

RIVER GRABOWSKY – Council Candidate

- 1) Salmon Arm has a bright future ahead, but also some large foundational challenges. As our population steadily grows, our aging infrastructure will need to be a primary focus of the upcoming council.
 - 1) The systems we have to retain, deliver and treat our drinking, waste and storm water all need to be assessed and addressed.
 - 2) These projects contribute to the protection of our people and our environment; our farms/food security, the salmon and other wildlife and our
 - 3) capacity to defend against and recover from wildfires.

City Council will need to set a clear direction for addressing these issues early, to prevent greater future expenditure if they are to be deferred much longer. Early steps could be taken to implement and incentivise residential and commercial water metering to begin generating revenue for these projects.

- 2) The City already has well developed partnerships with public organizations and associations that have built up our unique and growing city culture. I believe some of these collaborations could be leaned into more, as they have the person power, expertise and tools to expand upon existing amenities. There is potential to support businesses by evolving policy and streamlining processes to cut down timelines and costs. I would also like to see a more robust connection between organizations to share resources and operating best practices.
- 3) As we continue to work on the infilling of residential in our city core, I imagine downtown evolving to have a more welcoming presence for bike and foot traffic. I would like to see more communal use of resources by residents; offices, vehicle and tool shares could help reduce the need for storage spaces. I feel we could create avenues for more pop-up/short term business (food trucks, vendors) and artistic performances.
- 4) Prioritising the maintenance of our critical infrastructure will be paramount to attracting and retaining residents and businesses. Staying ahead of repairs to prevent interruption of services, activities or development builds trust and accountability. Increasing our active and public transportation systems, reducing reliance on non-renewable energies, and advancing our water systems will support this.
- 5) This is a complex challenge that is being faced by our city, province and nation. I will be an advocate for progressive development of public housing, increases in dignified social supports and generation of municipal job opportunities.