



**RESPONSES FROM MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES  
Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay 2025 Municipal Election**

**Edward Blake-Rudkowski – Candidate for Mayor**

**Q: As a candidate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, what are your three main priorities?**

(1) Compile the "ask list" required to negotiate a capacity agreement between the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the Gull Island/Churchill Falls project proponents, Consultations with all our stakeholders must begin IMMEDIATELY! Input will be gathered from social service agencies, housing agencies, from our business community etc. It is critical that these voices span the entire cross section of our citizens' age spectrum, cultural background, and socio-economic circumstance.

(2) To reverse the perception that Happy Valley-Goose Bay is a bad place to live. There is an ongoing narrative, especially on social media, that our community is crime ridden and devoid of any redeeming characteristics. This onslaught of negativity has an inevitable negative impact on the mental health of our residents. A thoughtful analysis of crime statistics shows that our crime rates are on par with similar towns elsewhere. Moreover, very few communities have the wealth of infrastructure, social supports, and volunteer organizations found here.

(3) Develop, in concert with all relevant community groups, a comprehensive housing plan for Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This housing plan must cover all areas of need including seniors housing and housing for our vulnerable citizens. The housing market is already tight and I expect the Gull Island development to put upward pressure on rents and downward pressure on already tight vacancy rates.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen the municipality's relationship with local non-profits, and support their sustainability and capacity to deliver essential community services?**

Town Council will partner with our non-profit community by asking "What can we do to support your efforts?". Council support can take the form of in-kind assistance, letters of support for funding applications or, budget allowing, direct financial

contributions. Council must recognize that these groups are a valuable community resource.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen your relationship with local businesses, and commit to engaging with and supporting the business community?**

I participate in most LNCC activities through the membership of Them Days (who's board I chair). I recognize that all organizations, including non-profits, can benefit from the relationships established and nourished at LNCC events. I believe my attendance record over the past several years supports this philosophy.

**Q: What is your position on the MOU between NL Hydro and Hydro-Quebec? As discussions around the Gull Island development move forward, how will you ensure that community voices are meaningfully heard and that decisions reflect residents' long-term environmental, cultural, and gender equity considerations?**

The MOU is problematic in that it does not contain a capacity agreement which outlines safeguards, compensations, or participations for the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The Muskrat Falls Project was completed without such an agreement and the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay was never compensated for the usage of its infrastructure. This cannot be allowed to happen again and is even more critical given the magnitude of the Gull Island Project.

An assertive and informed voice, backed by a coalition of community groups is our best vehicle to ensure the protections of those most at risk. The views of the collective voice must come from consultations with all corners of our town including from those most at risk from rising prices and the introduction of more social upheaval.

**Q: What specific actions or partnerships will you advocate for to provide meaningful, long-term support to individuals who are chronically homeless in our community with attention to the unique needs of Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups?**

I will organize a summit which brings together those local groups who interact with or support our vulnerable populations. The list of invited groups includes, but is not limited to, the RCMP, Libra House, Mokami Status of Women, crown prosecutors' office, housing coalition, LNCC, Nunatsiavut Government, Innu Nation, NCC, the Journey Project etc. **I am not an expert in this field but I do know those who have the appropriate know-how and background.** It is essential that the council combat misinformation and make informed decisions which are based upon facts.

**Q: In what ways do you see your role as a municipal leader being influential in driving positive change, and how will you ensure your voice represents the diverse needs and values of our town?**

The mayor sets the tone for council. The mayor's attitude, demeanour, and even body language is contagious and impact the vibe of the community. I believe that a **can-do attitude interspersed with compassion and understanding** can be tremendous forces for positive change in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The negativity around Happy Valley-Goose Bay must be stopped and indeed reversed. That is essential for the mental well-being of our citizens and is required to help attract the professionals the town relies upon (teachers, doctors etc.)

## **Bert Pomeroy – Candidate for Mayor**

### **Priorities:**

**Q: As a candidate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, what are your three main priorities?**

1. **Putting our community** first by making sure we are fully represented and respected in all major developments that impact our town, hydro and beyond, so that we reap real, lasting benefits. We cannot afford to be sidelined again like we were with Muskrat Falls.
2. **Building for the future** by investing in infrastructure (new state-of-the-art fire station and a “town-owned” municipal depot, and upgrades to water and sewer services, roads, trails and public spaces and recreation facilities.)
3. **Strengthening collaboration and relationships** with key regional stakeholders like 5 Wing Goose Bay, the Goose Bay Airport Corporation, the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce, and Destination Labrador, while also supporting non-profits, social enterprises, and volunteer groups, including the Labrador Friendship Centre, Libra House, the Housing and Homeless Coalition, and others; and advocating to relevant authorities for improved public safety and meaningful and comprehensive supports for those experiencing mental health and addictions.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen the municipality’s relationship with local non-profits, and support their sustainability and capacity to deliver essential community services?**

I will strive to ensure there is a collaborative and respectful partnership with non-profits, charities, volunteer organizations, and community groups - the true heart and soul of our town. Their contributions are essential to the vitality of our community, and I believe they deserve meaningful support, not just our thanks.

During my time on Council, and in my personal life, I've consistently supported non-profits, volunteer organizations, charities, and social enterprises. I believe any group that helps our community, provides essential services, or builds and maintains infrastructure that makes our town better deserves our full support - not unnecessary financial burdens. These organizations create safe spaces, and provide opportunities for recreation, healing, and connection. Their work strengthens our community in ways that go far beyond dollars and cents. They deserve our respect and our support.

As Mayor, and with the support of Council, I will work to:

- Establish a Non-Profit and Volunteer Advisory Committee to provide advice, share ideas, and raise concerns with Council and town staff so that we can work together for the betterment of our community; and
- Create a dedicated donation fund in the Town budget specifically for non-profits, registered charities, volunteer organizations and community groups. While we currently have a general donations fund open to all, these dedicated funds will help ensure that groups providing and supporting community activities and services (especially those facing financial barriers) can support one another. For example, when a volunteer user group hosts an event at the arena and needs support for things like parking attendants, another volunteer group might step in. A donation would help recognize and sustain both. Mutual support, regardless of the groups, deserves equal respect.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen your relationship with local businesses, and commit to engaging with and supporting the business community?**

When local businesses thrive, the whole town thrives. As Mayor, I will work to re-establish a strong partnership with the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce to promote and support local businesses. This collaboration is especially vital as we prepare for potential resource developments, such as hydro expansion on the Churchill River.

Local businesses should also be fully engaged when it comes to municipal planning, infrastructure decisions and economic development initiatives or strategies.

I will also advocate for a local-first procurement policy that prioritizes businesses based in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. This is especially critical when it comes to large-scale projects. It is important to ensure economic benefits flow directly to our community – not just go to outside interests.

