

Contact Info:

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Bio:

Kimberly Ghaney was raised in Holyrood and lived much of her adult life there. She is a fulltime health care professional (Registered Nurse) and certified Prosci™ Change Manager working as a manager in virtual care with Eastern Health.

Kimberly is married to Derek Ghaney, and mother to 3 daughters (ages 18, 15, and 13) and has strong life-long ties to the community.

In addition to dedicating the last 8 years to the community consistently serving as your councilor, Kimberly has volunteered her time over the last 14 years as an active member of school councils – Holy Cross Elementary (past-Chair) and Roncalli Central High (Chair). She also has served as Vice Chair and board member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Lung Association. She has a passion for improving the health of the community and its residents of all ages and abilities, while keeping inclusivity at the forefront.

Responses to Conception Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Questions:

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

First and foremost, I believe we start by having open dialogue with our local business owners, to understand their needs and the challenges they face. I believe our economic development staff in Holyrood do a fantastic job of helping business owners work through the municipal process, but I also recognize there is always room for improvement.

If elected Mayor, I intend to take an approach that focuses on community engagement, and that includes businesses within our community. I intend to actively seek out our local business owners, to build trust and communication channels, listening to all ideas where we can identify ways to improve around the council table but also from a municipal operations perspective.

However, I also recognize that there is a careful balancing between resident concerns and business needs or wants that must take place. I fully recognize the need to grow our business community, but we need to do so in a manageable and sustainable way – and this includes being transparent with our residents and business owners, because there is valuable feedback that can be gained from all parties and the best ideas can rise to the top.

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

Again, I think this is a prime opportunity to engage with local business owners to understand the challenges they've encountered and gain their feedback so we, as a municipal council, can craft ways to aid them in their recovery and future growth.

I believe this starts with creating a very collaborative environment between our economic development staff and local business owners, as well as our entire municipal council getting out and connecting with the community. We have a number of mechanisms at our disposal which we can use to aid business members, which may include providing payment options for business owners that may have fallen behind on property/business taxes due to the pandemic, giving locally based companies opportunities to bid on municipal projects and providing support to local businesses to better access funding & federal/provincial support programs (i.e. wage subsidies, grants, etc.).

Further to this, I believe our municipal council should be advocating on behalf of our local businesses at the provincial & federal level to aid them in coming out the other side of this pandemic stronger.

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

As Holyrood continues to grow, our municipal council needs to recognize that the services & amenities within our community need to grow alongside at a manageable & sustainable pace. For example, Holyrood's growing population and the surrounding catchment area present a real need for grocery options within the community. This is a prime opportunity to reach out to our local community to determine if we have residents or existing business owners that may be interested in building such a business. If not, then our council and staff must look outward to investors or business owners outside of Holyrood to find the right partner to make it a reality.

I believe the key to attracting investors and new businesses to the area begins with understanding the current business climate, identifying where we as a municipality can improve but also building a solid understanding of the services & amenities our residents want and need.

The first step is engaging the community advisory committee that I am proposing to put in place if elected Mayor. The community advisory committee would work alongside council & town staff to identify services & amenities that are priorities. We would then look to our economic development staff to find the right partners that can help make those items a reality.

In order to find new investors and new businesses, we must be at the forefront, leading the way as a progressive, inclusive and inviting municipality. I believe both our municipal council, as well as our economic development staff, must reach out to investors and business owners and market Holyrood as an amazing place to invest or start a business. I believe we do a solid job of this, but I also strongly believe there are always ways to improve.

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?*

This is a fantastic question and one I strongly believe municipalities must sincerely start thinking about on a larger scale. Addressing climate change is not something that can strictly be left to the provincial & federal governments, municipal governments must play an active role in supporting efforts in our communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

From a high-level strategic perspective, I believe there are clear paths for our municipal council to change internal policies to place a greater emphasis on climate change, but the major piece is identifying that we need to consider climate change when making any & all infrastructure decisions moving forward. From a policy perspective, I believe we can look at a variety of areas on how we can improve, this could take the form of specific requirements for new municipal or private business facilities being constructed in the town requiring green building initiatives being incorporated (i.e. solar, energy efficiency, etc.) or identifying ways to incorporate green practices into infrastructure investments.

I will note, however, aiming to address climate change through general solutions or copying what other municipalities have done will not necessarily solve the issue. Each municipality has its intricacies and differences; therefore, we should be looking outward to find best practices but also collaborating with residents and local business owners to determine what is achievable for our community.

I do strongly believe there is some low-hanging fruit that can be easily attainable that can have an impact. For example, the Town of Holyrood can & should be coordinating with Newfoundland Power & other organizations to provide residents & local business owners with easy access to information relating to subsidies or programs that can aid in offsetting the costs of energy efficiency retrofits. This would require minimal effort on the municipal level, but can be a direct opportunity to make an impact. Also, expanding our environmental programs, such as our composting program, can be solid step to helping combat climate change within our community.

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

From my perspective, Chambers of Commerce play a critical role in local communities in advocating on behalf of their respective business members with all levels of government but also provide a range of services to local business owners to avail of.

A perfect example, in order to answer this question, I read information on the Conception Bay Area Chamber of Commerce website and found incredibly useful information, as well as fantastic programs such as the Chamber Benefits Plan (providing affordable benefits coverage plan to local businesses).

Speaking as someone who has been on council or two-terms and if elected Mayor, I envision putting a much greater emphasis on engaging with the Conception Bay Area Chamber of Commerce to gain valuable insight into the needs, challenges and areas of improvement our local business community needs or wants. Additionally, I recognize that Holyrood and adjacent municipalities (CBS, Paradise, Avondale, etc.) must take a collaborative approach to growing business in the area – and I believe that our town’s involvement in the Concept Bay Area Chamber of Commerce will provide us with critical insights and opportunities to collaborate.

I believe this starts with empowering our economic development staff to take a seat at the table with the Conception Bay Area Chamber. No previous Mayor has put a member of the Holyrood Town staff on the board of the Conception Bay Area Chamber, however, in quickly reviewing the by-laws of the organization I found that we have had this option for more than 5-years, so I ask

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myself; why did we not do this? One of my first initiatives if elected Mayor will be to immediately designate a municipal representation for this board, I see it being an amazing opportunity for our town to not only be aware of economic development in the area but also to be able to aid in crafting a strategy to move our communities forward.