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I am originally from Parkers Cove on the Burin Peninsula, but have lived in Paradise for the last 20 years, where my wife, Jennifer, and I have raised both of our kids.

I graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland with a Bachelor of Commerce (co-op) and a Bachelor of Arts (French major). I have also completed certificate programs in human resource management, public sector leadership and management development and social media and e-marketing.

For the last 15 years, I have worked as a Communications professional in the federal public service in internal and corporate communications, media relations and web management. I am currently the supervisor for the Canadian Coast Guard national web presence. Prior to joining the federal public service, I was the first provincial executive director of Canadian Parents for French, a role I held for nearly seven years.

I believe volunteerism is an integral component to community development and engagement. I completed my first significant volunteer achievement in 1991 by cycling across Newfoundland to raise funds and awareness for the construction of a new cancer care facility in St. John's.

For the last 13 years, I have been an active volunteer with the Paradise Soccer Club (PSC). I started as a coach in the House League program as well as the All-Star Program before joining the PSC Board of Directors in 2009. I have served in multiple roles on the Board including vice-chair, director of administration and senior player/ teams director and currently as its director of community relations and member of the PSC Community Relations and Infrastructure Committee. I also served as chair of the SunSplash Youth Soccer Tournament for five years from 2015-2019. During this time, the tournament grew immensely from about 25 teams to nearly 70 teams making it one of the largest youth soccer tournaments in Atlantic Canada. In 2019, I was proud to be nominated as the Town of Paradise Volunteer of the Year for my volunteer work with PSC.

I have been involved in several other volunteer capacities as well. I am currently the treasurer and director on the Canadian Parents for French (CPF) National Board. I just completed two terms as the CPF-NL provincial president and have also served as chair of the CPF Council of Presidents as well as on many committees and working groups.

I am currently the chair of the Mount Pearl Senior High School Council, parent representative on the Hazelwood Elementary School Council and a board member with the Shallaway Youth Choir. I also served as a parent representative on the Mount Pearl Intermediate School Council.

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

The business community plays a significant role in municipal growth and success. As such, we need to ensure that there's an effective government structure in place that supports the business community in Paradise. Whether that's zoning regulations, fee structures or tax policies, we need to continuously review these government structures to ensure they are comparative to and competitive with other towns in the area. In recent years, some governments have incorporated a 1-for-1 rule whereby one new regulation is offset by eliminating an old one. This ensures that regulations remain current and reflects the needs of the greater community.

We also need to give citizens and businesses more opportunities to provide input on the development of regulations and policies that impact the business community. I have worked in the field of communications for more than 15 years and I understand the value and importance of keeping people informed and engaged. Frequent communication improves decision making, public confidence, accountability and transparency. My goal is to develop and implement a community engagement plan so that people can understand the views of all stakeholders so that we can all work together to make Paradise a great place to live, work and play.

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

To truly help businesses recover and grow, a municipality must first understand the emotional fallout of the pandemic. It has caused widespread challenges and the impacts will be felt for the foreseeable future. It will be important to engage the business community in the Town of Paradise to learn first-hand about the impact the pandemic has caused and to seek their input on how they feel the town can help them recover and grow.

The Town of Paradise currently offers initiatives to support the business sector. There is great value in continuing these initiatives such as the extension of payment plans for business tax and the reduction of the infrastructure improvement fee.

The pandemic's effect has made buying local more important than ever and the Town of Paradise needs to continue to promote this campaign. Buying local not only positively impacts local businesses, but it also provides many economic benefits to the community. Buying local helps create jobs, contributes to improved infrastructure and helps improve our social and economic well-being.

Small Business Week is October 17-23. The importance of promoting celebrations such as Small Business Week now and in the future is more important than ever. Municipalities can help with this promotion by arranging forums to discuss how we can work together to innovate and help our small businesses evolve from the pandemic and grow stronger than ever.³ What are you, as an elected official going to do to help attract investors and new businesses to the area?

The Town of Paradise is well-positioned and strategically located to attract new businesses to the area. We need to continue to highlight its proximity to major transportation hubs, including adjacency to major highways and quick and easy access to an international airport, marine infrastructure and shipping ports. There's a significant amount of land for development for both residential and business growth in Paradise and we need to capitalize on this to attract investors and businesses.

It is home to a young, well-educated and growing population that is eager to work, shop and dine within the community. This bodes well for the future development and success of the retail sector in the town.

The town has five schools. Many of them are recently constructed and all have both English and French Immersion programs. In the 2020-2021 school year nearly 25% (or more than 1,300) of school-aged kids from Paradise were enrolled in French Immersion. This positions the town well for the attraction of business and industry that relies on a bilingual workforce.

We need to continue to promote the town as a place that is open for business and provide the necessary incentives to attract new investors and businesses that help diversify the local economy. We also need to continue to develop and promote a downtown or central core area of the town where the people of Paradise go to work, play, shop and dine.

We need to ensure that there's an effective government structure in place that supports the growth of the current business community in Paradise and the attraction of new businesses to the town. This includes the continuous review of zoning regulations, fee structures and tax policies to ensure they are comparative to and competitive with other towns in the area.

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?

As towns continue to develop, the impact of climate change on infrastructure and human wellness must be considered. The expansion of public transit and a greater focus on carpooling must be considered. We need to ensure that car charging stations are easily accessible and more readily available, including at shopping areas within the town.

There needs to be a comprehensive review of town buildings and property to ensure they are as energy efficient as possible. We need to conduct a thorough review of our network of culverts under our roadways to ensure they are able to handle water runoff from the ever increasing significant storm systems that are passing through the area.

The town must continue to have an open dialogue with provincial and federal governments to negotiate partnerships to offset the costs for water and sewer upgrades, new lift stations and water towers and road improvements.

Development in the town needs to take a more strategic approach with climate change in mind. Natural vegetation should remain undisturbed as much as possible with the goal of keeping Paradise's nature as natural as possible.

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

It is extremely important to support and promote groups that lead to the success of our business community. Our Chamber of Commerce is at the top of that list. A successful business community leads to a successful community overall. Businesses are vitally important for the support it provides the volunteer community through sponsorships and donations. Our local Chamber of Commerce and the businesses it supports helps create jobs, contributes to improved infrastructure and helps improve our social and economic well-being.