Infrastructure and services are also key to business success. I will push for major upgrades to town infrastructure (including a new state-of-the-art fire hall, upgrades to roads, water and sewer, and enhanced public spaces). I'll advocate for expanded and new services and supports, especially in mental health and addictions and public safety, so that businesses can thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

**Q: What is your position on the MOU between NL Hydro and Hydro-Quebec? As discussions around the Gull Island development move forward, how will you ensure that community voices are meaningfully heard and that decisions reflect residents' long-term environmental, cultural, and gender equity considerations?**

The Memorandum of Understanding between Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec on future hydro development on the Churchill River is being labelled as historic, but history has shown that major deals made in distant boardrooms often leave our community behind.

If elected Mayor of Happy Valley–Goose Bay, I will not support any agreement that fails to deliver meaningful benefits to our town or lacks strong measures to mitigate the social and environmental impacts of large-scale resource developments.

We've already lived, and continue to live, through the consequences of being side-lined. The Muskrat Falls project brought a wave of disruption to our town, including:

- Housing shortages and rising rents;
- Overburdened health services;
- Increased domestic violence and abuse;
- Escalating mental health and addictions challenges; and
- A rise in crime that has strained resources and shaken our community.

The report of the Joint Panel Review of the Lower Churchill Hydroelectric Generation Project (2011) warned of these impacts and called for stronger mitigation, better planning, and community engagement. Those warnings were ignored, and our town continues to bear the cost.

We cannot allow those mistakes to be repeated.

As Mayor, and with Council's support, I will advocate for:

- Full implementation of the Joint Panel's recommendations;
- Major infrastructure upgrades – Happy Valley-Goose Bay should be a model community, not a cautionary tale;
- Expanded services for mental health, addictions, and domestic violence;
- Increased public safety so that we can walk our streets and trails, and live in our neighbourhoods without fear; and
- Strengthened municipal capacity to ensure our town office is equipped with the resources and expertise needed to manage development and growth and the associated impacts.

We must also ensure economic benefits reach local residents and businesses through:

- Employment and Job training;
- Gender equity in all aspects of so that women and gender-diverse individuals are not just included, but empowered to shape our future as a community;
- Local procurement; and

- Long-term economic diversification that puts our community first.

Ensuring our town is fully represented and respected in all major development decisions - hydro and beyond - is a moral obligation. Happy Valley–Goose Bay is more than a dot on the map. We are The Heart of Labrador, and it's time that every decision affecting our region reflects that truth. We need to be at the table, not looking through a restaurant window while others wine and dine and we're left holding the bill.

**Q: What specific actions or partnerships will you advocate for to provide meaningful, long-term support to individuals who are chronically homeless in our community with attention to the unique needs of Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups?**

Homelessness is a serious and growing concern. People are living without stable shelter for many different reasons. Every person deserves safety, dignity, and the support they need to rebuild their lives.

I will advocate for long-term solutions that reflect the realities of those experiencing homelessness, including:

- **More housing**, such as transitional and permanent supportive housing, developed in collaboration with the Labrador Friendship Centre, Libra House, Housing and Homeless Coalition, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing, and other key partners.
- Inclusive municipal planning and development that incorporates culturally-relevant and gender-responsive housing solutions designed to meet the diverse needs of our community.
- Improved and expanded mental health and addictions services, including access to comprehensive treatment options and ongoing supports for those facing complex challenges that will enable those experiencing homelessness to stabilize their lives, access the wraparound care they need maintain housing.
- Improved and expanded mental health and addictions services, including access to comprehensive treatment options and ongoing supports that will enable those experiencing homelessness to access the wraparound care they need, stabilize their lives, and to maintain housing.

**Q: In what ways do you see your role as a municipal leader being influential in driving positive change, and how will you ensure your voice represents the diverse needs and values of our town?**

As a lifelong resident of Happy Valley–Goose Bay, I've dedicated much of my personal and professional life to serving our community. With over a decade on Council, including four years as Deputy Mayor, and a career as a journalist and communications professional, I've built strong relationships over the years and have a deep

understanding of our community and region and challenges we face. I also know the opportunities that lie ahead, and the importance of seizing those opportunities.

As Mayor, I will use my proven-experience to help drive positive change by listening, engaging, and ensuring that every decision reflects the diverse needs and values of our town. My voice will always be grounded in respect, inclusion, and a commitment to building a stronger Happy Valley–Goose Bay.

## **Jackie Compton-Hobbs – Candidate for Councillor**

### **Priorities:**

My 3 main priorities as a town councillor of Happy Valley-Goose Bay are:

1. Public safety. The town has just hired a coordinator to develop a Community Safety Plan. The intention is to incorporate community safety and infrastructure with feedback from all community members. This is top priority for the town and for me personally. I'm a proud resident of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. I have lived here my whole life and have been very active in the community on many levels. I, like the rest of us, have noticed a shift in the community in the past several years. I have been working tirelessly behind the scenes on various committees and on the town council itself to address the concerns that have risen in our community. We all know that there are no easy solutions here. This is a sensitive matter, with human lives impacted on all sides. Moving forward, I want to continue that work and find a solution that works for everyone and does not jeopardize the safety of our community.
2. MOU between Labrador and Quebec. We need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Labrador and Quebec for the Gull Island project to ensure our town is fully prepared. Better planning and meaningful community engagement are essential, so we do not repeat the mistakes of Muskrat Falls, which negatively impacted Happy Valley-Goose Bay. We require major infrastructure upgrades and a formal capacity agreement from the government, ensuring that funding is provided to expand our services and accommodate the influx of people that the Gull Island project will bring.
3. Housing/Health Care. I have been a dedicated advocate for housing in our community, with a strong focus on expanding accessible and affordable options - particularly for our most vulnerable residents. One of my key priorities has been working to secure government funding for a much-needed personal care home in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. I have poured my heart and energy into advancing housing initiatives, and if re-elected to council, I will continue to make housing a top priority for the betterment of our community.

### **Engagement & Support:**

I have been deeply committed to supporting non-profits in our community for many years. I currently serve on the boards of several organizations, including the Mokami Status of Women Council, John Howard Society, Canadian Cancer Society, Community Accessibility Plan Committee, Provincial Government of NL Action Team, Provincial Advisory Women's Council, Labrador-Grenfell Health's Community Advisory Council, and Habitat for Humanity. In addition, I volunteer meaningfully with many other groups. Through this work, I have seen firsthand the vital role non-profits play and the importance of a strong, collaborative relationship between municipal council and community organizations.

These groups deserve more than words of gratitude. They deserve meaningful support. They provide essential services, create safe spaces, and strengthen our community. I have concerns with the recent non-profit policy that was put in place, and I would advocate for its removal. Instead, I believe we must work hand in hand with community volunteer groups to develop a new policy that reflects their input and meets the needs of all non-profits.

I believe a thriving business community is the backbone of a strong town. If re-elected, I will prioritize open communication and collaboration with local businesses by being accessible, listening to their concerns, and ensuring their voices are represented at the council table. I will advocate for policies that support small business growth, reduce unnecessary barriers, and encourage new investment in our town.

