

2022 Mayor/Council Candidate Questionnaire – Ron Cannan Response

1. Should all sectors have affordable housing and permanent rental stock, or should one or two sectors be designated for rentals and designed for low income no income people?

Yes, I believe all sectors of the city should have affordable and permanent rental stock; distributed housing makes for a healthier and vibrant community.

2. Should all neighborhoods have small complex care housing as has been suggested by research? YES

3. One of our members was advised that in March 2023, the Ministry of Social Development & Social Innovation office will be moving from Dilworth Drive to the old CIBC building across from the Petro Canada on the corner of Dougall Road South and Highway 33. This has sparked concerns that community safety will be put further at risk as the population of repeat offenders and transients will increase even further and we have already seen a large increase over the last year. What actions would you take to ensure that residents are informed of matters that affect community safety in the area?

The City of Kelowna presently has a plethora of staff on their communications team. Appears they are not effectively keeping Rutland residents informed. I grew up in Edmonton and my parents were involved in the local community league (comparable to residents associations). I applaud residence participation in the community. When I was previously on Council from 1996-2005 I was a strong advocate for residents associations.

It appears City Hall deems residents associations to be a bit of a menace . I would advocate for improved communication with Rutland Residents Association (and other community residents association) , work closer with URBA, enhanced liaison/communication with provincial government and more. I am keen to learn from you. What other way(s) or action do you think the City should take to improve on their communications with the Rutland residents on matters of safety and more?

4. Neighborhood Associations previously had access to speak at City Council meetings open to the public on any matters affecting residents living within their boundaries. Recent changes to City policies severely limited the ability of Neighborhood Associations to bring forward their concerns and discuss these at Council meetings. What would you do to ensure that Neighborhood Associations are included in decisions being made at the municipal level?

Work with my Council colleagues and change the policy so neighbourhood associations can bring forward their concerns to Council in a mutually agreeable format.

5. We constantly hear that ‘community safety is everyone’s responsibility’. Do you think that this has contributed to a level of vigilantism within the community?

Residents are getting frustrated with the “catch and release” judicially system and lack of consequences for people who commit crimes. More needs to be done to help support local businesses and residents so they feel safer in their own community. I know police are frustrated as well so we need to have some strong leadership to provide results rather than press releases and promises.

6. What would you like to see municipal, provincial, and federal governments do in terms of addressing safety concerns in our community (as well as others)?

Municipal government needs to advocate for more crown prosecutors, fix our “catch & release legal system, lobby the provincial government to implement the recommendation of the special committee to reform the BC Police Act in order to transform policing and community safety in BC: [

[RPA-Report 42-3 2022-04-28.pdf](https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/42nd-parliament/3rd-session/rpa/SC-RPA-Report%2042-3%2022-04-28.pdf) ]( [https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/42nd-parliament/3rd-session/rpa/SC-RPA-Report 42-3 2022-04-28.pdf](https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/42nd-parliament/3rd-session/rpa/SC-RPA-Report%2042-3%2022-04-28.pdf) ). This will then empower by-law officers (similar to Alberta) to address petty crime & free up police to deal with more serious criminal activity.

City of Kelowna can also re-open community policing stations, support block watches/citizen patrol, work closer with the Chamber, DKA, URBA & Residents Associations. Less emphasis on parking violations & more emphasis on security of people.

Provincial Government can also implement the recommendations of the recent report: A Rapid Investigation into Repeat Offending and Random Stranger Violence in British Columbia:

[ <https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/InvestigationRecommendations.pdf> ]( <https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/InvestigationRecommendations.pdf> )

Everyone deserves to feel safe in their community. However, Kelowna being the Crime capital of Canada, our local government needs to focus on addressing our mental health & homelessness issues as well as address the lack of affordable housing. Working with the private sector, non profit organizations as well as senior levels of government to provide Housing first for persons with addictions/mental health. This has proven successful in Finland and other countries where I have travelled to and meet with government officials when I was the Member of Parliament. City also needs to develop a “made in Kelowna solution” which means providing a campus of care/complex care model with wrap around services. Visit my website for more details: <https://roncannan.ca/homelessness-mental-health/>. Young and old alike are unable to afford the cost of housing. Now, the macro answer to addressing this problem is ‘build more housing’. However, we need to do that in an intelligent and well thought out way. We need to connect neighbourhoods and focus on transit-oriented development to help lower overall housing costs. Provide HOPE for the hopeless!

