

Team Tom Dyas

1. I am running for re-election because there is more work to do and I want to keep moving Kelowna forward.

First, I want to keep building a safer Kelowna by investing in frontline public safety and adding more RCMP, bylaw, and firefighters and pushing senior governments to expand treatment and recovery capacity including mandatory compassionate care and a regional treatment and recovery centre.

Second, we need to keep building infrastructure. For too long in this town politicians talked about building roads but never actually built them. We changed that and started building the roads, infrastructure, parks, recreation facilities and housing our growing city needs.

Third, accountability to taxpayers. I want to continue bringing a practical, accountable approach to City Hall, focused on delivering results and making sure taxpayers receive value for their money.

Over the last four years we have made progress, but residents need to feel more of that progress in their everyday lives. That is what the next four years need to be about.

2. I believe voters should decide who represents them. Elections provide residents with the opportunity to hold elected officials accountable and replace them when they believe change is needed.

I am open to discussing measures that strengthen accountability and encourage participation in local government.

3. Yes. The City already works extensively with private-sector contractors to deliver infrastructure and other major projects. I support continuing to provide the best value for taxpayers, while keeping appropriate public oversight and accountability.

4. I did not come from City Hall. I came to change it.

Over the last four years, we have restructured parts of the organization, strengthened financial accountability and worked to make sure City staff are aligned around a clear vision and focused on getting things done for residents.

For me, the question is not simply whether there are too many or too few employees. The more important question is whether the organization is structured properly, whether staff are working toward the same priorities and whether taxpayers are getting the best possible value from every dollar spent.

That means continuing to review management structures, service delivery and City operations to identify duplication, unnecessary costs and opportunities to work more efficiently.

At the same time, Kelowna is a growing city and residents expect roads to be maintained, parks to be cared for, development applications to be processed, emergencies to be responded to and core services to work.

My focus will continue to be building an organization that is accountable, aligned and capable of delivering the services residents expect at the best value possible.

5. Residents should have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their neighbourhoods.

I support earlier and more meaningful consultation, particularly when significant changes are being proposed. Residents understand their neighbourhoods and the impacts that development can have on traffic, parking, safety and quality of life.

Kelowna is growing, and we need to make sure there are homes and opportunities here for our children and grandchildren. But that growth needs to be smart and thoughtful. We need to build the homes our community needs while maintaining the quality of our neighbourhoods and protecting the things that make Kelowna the best city in the world to live, work and raise a family.

The responsibility of Council is to listen to residents, take their concerns seriously and make decisions that balance the need for new housing with the character and quality of life of the neighbourhoods where that growth occurs.

6. Residents should not be asked to accept open drug use, chronic disorder or unsafe public spaces as normal.

Over the last four years, we have invested in additional frontline police and other public-safety resources and created new pathways from homelessness into housing. I also pushed the Province to end its decriminalization experiment, which they ultimately did. And I went to Ottawa to advocate for stronger bail laws. Those federal bail reforms are now law.

We have also made those investments neighbourhood-specific. In Rutland, that has included the URBA On-Call program, increasing dedicated Bylaw resources, enhancing community cleanup and establishing a dedicated Community Liaison Officer, all in response to concerns raised by local businesses and residents.

But there is substantially more work to do.

My plan for the next four years includes adding 75 new frontline safety positions, establishing a permanent 24/7 public-safety presence in Downtown and Rutland, and continuing to push the Province to address social-service facilities that are creating unacceptable impacts for surrounding neighbourhoods.

It also means expanding treatment and recovery capacity in the Okanagan and pushing for mandatory compassionate care for people whose addiction or mental illness makes them a serious danger to themselves or others.

I will continue demanding stronger neighbourhood protections around provincially funded health and social-service facilities, including security plans, quicker cleanup, protection of entrances and public spaces and clear accountability when problems persist.

7. Kelowna needs a variety of housing choices. That includes single-family homes, suites, duplexes, townhomes, apartments and mixed-use development where housing is built alongside shops, services and other amenities.

We have made progress in increasing the supply of housing, but the next focus needs to be making sure the next generation can actually afford to own a home in Kelowna.

That means creating more attainable ownership options, supporting a broader mix of housing types and directing growth to places where it makes sense, while still respecting the character and quality of established neighbourhoods.

The goal should not be to eliminate one type of housing. It should be to build a city with enough choices that young people, families, seniors and everyone in between can find a home that works for them.

8. Value for taxpayers should be at the forefront of every project and every decision the City makes.

Development incentives can make sense when they help deliver something the community needs, such as more housing, new infrastructure, good-paying jobs or significant economic investment.

But those incentives need to be transparent, targeted and clearly in the public interest. Any decision to provide an incentive should be based on the value it delivers back to residents and taxpayers.