I also want to see stronger partnerships between council, local businesses, and community organizations. I want to see us all working together to create opportunities that benefit both residents and the business sector. Supporting local entrepreneurs, promoting "shop local" initiatives, and ensuring that businesses have the infrastructure and services they need to succeed will remain a key focus of mine. My commitment is to be a consistent ally for the business community and to work hard to ensure they feel valued and supported in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

### **Gull Island Development – Community-Centered Leadership:**

I strongly believe that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NL Hydro and Hydro Québec must include the voices and interests of Labrador communities. For the Gull Island project, better planning and genuine community engagement are essential so that we do not repeat the mistakes of Muskrat Falls, which placed an enormous strain on Happy Valley-Goose Bay without adequate preparation or support.

Our town requires significant infrastructure upgrades and a formal capacity agreement from government to ensure we have the resources to expand services and accommodate the influx of workers. Equally important, the MOU must respect the long-term environmental, cultural, and gender-equity impacts of such a project. This means listening to residents, Indigenous governments, and community organizations, and ensuring that local needs and concerns shape decision-making from the beginning. If elected, I will advocate for a transparent, inclusive process that puts our community first and ensures development benefits Labradorians, not just outside interests.

### **Support for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness:**

Addressing chronic homelessness requires more than short-term solutions. It requires long-term partnerships and investments. I will advocate for stronger collaboration between the municipal council, Indigenous governments, housing providers, health and social service agencies, and non-profits who are already doing vital frontline work.

Together, we can create wraparound supports that address not only housing, but also mental health, addictions, employment, and cultural needs.

For Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups, it is essential that supports are trauma-informed, culturally safe, and designed in consultation with those directly impacted. I will push for dedicated transitional and supportive housing options, alongside increased access to affordable housing units, so individuals are not left cycling through shelters or temporary accommodations.

Most importantly, I believe the municipality must be an active partner in advocating for provincial and federal funding to build sustainable, long-term solutions. No one in our community should be left without safe, stable housing, and I will continue to work to ensure that everyone has the supports they need to thrive.

### **Influence and Leadership for Community Betterment:**

If elected, this will be my fourth term on council, and I bring over 10 years of experience serving our community. Throughout my time on council, I have worked hard to be a strong, consistent voice for residents, and I will continue to do so. I see my role as a municipal leader as one of driving positive change by listening, collaborating, and advocating for the needs of all residents. Whether that's through improving infrastructure, supporting housing, or strengthening partnerships with community organizations and businesses.

To ensure my voice represents the diverse needs and values of our town, I will remain accessible, engage directly with residents, and seek input from a wide range of community members including Indigenous governments, youth, seniors, women, and other underrepresented groups. My goal is to ensure every decision we make at council reflects the community we serve and leaves a positive impact for future generations.

## **Tony Chubbs – Candidate for Councillor**

**Q: As a candidate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, what are your three main priorities?**

My three main priorities if elected to Town Council are as follows;

- Assuring our Town has representation on all oversight committees in major developments especially surrounding the Québec/NL MOU and associated Hydro projects to ensure an Impact and Benefits Agreement is in place for the Town to mitigate any negative impacts.

- Investment in Town Infrastructure through securing more Federal and Provincial Multi-Year Capital Works funding to lessen the tax burden on residents. Investing in Roads, Water and Sewer, a new Fire Station, affordable housing and maintenance of Town owned Facilities.
- Addressing concerns and engaging Provincial and Federal authorities around mental health, addictions, housing, and public safety.

**Engagement & Support:**

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen the municipality’s relationship with local non-profits, and support their sustainability and capacity to deliver essential community services?**

I plan on encouraging more collaboration with organizations like the Labrador Friendship Centre, the Housing Coalition, Libra House, SPCA, Labrador Hunting and Fishing Association Inc. (LHAFA), Amaruk Golf Club, Healthy Waters Labrador, the Grand River Snowmobile Club, YMCA, Pumpkin House and others that play a vital role in providing community supports and outdoor recreational opportunities. I will also strongly promote the continued advancement of accessibility issues and work in collaboration with the over 50 Club in our Town. As president of the LHAFA not for profit since its inception in 2011, I am thoroughly educated on and engaged in the major issues facing local not for profit organizations and collaborate with many of these organizations.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen your relationship with local businesses, and commit to engaging with and supporting the business community?**

I am committed to working with the business community through engagement with the LNCC and to create Town policies that attract and retain skilled professionals, such as doctors, nurses, educators, lawyers and Town staff to our community. I would ensure that the Town would have a greater presence at business events such as Expo Labrador where we can collaborate with the Business community and engage politicians in promoting the local business community.

**Gull Island Development – Community-Centered Leadership:**

**Q: What is your position on the MOU between NL Hydro and Hydro-Quebec? As discussions around the Gull Island development move forward, how will you ensure that community voices are meaningfully heard and that decisions reflect residents’ long-term environmental, cultural, and gender equity considerations?**

I am supportive of the upcoming projects surrounding the MOU between NL Hydro and Hydro-Quebec with the condition that there is a separate negotiated Impacts Benefit Agreement (IBA) with the Town of HVGB. As part of the 2013-17 Town Council, we were successful in negotiating an IBA for the Muskrat Falls Project for over \$1 Million

which at the time was the first IBA ever negotiated by the Town of HVGB. Although the Muskrat Falls IBA was financially inadequate considering the size and impacts of the Muskrat Falls project, we were able to obtain funding for a new Fire Truck and emergency services equipment, new pavement on Hamilton River Road, and other Town investment. I would use the knowledge and experience gained through the Muskrat Falls IBA to negotiate a financially equitable IBA for the upcoming Hydro megaprojects.

I am committed to assuring that our Town has representation on all oversight committees in major developments especially surrounding the Québec/NL MOU and associated Hydro projects to ensure an Impact and Benefits Agreement is in place for the Town to mitigate any negative impacts of these projects and that the Town and the Business community benefit appropriately.

**Support for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness:**

**Q: What specific actions or partnerships will you advocate for to provide meaningful, long-term support to individuals who are chronically homeless in our community with attention to the unique needs of Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups?**

I would build stronger alliances and collaboration with organizations like the Labrador Friendship Centre, the Housing Coalition, Libra House, the Labrador Health Center, the RCMP, the Salvation Army and others that play a vital role in providing community supports. I would advocate for an addiction's treatment center for the Lake Melville region. I would also build stronger relationships between the Town and the Nunatsiavut Government, Innu Nation and NunatuKavut Community Council around the unique needs of Indigenous groups specifically around addictions and the transient, homeless population in the Lake Melville area.

