

# Chamber of Commerce – Q&A – September 2021



## Andrea Gosse



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## **1. How will you help support the business community and reduce red tape in your municipality?**

*Businesses, small and large, are very important to any community. Municipal governments must work closely with the business community to provide support and help them thrive and grow. There are two groups of businesses to consider: current business owners and new business owners.*

*In order to support the current business community and reduce red tape, we need input from this group. We need to know how the municipal government can best support them, what they see as challenges and red tape and how we can improve support and services for businesses. Because of the diversity of our business community, all needs are not the same. I would first like to see open communication by way of a survey to the existing businesses in the community.*

*The approach with new business starting up in our community will need something slightly different such as an 'after opening' survey to get feedback on the experience of opening a new business in CBS.*

*The information collected from businesses is valuable in reviewing and evaluating policies and procedures to find ways to improve services. I would like to see a collaboration through an advisory panel made up of council members and representatives of agencies such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Improvement Association to take feedback and use it to implement improvements.*

## **2. As we continue to see the impacts of the pandemic, what can the municipality do to help businesses recover and grow?**

*The pandemic has impacted businesses in different ways. Many businesses were heavily impacted and had to temporarily close their doors, losing revenue with no way to recover those losses. As a municipality at the very least we should be able to offer options on business/commercial taxes and fees for those who are trying to rebound from financial losses from the pandemic.*

**3. What are you, as an elected official going to do to help attract investors and new businesses to the area?**

*As an elected official I will advocate for a committee of council to review our strategies for attracting new business and the new business package. Our Town has made significant investment in the Gateway Development but unfortunately it is stalled. We need an innovative approach to the Gateway. We cannot continue doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. So how can we do it differently? We must approach this with an open mind and consider bringing in new skills to help us bring this development to its full potential.*

**4. If elected, what specific infrastructure changes, policies or strategies would you propose implementing to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the next four years?**

*Climate change is a global issue that must be addressed at every level of government. Every small step forward is a step in the right direction and I believe we must periodically review how we are doing. We have a well-established curbside recycling program. We must review this program periodically to evaluate the level of community participation and continue to educate and encourage all residents to participate in curbside recycling.*

*The next step towards reducing waste is a community composting program. I would advocate to explore the development of a composting program for our community. Conception Bay South has a strong farming industry, community group farming and many hobby farmers. Composting can benefit our community in reducing waste going to the landfill while developing partnerships with our local farmers and community gardeners to use the composted materials.*

*Another small step forward for climate change is reducing the commuter traffic to the city. A park and ride partnership with a local transportation provider would be an effective way to reduce the number of vehicles commuting to the city each day. This would also provide residents with a service for those who may not have*

*access to transportation or would like to save on expenses such as gas and parking and help the environment too.*

*Another infrastructure change is to provide vehicle charging stations in the community. With recent government grants towards the purchase of electric vehicles there will be more people moving towards electric vehicles.*

*Mitigating climate change may seem very high level but every small step forward helps reduce the footprint we leave and as a community we have a responsibility to do our part.*

**5. What value do you see in supporting an active Chamber of Commerce for the area?**

*I am a small business owner in this town and a member of the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce is an agency for business advocacy and support. They offer support such as networking and learning opportunities to businesses by bringing together professionals to share information in areas such as finance and accounting, legal, safety, marketing and so much more.*

*During the pandemic the Chamber of Commerce was vital in communicating information to the local business community about government pandemic support programs. As a reopening campaign, the chamber also supported local businesses with a shop-local campaign and a local business guide. Our town must encourage and support memberships and partnerships with agencies such as the Conception Bay Area of Commerce whose mandate is to provide support to businesses in the community.*