9. For too long, career politicians in this town talked about projects but did not get them built. Now we have to play catch-up. I will not let that happen again.

Clement is a good example. The extension, designed to help relieve congestion on Highway 97 and provide another east-west connection through the city, was first being discussed and planned in the 1990s. We are getting it done.

As Kelowna grows, we need to plan roads, utilities, parks and other infrastructure alongside that growth instead of waiting until congestion and service pressures become critical.

Rutland is a good example of the kind of investment that needs to continue. The new Rutland Road and Springfield Road roundabout is now complete, improving traffic flow and safety with new pedestrian crossings, cycling connections and other neighbourhood improvements. A second major roundabout at Belgo Road and Springfield Road is planned for 2027.

10. I support building complete neighbourhoods where people can walk to a park, shop, recreation facility or service when possible. I do not support designing communities on the assumption that everyone can give up their vehicle.

Many residents work outside their neighbourhood, work shifts, operate businesses, carry equipment, have mobility challenges or have family responsibilities that require a vehicle. Our planning needs to reflect that reality.

At the same time, we should continue bringing more everyday amenities directly into neighbourhoods. In Rutland, construction is underway on a new all-ages Activity Centre beside Lions Park, with a gymnasium, community gathering spaces, teaching kitchen and youth space.

Parking requirements should be based on the actual needs and location of a development. The reality is that many people in Kelowna drive and they need somewhere to park. Good planning has to recognize how people actually live and move around the city.

Green space is also essential. New development should include meaningful landscaping, trees and outdoor amenity space, while the City continues investing in neighbourhood parks and public green space.

11. Yes, acquiring and protecting parkland needs to remain a priority as Kelowna grows.

But protecting green space also means continually reinvesting in the parks we already have. This year, Ben Lee Waterpark received new play and water features, ensuring one of Rutland's most popular family amenities continues to serve a growing neighbourhood.

We are also making major investments in recreation in Rutland, including the new Activity Centre beside Lions Park and improvements underway at Rutland Recreation Park.

I would not say that every piece of City-owned land must automatically become parkland. City land may also be needed for roads, utilities, recreation, housing or other public purposes.

The test should be what delivers the greatest long-term public benefit. Once an important opportunity for parkland or waterfront access is lost, it can be extremely difficult and expensive to get back.

12. I do not believe cultural amenities should exist only downtown.

Downtown's Cultural District will continue to play an important role, but Kelowna is a city of neighbourhoods, and residents should have access to cultural and community amenities throughout the city.

Rutland should be a priority for additional cultural investment over the next term. The recent murals at the Rutland Transit Exchange are a good example of how public art can reflect the identity of a neighbourhood.

I support continuing to expand opportunities for cultural expression and community spaces in Rutland and other parts of Kelowna

13. Public access to Okanagan Lake is one of Kelowna's greatest assets, and it needs to remain accessible to residents from every part of the city.

Over the last four years, we have taken real steps to expand and protect that access. The City acquired waterfront property at Truswell Road in 2023, which is now Truswell Park and provides new public access to Okanagan Lake. We have also completed waterfront and pathway improvements at City Park, making it easier and safer for residents to access and enjoy the lakefront.

Parking has to be part of the discussion as well. People from Rutland, Glenmore, Black Mountain and every other part of Kelowna should be able to enjoy our beaches and waterfront, regardless of whether they live within walking distance of the lake. We should continue reviewing parking and access in waterfront areas to make sure residents from across the city can reasonably get to and enjoy these public spaces.

As Kelowna grows, we need to continue protecting and expanding public waterfront access and make sure residents can actually get to and enjoy these spaces.

14. Resident associations play an important role in giving neighbourhoods an organized voice at City Hall.

An affiliation agreement should create a productive relationship between the City and neighbourhood associations. It should not mean an association loses its ability to respectfully disagree with a City decision or advocate for the interests of its residents.

Residents and neighbourhood organizations should be able to raise concerns, challenge decisions and advocate for their communities without fearing that disagreement itself will jeopardize their relationship with the City.

15. When a City initiative directly affects a neighbourhood, its residents and resident association should know about it early enough for their input to matter.

I support proactive communication with affected resident associations, opportunities to meet directly with City staff where appropriate and meaningful consultation before major decisions are finalized.

The Rutland Residents Association and other community organizations should have a direct voice when decisions affect public safety, traffic, parks, recreation or social-service facilities in their neighbourhood. That feedback should help shape how the City responds, not simply be collected after decisions have already been made.

That is particularly important for issues involving public safety, significant development, transportation, parks and provincially funded social or health facilities.

Consultation does not mean that everyone will agree with the final decision, but residents should know that they were heard, understand how a decision was reached and have a clear way to continue raising concerns after implementation.