**Influence and Leadership for Community Betterment:**

**Q: In what ways do you see your role as a municipal leader being influential in driving positive change, and how will you ensure your voice represents the diverse needs and values of our town?**

As a long-term resident of 35 years and a lifelong volunteer I have always contributed to the diverse needs of our town from coaching children's sports and recreation groups (Shriner's minor soccer, Stars Basketball league, Youth Shooting Programs etc.). As President of the Labrador Hunting and Fishing Association we have contributed to the community through providing the financial resources for the bridge and culverts at the Birch Island Conservation area for the health and recreation benefit of our residents, provided Birch Island Creek bank stabilization and brought nearly \$5 million of funding into our community to construct a Boat Launch, Shooting Range and Marina to attract and retain professionals to our community. These projects have enhanced the attractiveness of our community to both new residents and tourists.

I also have a well-established track record for speaking out on behalf of our community as an Executive member of the Goose Bay Airport Corporation, a past Council member (2013-2017), and President of the LHAFSA. I am also the Labrador representative on the Multi-material Stewardship Board and the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council, both organizations that have a mandate for the conservation and restoration of our natural environment.

## **Lori Dyson – Candidate for Councillor**

### **Q: As a candidate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, what are your three main priorities?**

It's difficult to narrow priorities down to just three, but the deplorable state of our Health Care, the Safety and security for our community, and the upcoming potential Gull Island development require immediate attention on so many levels. I think it is of utmost importance for the council to be fully engaged with the health authority in pushing to address the deplorable state of health care in Labrador. I have brought multiple issues to the attention of the health authority personally over the last 10 plus years, and frankly I have never been satisfied in their lack of action on all of them. I have registered numerous complaints (in excess of 40+) on behalf of patients (especially seniors and coastal residents who continue to experience unbelievable injustices, delays and mistreatment) who have reached out for advocacy as they felt nobody was listening, let alone helping. I continue to lobby for better access to healthcare on a regular and individual basis. Several weeks ago, I lodged a personal complaint regarding the zero confidentiality I experienced, which was no fault of the staff, but due to inadequate space at LGH. To this day, I continue to contact all levels of government on this issue and will push to have our local Labrador nurses and staff respected and treated more fairly. We are still losing so many medical professionals who were born and raised here and only wanted to give back to Labrador but have been forced to leave for a better quality of work/life balance. I have never and will never stop fighting for this. I've always fully supported the fight for enhanced mental health services and have personally driven patients to local appointments and crisis nurses as well as to other areas of the province to access services that are not readily available here. We not only need a full-time psychiatrist, but multiple professionals to work specifically in the area of mental health and addictions and we are losing professionals at the most alarming rate due to the burnout across the board in health care. This fight will never end until everyone stands up and demands to be heard.

I have experienced violence on my street, in front of my house, in public, everywhere. I've witnessed violence practically everywhere in town in the last 10+ years. We need more police action, more officers, more services, more accountability, and I know they are stretched beyond their reach and capabilities. The justice system is falling apart with the current catch-charge-release-catch again-charge again-release again practice that the authorities are allowing at the provincial and federal court level. The dire need

for supports and services is disheartening. I have no idea how this will change, I only know that it needs to, and I've been a huge advocate for anti-violence goals. I've sat for 20 years on the Violence Prevention Labrador board as a member as well as several years as chairperson (and I'm still a big supporter of all VPL's efforts). The struggles this community is experiencing directly related to the flaws and inadequacies in the justice system need to be addressed and the council must be involved to help advocate for what will keep our community and its residents safe.

We need to be united when it comes to every and any project, build, development here in HVGB and all of Labrador! We need to stand up and make companies accountable in hiring local skilled labour instead of bringing in workers from outside to perform work that can be done by Labrador residents. We've seen and continue to see that in the industry and we need to acknowledge that the mistakes that were made on past projects will not be repeated, if and when Gull Island comes to fruition. FULL STOP! We need to stand together and present a united voice! With the profits that these such projects will garner, they need to give back to Labrador so that we have the ability to acquire the medical equipment we desperately need, build the infrastructure that we are missing provide the needed services that we can't afford to offer! We can thrive if we work together and ensure that we are presenting a collective voice for everyone here. Political differences need to be put aside for the betterment of everyone and that's a daily mindset that we must take on collectively IMO.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen the municipality's relationship with local nonprofits, and support their sustainability and capacity to deliver essential community services?**

I have been a volunteer my entire life and was the original founder of Special Olympics back in 1988. I volunteer regularly with minor sports, school activities, senior's events, the trapline, the SPCA and whatever else happens locally. I have tirelessly fundraised, and still do, to help people travel to medical appointments and to acquire the supports patients have needed but had no medical coverage for. During my last term with council back in 2017, I fought (successfully) to initiate a mandatory plastic bag ban as well as a full curb-side recycling program (unsuccessfully). This is among my list of things I want to accomplish if I am elected. I donate regularly to every not-for-profit and feel that most residents do whatever they can to help as well. Even in today's tough financial climate, we are a giving community. That being said, large scale projects should be expected to give back to the communities they affect. I feel the HVGB Town Council should create a sustainable plan to see to it that projects that profit from Labrador resources, also be involved in a sponsorship program for local not-for-profit organizations that are instrumental in the success of our community.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen your relationship with local businesses, and commit to engaging with and supporting the business community?**

I would like to see a regular council session that invites local businesses, both large and small into a productive setting that ensures the town council are listening to their concerns and open to solutions that work for the advancement of the town overall.

**Q: What is your position on the MOU between NL Hydro and Hydro-Quebec? As discussions around the Gull Island development move forward, how will you ensure that community voices are meaningfully heard and that decisions reflect residents' long-term environmental, cultural, and gender equity considerations?**

On a personal level, I know how projects in Labrador in the past have been developed without the proper consultation and engagement with those more closely affected. We have seen the negative fall-out that projects create, but we have also seen the upside economically. We have been ignored on so many important issues by the decision makers but the shift is happening slowly. We have to ensure that Council is a voice at the table that will be heard, respected and consulted because we must have the best interests of the town and our residents at all times. On a professional level, I can guarantee you that I have seen this shift happening and will do what I can to continue to foster these great partnerships to ensure our residents are given the chances and the respect they deserve.

**Q: What specific actions or partnerships will you advocate for to provide meaningful, long-term support to individuals who are chronically homeless in our community with attention to the unique needs of Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups?**

My priority will always be SAFETY! Do I feel safe in my town all the time? No I do not! Do I think that things will change? I truly hope so! What is happening in our town is a crisis that is exacerbated by many factors, poverty, addictions, lack of housing, domestic violence, flaws in the justice system, and intergenerational trauma among the top issues that screams the need for accountability. Working collectively is the only approach that will garner change that is needed. We need only to look at what is finally happening with the unbelievable success of the seniors housing development that is a result of so much hard work and advocacy over the past number of years. As this project progresses into more phases, it must be the precedent that is set for other developments and initiatives that the town in other areas as well. Kudos to Jackie for setting this bar high and not taking no for an answer!