Federal government to provide additional funding to assist with helping to make our community safer, reduce homelessness and provide more affordable housing. In addition, the Government of Canada needs to implement legislation similar to the UK’s “restricted patient” laws. The purpose would be to create a mechanism to divert accused people with serious mental disorders from the criminal system to the forensic system or low secure care. Low Secure Units for clients with complex mental health and substance use needs who present with a high risk of harm to others, and who need the safety of a secure setting.

7. Do you support replacing the current Kelowna Theatre and what priority does this project have to you?

As a long time supporter of the arts and an amateur musician, I admire and appreciate all the numerous volunteers in our community who support arts and culture in our community. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on City Council who will want to improve the state of culture and arts in our community which includes providing artists of all levels more creative freedom. I am excited to see the opening of the Revelry Food and Music Hub next to the Kelowna Actors Studio on Ellis Street and the 6000 square feet of common arts space to be constructed on Doyle Ave. If elected, I would encourage more private/public partnerships that support, enhance and fund community programs as well as modernize our facilities. This includes the strong community desire to build a new Performing Arts Centre. I also recently toured the recently renovated Kelowna Community Theatre and attended their 60th Anniversary Celebration. The best proposal would construct a new Performing Art Centre (around 1500 seats) to enhance the existing Community Theatre which can showcase events requiring a venue up to 850 seats. If elected, I would review the new capital plan with my Council colleagues as well as work with the Performing Arts Society that is advocating for a new centre. For more information on how you can support the movement for a new performing arts centre in Downtown Kelowna please click [ here ]( <https://kelownaperformingarts.ca/> ).

8. What is one specific process or decision of the last council that you disagreed with, and what specifically would you have done differently on this file?

The unethical process to rezone the old RCMP property located at 350 Doyle Ave. This property is City owned land so City Council authorized the terms of reference for redevelopment of the land. One of the conditions of the terms of leasing the land was a maximum of 13 floors. However, the developer that Council selected, based on their development of meeting the 13 floor criteria, came back to Council with a very nice looking building that had 25 floors. Mayor Basran along with most of the Councillors supported it. City Manager Doug Gilchrist and Mayor Basran all indicated that this was legal. This decision was never tried in the judicial court, however in the court of public opinion didn't pass the "smell test". I believe this was ethically wrong. Can you imagine how much more the citizens of Kelowna could have possibly benefited if Council had gone back to the public and told ALL interested developers that they could build up to 25 floors in height. Not only that, the goal posts were changed after Council awarded the proposal call to a deliver who didn't comply with the terms of reference. Bottom line is the integrity of the city tender process has been significantly eroded by Mayor Basran and Council's decision. I believe this proposal should have gone back for public proposal.

9. What are your 3 main reasons for running for Mayor or Council?

Seriously concerned with Kelowna having the highest crime rate in Canada. The significant increase in homelessness and mental health issues is somewhat interconnected. Lack of affordable/attainable housing is a serious issue that I have heard from people of all ages; whether recent graduates from OC/UBCO who want to live, work and play in Kelowna post graduation, however they can't afford to stay unless they have the option to continue living with family, to people working 3 jobs just to survive (not thrive) to seniors who are spending 50% or more of their monthly income on housing (Government of Canada defines affordable housing as 30% of your gross income).

I am very disturbed with the lack of ethical leadership at city hall combined with lack of accountability as well as poor consultation with residents association and the community. It all starts with the "tone at the top!!"

10. Do you believe that residents associations should play a bigger role development and planning within their areas, should their voices be given more value? YES

11. URBA and possibly the Downtown Kelowna Association receive funding from the City and are often called on to speak as stakeholders for an area. Do you feel that Neighborhood/Sector Residents Associations should have a valued voice equal to the business association voice?

If elected, I would be happy to work with neighborhood/sector residents associations and believe their voice is valued and equal as any other tax payer in the city. Residents Associations could also raise revenue from community sponsors/donations and from a fee charged to each of the association members.

