

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

***The biggest and best way to support business in the community is to shop local. It's a hashtag I often use on my Social Media platforms.***

***I'm not sure what constitutes 'red tape' for businesses but I do know that permit requests for citizens are taking inordinate periods of time to process or reply on. If it is a similar thing for businesses, than this has to be changed. It's just not sensible to have people, or businesses, in limbo for long periods of time.***

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

***While none of us was prepared for the pandemic, it was especially hard on local business. Some local business did very well (I'm thinking about grocery stores especially) while others floundered and still others had to shutter. It's never a good thing when a business in our Town closes.***

***In order for businesses to recover and grow, and subsequently help the Town's economic recovery, I think the Town could and should be flexible with tax and fee payment deadlines. Perhaps even actively reduce some costs for business owners.***

***I propose a big, well-advertised one day event that focuses on encouraging people to BUY LOCAL; this could be an annual event. We would encourage all local businesses to participate in booth-type information hubs, we would hold them in various places around the Town, (ie: retirement home parking lots, Topsail Beach, etc) to showcase all of CBS.***

***I also think, because my campaign is mostly on-line, the Town of Conception Bay South can support local business by adding a LOCAL BUSINESS link on their website, to showcase our Business Community. Every click would bring you to a business of your choosing.***

What are you, as an elected official, going to do to help attract investors and new business to the area?

***With 130 acres of developable land, The Gateway is an asset to the Town. It has been stalled for approximately 10 years and needs reinvigorating. I think we need a hotel,***

***the draw for which would be 'back to nature', with conference rooms of varying sizes to accommodate annual or biannual conventions, weddings, etc; an RV park; an Arts and Culture Hub, complete with an Art Gallery where artists can show off their talents and others can learn. We could advertise to other Municipalities, classes in pottery, sculpting, film making for examples. The Hub would be a place with a theatre for actors and actresses, musical performances; a place for people to learn with ongoing classes. We could have Seniors nights, Teen nights. Endless possibilities.***

***People are asking me at the doors, if we are getting Walmart or Canadian Tire in our Town. I would love to be able to deliver on those staples of a growing town. CBS is in desperate need of a sit down BREAKFAST restaurant. Not the kind that opens for 10 am... the 6 am to 2 pm kind!***

***As a New Councillor, I would seek public engagement, the expertise of our C of C and help formulate a plan for attraction and retention of business in our Town. Advertise, Advertise, Advertise! Hold a contest for Teens/Young Adults to get involved and video what a great place CBS is to do business. Everyone is a videographer/director/producer now with technology! No publicity is bad publicity.***

***PS: I've recently learned that The Gateway tenants have covenants in place with the Town which would/could limit potential tenants and preclude some growth possibilities. It's also disheartening that the covenant precludes local businesses from growing at The Gateway. Obviously, these documents need to be reviewed before further expansion.***

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

***With respect to the impacts of climate change, I see our Town has already installed some charging stations and likely have changed out lighting to more efficient, environmentally sound substitutes. I think if we adopt applicable energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions, we could educate and perhaps provide funding for citizens who want to be environmental stewards and who want to start making a difference in our Community.***

***I would like to see a (seasonal) Bike Drop in various locations around our Town (of course, would have to coincide with bike lane implementation). This would consist of 'rentable' bikes (nominal fee, processed on cell phone, or swipe card), painted Town colours, and 'rented' by patrons who wish to avail. The Town would be responsible for***

***regular maintenance of bicycles. They could drop the bikes off at a different location than pick up. Small actions lead to big benefits for the Town and environment.***

***Our Depot has old, outdated, tractors, trucks, etc., that need major servicing and repairs and some are no longer in use. It's time we looked at new equipment that falls within Emissions Standards of Canada.***

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

***The Chamber of Commerce is a valuable asset to the Town of Conception Bay South. As a group of professionals, they work continuously, promoting interest in local business, and local business possibilities, for the growth of our Town. The Chamber of Commerce creates an environment where businesses prosper and our Town needs a bigger business base. The Gateway is acres and acres of land, ready to be developed. With public engagement and working with the C of C, would no longer be the 'bedroom community' of St. John's! CBS is the place to BE!***