**Q: In what ways do you see your role as a municipal leader being influential in driving positive change, and how will you ensure your voice represents the diverse needs and values of our town?**

I will always be a voice that will represent the residents and their needs. We can thrive and make a better future for the entire community. I have always been a team player who is also not afraid to speak up. I will continue to do that if I am elected to council. We have the ability to determine our own destiny if we stand up and work together! It's important to bring stakeholders into a room that is respectful and accommodating, and it's more important to make sure they want to stay, be heard, and create solutions.

## **Denise Rumbolt – Candidate for Councillor**

**Q: As a candidate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, what are your three main priorities?**

My three top priorities are the maintenance and repair of our aging infrastructure, ensuring financial accountability and up-to-date audits and developing a strategy to attract and retain people to our community.

As everyone is aware our existing water and sewer pipes have been in place since the early days of our towns establishment. I liken this to owning an old vehicle. You can only do so much maintenance and repair before you have to consider replacement. Replacing the town's water and sewer lines will be a huge task, one that can't happen overnight but that must be planned for. To quote one of our town's knowledgeable staff members, everyone forgets about water and sewer until they turn on the tap and nothing comes out or they flush and nothing goes down. We need to be proactive so that we don't need to be reactive. Also in the aging infrastructure is our landfill which is nearing its end of usability and our fire hall which was built in the early 1980's and is in desperate need of replacement.

When the 13th council was first elected, we learned that the town was seriously behind in its audits, resulting in the loss of Municipal operating grants, the inability to borrow funds and loss of confidence from Financial Institutions, not to mention its residents. This cannot happen again. I would like to be a part of a council who ensures that no funding or revenue opportunity is lost due to lack of fiduciary responsibility.

Happy Valley Goose Bay has always had a diverse population, made up of multi-generational residents like myself and people who have chosen to make this their home. I would like to see our town develop a program, similar to a "welcome wagon" initiative where the town offers a comprehensive package to people who are new to the area or considering moving in. Something that highlights the available employment opportunities, volunteer opportunities, social clubs and recreation facilities. Additionally, I think our town should host an annual (maybe late September) symposium or town fair, with booths and displays to promote awareness of some of the fabulous hidden gems in our community. This could help attract new residents and engage those who are already here.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen the municipality's relationship with local non-profits, and support their sustainability and capacity to deliver essential community services?**

As I previously stated, I think our town needs to bring awareness to its residents of the non-profit organizations that exist in our community. I think we have lots of residents who aren't even aware of some of these groups, what they do, how they operate and what their contributions are to the town. To support their sustainability and capacity we need to continue to provide letters of support for funding opportunities and encourage

all organizations to apply for our not-for-profit tax reduction program. I would also like the town to approach all not for profit organizations to request a seat at their board meetings for a member of council as an observer or an ex-officio board member.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen your relationship with local businesses, and commit to engaging with and supporting the business community?**

The town has recently hired new staff, notably a community development manager. I think that having someone in that position will be a huge asset to the town as they will be able to liaise with the business community and report back to council suggestions and feedback. I also think it's important for the town council to schedule regular meetings with the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce. I also think the town needs to be present at different community events, such as the community market, with information packages for those interested in starting home based or small businesses so that residents can understand the process well.

**Q: What is your position on the MOU between NL Hydro and Hydro-Quebec? As discussions around the Gull Island development move forward, how will you ensure that community voices are meaningfully heard and that decisions reflect residents' long-term environmental, cultural, and gender equity considerations?**

I can't say personally that I have a position on the MOU. I make decisions based on information and I don't feel that there is enough information released at this time for me, or the average citizen, to make a strong determination on the positive and negative of the agreement at this time. I will say that as a current sitting councillor I am very disappointed in the lack of communication with the Town staff and council from the Provincial Government. Despite numerous requests for meetings there has been little to no response. We have proven facts that show from the Muskrat Falls development that there is both a financial and social impact on our town with such a development and we must stand firm in the stance that nothing that impacts our community should occur without our resident's well-being at the forefront. These decisions should be made in the best interest of ALL residents, inclusive of all culture, gender, age or other characteristics.

**Q: What specific actions or partnerships will you advocate for to provide meaningful, long-term support to individuals who are chronically homeless in our community with attention to the unique needs of Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups?**

I will answer honestly that I had to look up the definition of chronically homeless. We live in a community where there are supports needed for many people experiencing housing challenges. Chronically homeless, as defined by the Government of Canada is persistent or long-term homelessness where people have been homeless for at least 180 days at some point over the course of a year (not necessarily consecutive days); and/or, recurrent episodes of homelessness over three years that total at least 18 months. In Happy Valley Goose Bay, we have some individuals that fit this definition.

We also have persons who are transiently homeless, those who are living in overcrowded or unsuitable housing situations, those who are in both short term and long-term shelters and other unique situations. The actions and partnerships taken will be challenging as a municipal government has limited resources and this is normally supported at the provincial and federal level. I will say that as a member of the 13th council we have always made ourselves available to meet with the powers that be, from the provincial housing minister and his employees, members of NL housing, representatives from the homelessness coalition and others. We have always listened and I will continue to do so. The Town of Happy Valley Goose Bay applied for and was awarded funding under a Federal rapid housing initiative which helped bring 16 new affordable housing units to our community. I would like to see us continue to apply for funds from programs such as this.

**Q: In what ways do you see your role as a municipal leader being influential in driving positive change, and how will you ensure your voice represents the diverse needs and values of our town?**

Love this for the final question! I strive to be a positive person. Nobody gets up every day to the birds chirping and the sun shining. Some days we wake up to fog or blizzards. I can't control everything around me but I can choose how I act / react. I try every day to be kind, to treat others how I would like to be treated and to act with respect and integrity. I can respectfully disagree with my colleagues in the council chamber. I have opinions and a voice but so does everyone else. Our council is designed to be made up of seven unique individuals, each with something valuable to bring to the table. Being a municipal official is hard work. It can be stressful; it is time consuming, and yet one of the most rewarding things I have ever been a part of. Driving positive change to me means working together for the common good. Our community is diverse, yes. I was born here, as were my parents before me. I am indigenous. I am female. I am a part of Gen X. The thing is, what makes me who I am doesn't mean I am made to only represent people who are like me. I can represent members of the LGBTQ2I+ community, newcomers to Canada, seniors and youth. I can represent all of the constituents of the Town of Happy Valley Goose Bay if I only take the time to listen to their diverse needs and values and advocate for those who need my voice to speak for them.

### **Todd Winters – Candidate for Councillor**

**Priorities:**

**Q: As a candidate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, what are your three main priorities?**

It's difficult to limit priorities to 3 as our Town faces many issues. As a Municipality, from my experience having served on the 13<sup>th</sup> Council, fundamental priorities outside of Fiduciary Responsibilities, meeting Water and Sewer needs and Municipal Services

such as snow clearing and agreements with its Union so that basic services are not disrupted that are by far the main priorities that all Councils must understand and should not be included in the list of 3 but understood. By limiting it to 3 priorities will exclude many issues that any individual running for council want to address and for me outside of what I have stated and listed as fundamental that anyone that runs for Council must understand and accept.

