address homelessness and the needs of our unhoused population. These responsibilities require leadership and resources from the appropriate levels of government.

I support **involuntary treatment for individuals who require it**, while recognizing that the facilities, treatment spaces, and staffing needed to provide this level of care are currently not sufficiently available within the province.