Business Improvement Areas (BIA) are permitted until Section 215 of the Community Charter. City Council, by bylaw, can establish a BIA and grant funds to an organization that has as one of its aims, function or purposes, the planning and implementation of a business promotion scheme. Council may raise the necessary funding by levying and imposing a tax on the benefiting properties.

Uptown Rutland Business Improvement Area (BIA) operates on an annual budget of about \$250K. The majority of these funds are paid for by an additional tax on the properties located within the URBA area. DKA has a significantly larger budget however the majority of their revenue source is from the property areas. My understanding that the City provides some administrative support to the BIA's however no direct cash.

12. The residents' associations would not want to be paid for by the city because their voices need to be kept separate and responsive to residents' but do you feel small grants from the City could be allotted to keep the voices of citizens in neighborhoods heard? YES

13. If elected, how would you work to have resident's associations voices involved at the beginning of planning and development in their areas rather than an after thought when the planning is already well on its way to being completed? Challenge is that some residents associations are more structured and supported by their area residents than others. City could support residents associations by helping them to form good governance & polices, assist with structure and work with each of the residents associations help strengthen their operations. Open to discussing this further with Residents Assodation as to how best they see the city could work with them to develop a policy that would provide better residents association communication and engagement in the development process. Possible a Ward system in the future could more efficiently assist the appropriate area residents association.

14. If elected, would you look at why so many variances are made after the initial development approval where neighbors have some input? Variance which can change the whole character of the initial proposal are approved without further resident/neighbor input. For example: Neptune/Mercury Road was to have a development of townhouses to be owned by purchasers which close neighbors agreed with so didn't present anything to Council. After approval the developer changed this to be a rental development where tenants do not own the property and possibly will not have the same initiative to look after the property. YES. There needs to be stronger oversight and enforcement of the conditions of development permits.

15. If you are elected, how would you address that development permits which include zoning changes are then allowed to sit idle sometimes for years until the property is sold, based on that change to zoning, with a totally different developer/development than what caused a zoning change? Some of the conditions of zoning are contained in legislation. That is, once Council zones a piece of property, it is very seldom that Council will change the zoning ("down zone") the property as this could potentially lead to litigation. Development permits are usually issued for two years and can sometimes be extended. If the development changes then I would require the developer to come back to the City and submit a new development plan. If it did not conform to the Official Community Plan then the proposal would come back to Council for a vote. Of course, the residents association should be consulted/involved in this process as well.

16. If Kelowna does not build for 40,000 people who want to come here by 2040 what do you think those people will do? Move to a different city? Become homeless?

Kelowna is one of the most desirable cities to call home for many reasons, especially the natural beauty. However, we have a serious infrastructure deficit. Growth isn't for growth sake. We need to grow smartly and in a more sustainable manner. One reality is that if demand exceeds supply then housing affordability could become an even greater issue. Need to find a healthy balance!

17. How would Kelowna be run differently and look if we were not focused on building for the multitude of people who want to move here, and instead built well planned affordable housing and neighborhoods for those who are already here? That is why we need a new Mayor and at least four new Councillors. Need five new votes if we want to see Kelowna grow in a different manner.

18. What do you think Kelowna would be like if we planned affordable neighborhoods with as much care as we plan our more expensive neighborhoods?

Smart growth leads to greater sustainability. A healthier and more liveable community.

19. Our latest OCO (2040) has increased the heights for many areas, but developers still want to build higher. What do you believe is important for assessing increased building heights? Should residents in an area be given a chance to speak to major variance changes when they are presented to Council?

Residents should absolutely have the opportunity to speak to any variance, no matter how significant, at a public hearings. Building heights need to fit the form and character of the neighborhood, respect natural topography, sight lines, shadowing effect, geotechnical issues and confirm that sufficient infrastructure is place including proper fire and protection services.

20. If elected, do you plan to bring more and diverse industry or manufacturing to our area where citizens can learn and progress from a ground level job to a well-paying job through education and work experience? (At this point, many of the people working in the service industry and at ground level jobs may have to work 3 jobs to even survive and there is no real opportunity to advance in those jobs.). YES

21. If you witnessed an incident of bullying, intimidation, or discrimination against another Council member, would you be willing to act as witness for that Council member? YES.