My list of the top three:

1. Gull Island Development- Any further discussions regarding this development must include members of the Town Council of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. There is a need for an Economic and Impact Agreement with the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

In-hindsight, the Muskrat Falls Development had very negative effects on our community and it cannot happen again. Considering the dollar figures being tossed around our Town needs its due.

2. Advocate for Labrador to have its Health Authority back- Labrador needs its Health Authority back to directly address the dire situation our Community and Region face. We need a Health Authority that will identify and pressure the elected Provincial Government our concerns and the dire situation we are in servicing the region as its capitol.

Examples:

- We have a severely understaffed Regional Hospital that services 3 communities daily and the Labrador Region that includes the North Coast.
- We have over 20 Seniors years WAITING FOR A BED in Long Term Care. Totally unacceptable in 2025.
- We have a practitioner that is practicing in Labrador that cannot work in St John's nor Corner Brook but is good enough for Labrador, where he ruined the lives of at least 30 women while the current Premier stated that he has no Authority to have him removed.

Where is the authority? Labradors was removed when the current Government thought it was a good idea to create a Province wide authority limiting the voice that Labrador needs to the point where we now have just 2 individuals that speak on behalf of Labrador and its needs and a spokesperson responsible for Labrador that lives on the island.

3. Advocate for Provincial Government recognition that the Town of HV-GB is the Regional Capital of Labrador- I cannot speak on behalf of previous Councils of our Town but as a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Council, our relationship was poor at best. We as the 13th Council of HV-GB explained at length every time we had a chance to meet with the Provincial Government Leadership and their representatives the dire situations and issues our Town faced as we were told that they would address when and where they can. We told them over and over again that we need a stronger Police Presence, it increased for a while, but we

are now back to where we were. We requested more authority for our Municipal Enforcement Officer(s), they lessened our authority. The list goes on and on. We need a Provincial Government that will understand our importance to Labrador and the Province and be treated accordingly.

**Engagement & Support:**

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen the municipality's relationship with local non-profits, and support their sustainability and capacity to deliver essential community services?**

From my experience as a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council of Happy Vally-Goose Bay I have always been open and attended every meeting. Relationships are established through communication.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen your relationship with local businesses, and commit to engaging with and supporting the business community?**

From my experience as a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council of Happy Vally-Goose Bay, commitment is a two-way street. Unless a Council is informed through engagement and there are issues that need to be addressed that is up to both parties. If elected, as I have always done as a Councillor and as the 13<sup>th</sup> Council provided, were open to meet and discuss issues. I will continue to support local business when and where I and we as a Council can through informed discussion but unless the Business community bring forth their concerns to Council, how can a Council commit to engagement unless the Business Community bring their concerns to Council. To note, the 13th Council and previous Councils provided in-kind and financial support for Expo Labrador that cost the Town 10's of 1000's of dollars since its conception.

**Gull Island Development – Community-Centered Leadership:**

**Q: What is your position on the MOU between NL Hydro and Hydro-Quebec? As discussions around the Gull Island development move forward, how will you ensure that community voices are meaningfully heard and that decisions reflect residents' long-term environmental, cultural, and gender equity considerations?**

From my experience as a member of the 13th Town Council of Happy Vally-Goose Bay, the current Provincial Government have left us out of the conversations again. The Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay is the most directly affected Community with this Development as it was with the development of Muskrat Falls. There was a comprehensive study completed outlining the effects on our Town and all were ignored. If a Liberal Government is elected, as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding that the province will receive \$1 Billion dollars annually, a Billion Dollars is 1000 millions and an initial investment of \$150 Million will provide our Town all that we deserve based on adjacency and its major impact on our Town regarding our infrastructure and needs as Labrador Regional Capitol.

If a Conservative Government is elected, I will expect them to understand the importance of our Town and be treated accordingly with respect all of our needs and the amount of money involved and the understanding the role that our Town will play in its development based on what we deserve based on adjacency as the most directly affected community that is its Regional Capitol.

**Support for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness:**

**Q: What specific actions or partnerships will you advocate for to provide meaningful, long-term support to individuals who are chronically homeless in our community with attention to the unique needs of Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups?**

From my experience as a member of the 13th Town Council of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, the current Provincial Government combined the transience and homelessness issues. These are very different issues that must be treated as separate issues. The integrated housing-hub should not proceed as currently planned by the several vaguely, expensive, proposed plans put forth. Nor should it be overseen by a Housing Corporation of the Provincial Government, since when has a Housing Corporation been the authority on providing Health Care Services as provided to the 13<sup>th</sup> Council and the community?

With regards to the question regarding chronic homelessness, the main issue our town faces are a by-product of the Muskrat Falls Development and no action of the Government of the time regarding the 2011 REPORT OF THE JOINT REVIEW PANEL LOWER CHURCHILL HYDROELECTRIC GENERATION PROJECT NALCOR ENERGY NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR that states:

“Many participants expressed concerns regarding the existing housing shortage in Happy Valley Goose Bay, and particularly the resulting pressures on low-income families. The private market might not fully respond to what could be a fairly short-term “housing boom”.

Chronic Homelessness is Chronic Homelessness no matter if they identify as Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups, it’s an issue that includes all that are Homeless. The population of Happy Valley-Goose Bay is as diverse as any Town or city across the Country, and any Council should be mindful that all should be treated equally.

I believe that our next council must be mindful of providing space for low-income housing in its future development of the limited space available within its Town Limits and work with the Provincial Government responsible for housing.

**Influence and Leadership for Community Betterment:**

**Q: In what ways do you see your role as a municipal leader being influential in driving positive change, and how will you ensure your voice represents the diverse needs and values of our town?**

As a life-long resident that comes from a family that built the first Church, School House, mapped its waterways, established the first social programs such as Amateur Athletic Association and Boy Scouts in the 1950's and 1960's and continued into the 1970's 80's, 90's, 2000's, 2010's to today I feel I have a great understanding of our Community and its diverse needs. My voice will reflect what I have understood and committed to this town over my 40 years of volunteerism and my tenure as an elected member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Council of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. I have spent my lifetime providing positive action, personally, I have over 40 years of volunteer experience in our Town. I completely understand our Town's diverse needs and the values of our Town... positive change is up to the Community to identify and express to Council and if elected, I will, as I have always been, open to any suggestion(s) as to how we can improve our Town through its services and programs under its capacity, ability and authority.

