

Respondent



18

Anonymous



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Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

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Cassi Hider - City of Medicine Hat Council Candidate

2. What active role have you played to improve our community prior to running for council/mayor?

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I am honored to say that I currently operate the new Ronald McDonald House in Medicine Hat. I am inspired daily by the families we are able to support. "Family is Medicine" & I truly believe supporting families with sick children in the MHRH, is a huge way to improve our community.

3. What initiatives would you propose to improve tourism, investment attraction and development to our municipality and region and support business recovery during/after the pandemic? *

Working with Jace Anderson would be the first & best place to start to look for improving our tourism. Jace has done an amazing work to promote this city & all it has to offer. Development & Investments for our own municipality is an enormous undertaking. I would love the opportunity to work with organizations to bring businesses to Medicine Hat. Not only to the city, but surrounding community.

We need to collaborate & engage with our surrounding area & understand how we could work together to achieve the best result for everyone. The pandemic has been financially crippling to many businesses. we need to find a way to assist businesses, perhaps with qualifying for grants or funding on a provincial level, or tax break incentives for our local businesses. We need to support our local people who have chosen to set up shop in our city.

4. In Medicine Hat, businesses pay a higher proportion of property taxes compared to the residential sector. Medicine Hat's tax gap of 2.35% is one of the highest in Alberta. What is your position on the current approach to taxation and your thoughts on potential strategies to narrow this gap?

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Taxation in any municipality is a touchy subject for both residents & business owners. That being said taxes are crucial to fund, police & fire protection, road maintenance & snow removal, parks & swimming pools, public transit & utility infrastructure. Municipalities are different & assign tax burden with the local landscape in mind. "The tax burden is set up by municipalities based on their unique make up of their assessment base, with bedroom communities obviously differing from more industrial municipalities." I would like the opportunity to learn & understand better, why we have this gap, & is there something that we could do to support the business community.

5. If elected, what specific steps would you take to encourage & promote entrepreneurship within the region?

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Encouraging & promoting entrepreneurship is a crucial part of my platform. We need as a municipal government, work with businesses, organizations or individuals that want to bring their business to our community. We need to secure businesses to our wonderful city so our residents are able to find meaningful employment. Businesses, whether large or small, local or corporate, have chosen to set up "shop" here & we need to maintain & ensure they are all well looked after.

6. What is your stance on COVID-19 related laws that mandate requirements, including masks and vaccine passports?

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Covid 19 has forever changed our world. It has damaged lives & crushed the economy. It is a world I never thought I would be witness too, but here I am. As far as Covid 19 related implementations or laws, such as mandated masks or vaccine passports, that should be governed by our provincial government.

7. What is your plan for publicly-funded services (examples would include Medicine Hat Public Library, power plant, facilities) if elected?

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We are so fortunate to have wonderful access to many publicly-funded services in Medicine Hat. We have a beautiful public library, that allows our citizens access to books, media & services to families & children. I am a strong believer that children who start their journey in life with a love for reading, creates little individuals who become wonderful thinkers. Children that read only benefits their future & allowing them to become "well rounded" human beings.

8. How important is it for our region to have a local Community College? What specific steps could the municipality do to work better with Medicine Hat College to provide ongoing opportunities for future learners?

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Medicine Hat is a wonderful community in so many ways. We currently are home to the Medicine Hat College, which offers many diploma & a hand full of degree programs. For young adults graduating from one of our four high schools, it allows them to work on their post secondary education & be able to stay in their own community. It is a great transition for many young adults who want to go on to a post secondary institute, but still have the familiarity of their own city. Having MHC enhances our community & residents of this city. The students that graduate from the nursing program or the education program, has the opportunity to make their career in

the community that they call home.

9. How will you attract newcomers to the district and address the needs for a skilled workforce? *

"Newcomers" to the district & meaningful employment is a huge part of my platform. Medicine Hat is a wonderful community with many amazing attributes that would be a great place for anyone to live & thrive. We need to attract & retain new companies to Medicine Hat that will provide meaningful employment for residents & attract new residents with wonderful employment opportunities. We also need to be aware & provide incentives to companies, local businesses that have made the decision to make Medicine Hat their home. From local businesses to huge companies such as CF, Methanex, Cancarb, Goodyear & CP Rail, they have chosen to make Medicine Hat their home for business. I would truly enjoy the opportunity to work with a group of people that recruiting businesses to our city is their speciality.

10. What is your stance on the importance of mental health & wellness support in our region? What ideas, implementations, and initiatives would you put forward to improve the overall mental health & wellbeing of our community?

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Over the past 20 plus months, it has been a time an unimaginable time of loss, & extremely challenging to navigate through a very uncertain world. During this time mental health & wellness has been tested to the maximum. People are suffering in silence & we are losing many lives to suicide. We can do better as a society & we can do better as a community. We need to be there for individuals & families who are battling with mental illness & wellness. In our community, we do have a few avenues of supports for mental health & wellness. That being said, we need to have faster access to services that we do provide in our community. When people are hurting or suffering from mental health, there needs to be immediate access to supports, so people do not fall between the cracks of our current system. I would like to engage with our current supports we currently have within our community & work alongside with them to see what can be done as far as timelines for support.

11. How will you further diversity and inclusion initiatives in our region, as it relates to each of the pillars in the Chamber's Vote Prosperity Platform: <https://www.medicinehatchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/> (<https://www.medicinehatchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/>)

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Diversity & inclusion as it relates to the Chamber Vote Prosperity: * INNOVATION & COMPETITIVE STRATEGY- we need to be more adaptable & open to keeping residences here diverse when bringing businesses to our community. - education needs to have diversity & inclusivity, it will only improve our current educational curriculum. *INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT- our city is working hard as a municipal government, making sure people are informed & have an opportunity to voice their concerns about current existing infrastructure & what they desire in their community. *IMAGE & BRANDING- Diversity & inclusion will play a crucial role moving forward with image & branding of our city. Working on a "healthy, vibrant future" is what I truly want to be a part of so we are able to attract newcomers & tourist to our city. *WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT- work alongside Medicine Hat College to open up avenues for businesses facing hiring challenges. -promote our community as a place to start your career, rather than a retirement community. I am a strong believer in meaningful employment & creating an appealing community for a diverse population. *BUSINESS & FINANCIAL SUPPORT- as a possible representative of municipality, I would like to be available to individuals & businesses, whether new or existing to assist in guiding everyone during a very challenging financial time.

12. On a municipal level, how do you intend to address climate change and pollution?

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Climate change & pollution is a global matter. That being said, on a municipal level we need to continue to with our recycling programs & be open to possibly the different ways as a municipality we could be "greener." Residents have access now to not only garbage bins & composting for our yard waste, but we have blue bins to encourage all of us to do our part for our world.

13. What strategies will you use to communicate and engage with the community and remain accountable to the citizens?

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It is imperative that I stay current, active & engaged with the community & its residents. I will encourage residents to attend City Council meetings & I would truly value "Town Hall" meetings when our community feels that there are issue that need to be heard. A safe space where they feel heard. Social Media, even though it might not be the most positive platform, will keep residents up to date with current city events.

14. Are there any other issues you wish to address or highlight that were not mentioned in the questions above?

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No, but thank you for allowing this opportunity for all of the candidates to make sure their voice has been heard. Thank you to the Medicine Hat Chamber of Commerce for all their efforts on this platform & putting all this together. Good Luck to each of my fellow candidates.