

Respondent

< 16 Anonymous >

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Time to complete

1. Please enter your full name and municipality.

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Larry Leipert, Town of Redcliff

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

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My wife and myself have operated Leipert Plumbing and Heating Ltd. since 1974, our children and grandson are now involved in the business. In the 1970's we operated Redcliff News and Tobacco mostly selling pop next to the Government Liquor Store. In the 1980's and 1990's we were involve in The Gordon Memorial Church for many years (on the executive). We were involved in minor hockey (coaching, on the executive and running the concession) as well as minor base ball for many years. We bought the Government Liquor Store in the late 1990's and operated Redcliff Liquor Store Ltd. until 2006 when we sold it to a National Chain. In 2007 we built and operated Redcliff Mini Storage until 2019 when we sold it to a National Chain. Over the years we have been involved in land development and rentals. During the last 8 years I have been on Redcliff Town Council.

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? \*

Keeping an up to date web site is crucial. Redcliff has invested in developing advertising brochures and videos which can be used at different events to attract interest in our community.

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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There is a tax gap in Redcliff as well. The commercial and industrial land generates more tax revenue than residential properties. A stable commercial and industrial base is very desirable for the stability of the Town. If possible I would like to keep the status quo.

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

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Provide a progressive, inclusive, environment which is affordable and attracts people to this area.

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

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Covid-19 is real, serious and very detrimental to our community and life style. I would follow all the recommendations set out by the Health Authority.

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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Keep our public funded services.

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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The Community College is extremely important. Have a good dialogue with The College and work together to improve local learning opportunities.

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

Newcomers will likely be attracted by employment opportunities. We will have to create an environment that will be a place job growth will thrive. A place where opportunity will locate there ventures.

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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The stress of the past two years has taken its toll on everything. We need to attract more mental health professionals to this area. It is always a good idea to be kind and understanding to other people.

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.medicinehatchchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/> (<https://www.medicinehatchchamber.com/voteprosperity2021/>)

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Diversity will be successful when all stake holders work together to build a strong community.

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

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I would like to see a focus on hydrogen technologies, carbon capture utilizing the natural resources we have in abundance. I would also like to see mitigation of climate change in the form of ensuring a supply of water in our area during drought and low South Saskatchewan river flows.

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

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In person, phone, fax, email and Facebook.

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

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The lack of funding from Federal and Provincial governments. The Town of Redcliff needs additional sewer capacity. Redcliff and area need an adequate supply of water during draught and low river flow.