### **Jill Williams – Candidate for Councillor**

**Q: As a candidate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, what are your three main priorities?**

This comes directly from my public statement on social media:

1. Treatment & Detox in Labrador: People should get help here at home, when they are ready—not weeks later or miles away. In 2024 the province committed to a separate treatment/recovery facility in HV-GB and later issued an RFP for a technical advisor. I support moving from planning to action. We desperately need to move towards all options that increase community well-being and safety.
2. Modern Fire Hall & Support for First Responders: My father served as a career firefighter in HV-GB for nearly five decades, so I understand the importance of supporting emergency services. Council passed a motion in 2024 to pursue cost-shared funding for fire hall design—now we need a clear timeline, site plan, and a blended funding model (provincial, federal, and municipal capital).
3. A Strong Local Voice on Major Projects: While I have never supported the Lower Churchill project—further damming of the Churchill River and impacts on Lake Melville—we know another mega-project may be on the horizon. Given the stark differences in direct municipal/community funding between other Labrador communities and HV-GB, we need a strong voice at the table to protect our town's interests.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen the municipality's relationship with local non-profits, and support their sustainability and capacity to deliver essential community services?**

As an active community volunteer, I know our town is strongest when it works alongside local organizations.

From reviewing town policies, there are some services that nonprofits can use - donations and sponsorships (including in-kind help like facility access, staff support, equipment, and materials), plus a promotional policy. I want these supports applied predictably and fairly, with timely and practical help.

Fundraising and grant writing consume huge time and energy. The town can do more to help groups find opportunities, prepare stronger applications (templates, letters of support), and build partnerships so that they can focus less on paperwork. Just as important, we need to care for the people behind these organizations - too often it's the same few carrying the load and burning out. There isn't one simple fix, but there are real opportunities for partnership, consistency and capacity building.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen your relationship with local businesses, and commit to engaging with and supporting the business community?**

The town should be a reliable partner, and not just a regulator, especially for small and local businesses. This includes clear rules and information for both new and home-based businesses, as well as practical vendor and permitting rules.

I am mindful that in the 2025 town budget, the only tax increase was in the business mil rate (+1 mil). With airfare, shipping, rent, staffing, and other operating costs already high, we should focus on retaining existing businesses and attracting new investment and development.

**Q: What is your position on the MOU between NL Hydro and Hydro-Quebec? As discussions around the Gull Island development move forward, how will you ensure that community voices are meaningfully heard and that decisions reflect residents' long-term environmental, cultural, and gender equity considerations?**

As noted above, I have never been supportive of further damming of the Churchill River, given environmental, cultural and community impacts. The 2024 MOU is a framework for negotiations. My focus is on transparency, rigorous assessment, and binding community benefits.

What I would push for:

- Early, accessible public briefings - plain language updates on what the MOU does/doesn't do and regular progress reports.
- Community advisory table with real diversity - Indigenous governments, harvesters/land users, women's and 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations, youth and seniors, disability advocates, local businesses, and service providers.

- Binding community benefits agreement - clear targets for local and Indigenous hiring, pathways and retention for women in trades; and investments in housing, health, and recreation, with enforceable penalties if targets are not met.
- Boom town impact plan - upfront financing for housing and rental pressure, emergency services, policing, health and mental-health capacity, and core infrastructure.

During Muskrat Falls there were public hearings and later an independent expert advisory process on methylmercury (after public protest). HV-GB flagged housing, traffic, and service pressures - and the town said they were left out of key decisions like water monitoring and reservoir clearing. The municipality needs a seat at the table from day one, plus funded mitigation tied to measurable outcomes.

**Q: What specific actions or partnerships will you advocate for to provide meaningful, long-term support to individuals who are chronically homeless in our community with attention to the unique needs of Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups?**

I support a continuum; culturally safe outreach, housing with supports, and timely detox/treatment - so harm reduction becomes a bridge to stability, not a dead-end.

Concretely, I'd support:

- Local detox and treatment capacity in HV-GB - tied tightly with shelters and supportive housing, so no one slips through the cracks.
- Harm reduction with pathways - safer use supplies when it's paired with rapid access to detox, treatment, housing, and peer support - so every contact is a doorway, not a revolving door.
- Housing with supports - expand supportive housing and rent supplements, with culturally safe services.

On the proposed homeless hub in HV-GB, we should learn from other communities. For example, St. John's has more urban resources, and The Gathering Place requires significant operating top-up to cover staffing, security, and increased capacity. If HV-GB proceeds, it must go beyond low-barrier beds. Additionally, The Recovery Centre in St. John's provides a withdrawal management service and the average length of stay is less than a week - stabilizing but often too brief without quick transition to treatment and housing. A Labrador based option keeps supports closer to home.

Any solution must include Indigenous-led partnerships and governance - with seats for Indigenous governments, women and 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations, people with lived experience, and accessibility built in (including land-based healing). Closer to home, Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation's Kuishpitshu, is a land-based pre-treatment/after-care

program that shows that culturally grounded, local options are possible. Municipal coordination should align with and strengthen these efforts.

**Q: In what ways do you see your role as a municipal leader being influential in driving positive change, and how will you ensure your voice represents the diverse needs and values of our town?**

First and foremost, I am here to learn and work hard. I'm a long-time volunteer and a parent raising my child here; my love for this community guides how I show up - listening first, bringing people together, and following through. I'm comfortable speaking up and advocating, and I'm committed to informed, evidence-based decisions.

To represent our town's diverse needs, I'll keep myself accountable through committee work and direct outreach. When it is time to fight for our interests - on infrastructure, housing, or a local detox and treatment center - I will be a respectful but loud voice to make sure that we get the best deal possible.

### **Bernard Hickey – Candidate for Councillor**

**Q: As a candidate in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, what are your three main priorities?**

As a candidate for the Town Council of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, my three main priorities are built on a foundation of practical action to strengthen the things that make our community special.

First, I want to focus on community development to ensure our town is a place where people not only want to live, but can build a great life and future. I will work on practical solutions that improve our service and infrastructure as it relates to community safety and quality of life. I will work with other levels of government as well as key stakeholders and organizations in our community to hear the needs of residents and develop solutions to meet those needs.

Secondly, I am passionate about sport and recreation in our community and reducing barriers to ensure activities are accessible to all. From our youngest athletes to our seniors, recreational programs are crucial for physical and mental health, happiness, and community spirit. I will be a strong advocate for investing in the facilities and programs that bring people together in sport and recreation.

Finally, I recognize the importance of businesses and not-for-profit organizations as they are the backbone of our community. I will continue to support our local businesses and organizations, in turn supporting a sustainable and strong economy, community services and programs. Growing up in a family that owned a business in this community, I understand that hard work and dedication it takes to

succeed, and I will do my best to support businesses in their successes.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen the municipality's relationship with local non-profits, and support their sustainability and capacity to deliver essential community services?**

I firmly believe that our local not-for-profit organizations are not just service providers, but they are the heart and soul of Happy Valley-Goose Bay. They do essential work for all residents, whether it's providing housing support, food, transportation, support navigating the health care system or justice system, or social, cultural, or recreational programming. Organizations such as the Labrador Friendship Centre, Mokami Status of Women Council, PLIAN, or the many others, are critical to the health, wellness, and resilience of our community. It is important to be aware of all the great services they offer to the community.

