



Alan Macdonald

FOR COUNCIL

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STRONG LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGING TIMES

Nanaimo is one of Vancouver Island's most desirable communities and positioned to be one of Canada's premiere mid-size cities. We're already recognized as one of Canada's top five fastest-growing cities!

This growth could undo the livability we all wish for as increasing crime and social disorder becomes a sad new reality. While we're certainly faced with new and evolving social and economic challenges, we must not lose hope. This is a time to look for leadership to help us band together and concentrate our energy on solutions.

The City of Nanaimo has taken steps to address the problems associated with social disorder, but more is needed. We need to refocus our energy on strengthening provincial and federal partnerships to support home-grown efforts to solve these problems creatively.

As an executive in corporate and government relations for twenty years, I have successfully achieved social and community development goals in housing, infrastructure, mental health, social services, community policing, and economic development initiatives. I have secured financial and legislative commitments from the Provincial and Federal governments in my work—experience that can be leveraged to enhance relationships between Council and senior levels of government.

LIVABILITY

I support the plan for investment in improvements in our parks and at our sports facilities. I support formation of a local sports council. I would like to bring the waterfront walkway discussion back to the table as an attraction for locals and visitors alike. I support the Indigenous management of Saysutshun (Newcastle Island) as an important cultural attraction. Infrastructure developments in demand must consider accessibility, sustainability and our long-term community attraction goals.

SAFE STREETS

Community safety is imperative, as is our personal perception of it. My focus will be on securing addiction services, integrative mental health initiatives, supportive housing, programs to prevent homelessness, enhancing neighbourhood safety, and targeted policing on growing crime occurrences. Supports for seniors is high on my list of priorities. These all demand the skills and experience of someone with a record of negotiating with senior governments.

HOUSING

Affordable housing for all citizens including fixed-income seniors, young families, and those returning to market housing should be a priority. We need to discuss the fact that the feds have the resources, the province holds responsibility and the municipality has to deal with the consequences! To succeed in building housing for a sustainable community we need to ensure timely processing for building permits, and accept gentle densification, mixed housing and other progressive housing alternatives.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Nanaimo has enormous economic potential in sectors like education, health care, government services, and the service industry. We need to support our University to facilitate its growth, continue to encourage government to drive expansion of services at NRGH to tertiary care, expand our health care campus surrounding the hospital, and engage in finding solutions to our health professionals shortage crisis. Nanaimo's economic development expansion must consider our foundations in order to expand our commercial tax base and 'share the load'.

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OUR GREATEST ASSET IS OUR PEOPLE

I have lived and worked in Nanaimo for over thirty years. I was raised in a small-enterprise family inspiring me to run my own business, so I am clearly a champion for small business.

Strengthening our local economy means keeping a focus on the service sector – local people in tourism, hospitality, retail, blue collar, and health-care front-line workers – the heart of our economy. Retaining the foundations of our business community is the priority. Targeting future growth on creating economic opportunities to attract entrepreneurs and investors to Nanaimo to grow our tax base is my major goal.

Currently Associate Executive Director with Kwumut Lelum, I pride myself as a collaborative leader. With over twenty years of executive experience, I am a seasoned public servant who builds inclusive partnerships through innovative solutions.

I'm also an active community volunteer. As a volunteer hockey coach, President of Salish Storm Hockey Association, Director with Kidsport and the newly emerging Mid-Island Sports Council I have experienced first-hand the value of 'giving back' by organizing sports activities for children, youth, and families.

Alan, along with his loving wife Dayna, are proud parents and enjoy spending time with family, friends, and their two dogs.



My vision, drive, and experience will help Nanaimo become the safe, productive and sustainable community it can be.

VOTE OCTOBER 15TH