As a candidate in this municipal election, I believe a key positive step is to increase communication and collaboration between the town council and community organizations. I will advocate for a liaison role between the Town Council and the not-for-profit organizations in our community to ensure a consistent channel for not-for-profits to share challenges and successes directly with council, as well as provide an opportunity for council to learn about the valuable services these organizations offer and how they can work together to benefit the community. I will also work to reduce barriers for non-profits to access municipal facilities and resources. This could mean streamlining the process for booking town facilities and partnering on community events. As President of the Lake Melville Soccer Club, I see first-hand how a small investment of municipal support, like well-maintained fields, can yield enormous returns in community health and youth development. As a member of the Town Council, I want to work towards extending that same opportunity to other not-for-profits in our community. Ultimately, a strong partnership between the town and our not-for-profit organizations means a stronger, healthier, and more connected Happy Valley-Goose Bay for everyone. It's about working together to ensure these organizations have the tools they need to continue their incredible work.

**Q: How do you plan to strengthen your relationship with local businesses, and commit to engaging with and supporting the business community?**

My family's business has been a part of Happy Valley-Goose Bay for over 50 years, so I have a deep, personal understanding of both the opportunities and challenges our local business community faces. Growing up watching my grandparents, and then my father and uncle, run Hickey's Construction, I learned a lot about the dedication and effort required for a business to succeed. Through my volunteer work with Lake Melville Soccer Club, I have seen how our business community gives back to events and residents through sport sponsorships, donations to fundraisers, and providing scholarships to students graduating from high school. Without local business, our community would not be what it is, and it is important

that as a Town Council, we acknowledge their value to our community and do what we can to support their growth and success. It is important that council fosters a positive relationship with business owners as well as the Labrador North Chamber of Commerce so we can be in-tune with the wants and needs of the business community, whether its employer supports, training opportunities, reducing the barriers to starting a business, and continuing the Town's involvement in Small Business Week and Expo Labrador.

**Q: What is your position on the MOU between NL Hydro and Hydro-Quebec? As discussions around the Gull Island development move forward, how will you ensure that community voices are meaningfully heard and that decisions reflect residents' long-term environmental, cultural, and gender equity considerations?**

The MOU between Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and Hydro-Quebec represents a significant step in exploring the potential development of the Gull Island resource. My position is that it requires careful, transparent, and thorough consideration. The primary opportunity this project could present is substantial long-term economic benefits for Labrador, including the creation of employment and sustained revenue. However, the lessons from past projects are not lost on me. It is critical that we approach any potential development with a commitment to fiscal responsibility, meticulous planning, and, most importantly, meaningful community engagement.

To ensure community voices are not just heard but are actively engaged in the process, I would advocate for proactive framework that would include:

- Early and continuous consultation - before any key decisions are made, and throughout the course of the project, there must be engagement and guidance from stakeholders.
- Diverse and inclusive outreach - actively seek input from a broad cross-section of residents, business owners, Indigenous groups, environmental groups, not-for-profit organizations, and service providers.

As it relates to long-term environmental considerations, I would support a model that adheres to the highest environmental standards, focusing on long-term monitoring and sustainability, and the health of the river and surrounding areas for generations to come. Projects in Labrador should always take into consideration the cultural significance and history of the region, and include conversations with the local Indigenous population to develop a cultural impact study and put in measures to mitigate negative impacts and create equitable benefits. Keeping equity in mind, I would advocate for policies that promote gender equity in hiring, training, and procurement, ensuring employment opportunities are distributed fairly to qualified and skilled individuals. Working with and promoting organizations such as Women in

Resource Development and the Office to Advance Women Apprentices will be priority to ensure training and employment opportunities are available to women. I have extensive experience working on large-scale projects, which has taught me that the bridge between a project and the community is built on trust, transparency, and a genuine willingness to listen and adapt. If elected, my role would be to facilitate those conversations, ensuring that the interests of residents are clearly communicated that that development aligns with the long-term well-being of our community.

**Q: What specific actions or partnerships will you advocate for to provide meaningful, long-term support to individuals who are chronically homeless in our community with attention to the unique needs of Indigenous people, women, gender-diverse individuals, and other marginalized groups?**

Addressing chronic homelessness is one of the most complex challenges we face, and it requires thoughtful action. There are no simple solutions, but as a member of this community, I believe we have the capacity to make meaningful progress by working together.

I believe the first step is engaging with organizations that provide services to our vulnerable and/or housing compromised individuals and families. These organizations, such as the Labrador Friendship Centre, provide front-line support and services to individuals who are homeless or facing homelessness and is a necessary partner when it comes to discussing solutions and supports. We must also engage with the Provincial, Federal, and Indigenous Governments and Councils to develop an informed plan to provide all residents and visitors to the community the safety and security they want and need.

We hear terms like 'housing-first' and 'trauma-informed' when discussing the chronically homeless or transient population, but I don't know if everyone understands what they mean. A housing-first approach that provides wraparound services is exactly that - providing a stable roof over someone's head as the first step in helping that individual, following with mental health and addictions support, health and wellness, and the provision of food or other things they may need. Organizations in our community are already providing these services, the Town's responsibility is to support them in continuing providing these services by providing financial assistance and including these organizations in discussions and decision-making that impact our community. It's important to be clear that the Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay cannot solve this

alone. We must bring the right partners to the table, use our platform to advocate fiercely for provincial and federal resources, and ensure our municipal policies are part of the solution, not the problem. This is about dignity, safety, and health for our most vulnerable populations. By taking a strategic, partnership-based approach, we can build a stronger, more caring community for everyone.

**Q: In what ways do you see your role as a municipal leader being influential in driving positive change, and how will you ensure your voice represents the diverse needs and values of our town?**

In my opinion, the role of a municipal leader is to listen to the voices of the community and strive for positive change. I believe the most influential thing a council can do is to create the conditions for growth and well-being. My focus will be on practical initiatives that benefit everyone. As a strong advocate for sport and recreation, I see these not as luxuries, but as essential investments. They are critical for our physical and mental health, for keeping our youth engaged, and for building a strong, connected community. I will work to ensure our facilities are well-maintained and accessible, and to support programs that serve all ages and abilities. This focus on quality of life is a key driver in attracting and retaining families, which is fundamental to our long-term prosperity. To ensure my voice represents our town's diversity, I commit to a leadership style based on active listening and genuine engagement. It's not about my voice alone, but about amplifying the voices of residents. In order to do this, I will pledge to:

- Be present in the community
- Be accessible to residents
- Be informed about the issues, benefits, and impacts my decisions have

Overall, my goal is to work collaboratively with residents, organizations, and businesses to build a vibrant Happy Valley- Goose Bay for all. I look forward to sitting on Town Council and serving the residents of the community I call home.