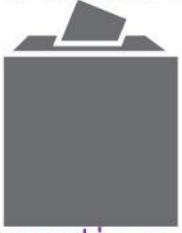


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Grande Prairie City Council Candidates

Summary of Comments

This summary has been prepared from responses to a questionnaire circulated to the candidates and from other publicly available sources. These references are listed at the end of this document.

The categories are based on the questionnaire circulated by GPVoters.ca. Candidates who have not responded to the questionnaire have their names appear in **red**. This is to signify that their other statements have been applied to these categories.

Every effort has been made to preserve the essence of the candidate's public comments on the issue, but in order to summarize, it has been necessary to rephrase and reword. Where the candidates' own words have been used in their entirety, they appear in quotation marks. The reader is encouraged to seek further information and more detailed information from the sources listed at the end.

Any candidate who feels that their position is not accurately reflected is encourage to contact us at daryl@gpvoters.ca so we can update it.

Name	Clyde Blackburn	Dylan Bresse	Jackie Clayton	John Croken
Why did you decide to run for office?	Over 25 years in Grande Prairie, have sought opportunities to give back. Now retired and it's time to step and serve in a bigger way	We live in an awesome community that's been very good to my family. I see significant challenges and want to use my skills, knowledge and work ethic to help Grande Prairie thrive.	Want to continue to represent your views and voice. Have council and business experience, a young family and a passion for this community.	"Passion for politics" and "giving back to the community"
What experience do you have in municipal government?	12 years on Grande Prairie Public School Board, 5 as chair. Public member of the GP Airport Commission and on City's Community Enhancement Advisory Committee	Board member of neighbourhood association and volunteer with City. Have studied Council and documents, talked to councilors, City employees, and residents. Have studied governance at the graduate level.	Has served this past term on council, 2006 President of Chamber of Commerce, 6 years on GPRC Board of Governors.	Three terms on city council, six terms as Catholic School trustee
What do you want Grande Prairie to look like four years from now?	Need to attract and keep professionals, tradespeople and others for a great place to live, work, and play. Spending resources are limited but careful and thoughtful planning will continue to help city thrive.	Four focuses – connecting community with public space, events to bring people together; partnership with area municipalities; ensuring open and accessible government; infrastructure to meet growth	An engaging and consultative process where important and urgent issues and be understood by Council; understand the challenges of being a taxpayer, and business owner; want a safe affordable community	Transparency is important – citizens need to know what's happening
How would you allocate the average \$3,500 in property taxes?	Majority of budget goes to Community Safety and Growth which is the right focus. Being on council will mean learning about complexity of the budget	Communication and customer service could be invested in; Community living has potential for savings in regional partnership; community safety funding needs to be preserved	Every effort should be taken to run our City as efficiently as possible. We need to operate more efficiently, while continuing to improve our operational processes	Wants to see increased road repair, maintenance, and snow removal
What would you keep the same? What is working well in the city?	Council's advocacy for police funding and affordable housing. Also appreciate 10 year master transit plan and work on intermunicipal cooperation	Investment other gathering places, building bridges to Indigenous community, increased funding to RCMP, investment in citizen engagement, and working to grow our industrial and commercial tax base	Need to finalize Intermunicipal Collaboration, focus on economic development and increasing industrial and commercial tax base, support paving and overlay program to improve roads.	
What are your thoughts on crime and public safety, taxes, and economic growth in the city?	Need to enhance law enforcement forces; we need new revenue sources as we lack a broad and diverse tax base; we are well placed to handle growth ahead of us.	Need to invest in policing and advocate for mental health care – a connected community can help prevent and help people recover from trouble; reduce taxes is a clear priority; industrial and commercial tax base is vital	Need more officers and youth education, to strengthen Neighbourhood Associations. Concerned about tax increases and high operational costs. We have entrepreneurial spirit to capture the growth opportunities	Concerned that "city taxes are over the top" and need to find ways to reduce costs.
What's your answer to voters who ask "Why should I vote for you?"	Integrity and commitment; an open mind which is prepared to learn and understand perspectives; a desire to give back to this community	Is the city's median age with knowledge and experience needed. Charity director reliant on fundraising and accustomed to managing finances and being transparent. Also understands non-profit sector. Fully immersed in community and can bring perspective of a new resident.	"A hard working councilor who is accessible and willing to listen" and one who has strong relationships with business and non-profit organizations.	Has the experience "and I have the time, (I) am good health, and I'm familiar with how municipal government works, and I have a certificate in business management"

Name	Shannon Dunfield	Sydney Fletcher	Eunice Friesen	John Kriska
Why did you decide to run for office?	Time for council to reflect diversity of the city.	"It is time for reasonable people to 'step up' and help put city back on track."	Timing is right – have retired from nursing, business doing well, kids are grown. Have the time and experience to commit.	20 year resident of the city, have always been active in community and now it's time to get more involved.
What experience do you have in municipal government?	Has volunteered extensively, FNMI coordinator for GP Public School District, and co-chair for GP Aboriginal Circle of Services		Rotary Club member, founder of Good Grief Community, appeal panel member with Ministry of Human Services, GPRC Board	Have always had an interest but haven't run for office previously. Has been involved in numerous charities.
What do you want Grande Prairie to look like four years from now?	Needs to be more affordable housing and affordable recreation opportunities for youth. A sustainable plan to end homelessness, supports for persons with disabilities, and review of long-term planning to be part of reconciliation	Need a responsible, reasonable council that makes decisions for today but considers the future and makes wise financial choices. Priorities are the downtown beautification project which has excessive costs for work that will be ruined by frost heave and snow removal.	Prosperous, safe, vibrant. A community of thriving business where people can live in safety with recreation and cultural facilities, knowing they are getting value for their taxes. Partnerships with other municipalities can help foster growth.	Would like to see better budget control and debt reduction. Improvement in revenue from Eastlink and Revolution Place; complete downtown beautification on time and budget. Continue to attract and keep newcomers.
How would you allocate the average \$3,500 in property taxes?				A tricky question with broad categories – more in-depth look is needed. Believe there are many areas where we can reduce costs.
What would you keep the same? What is working well in the city?				Downtown beautification project can be great but can only support it with a set budget and accountability.
What are your thoughts on crime and public safety, taxes, and economic growth in the city?	We need to ensure fiscal responsibility and sustainability as our city grows.	Citizen safety is an important issue. Every year taxes are going up. The County is able to give taxpayers breaks. It's not sustainable to keep raising taxes.	All are priorities – greatest concerns are with value for tax dollars and supporting our business community. Would support a hold on tax increases.	Agree 100% with these areas. Safety is very important and budget must provide for increase with growth in city. Excited to tackle taxes – can find efficiencies. Growth is vital and must work to attract industry.
What's your answer to voters who ask "Why should I vote for you?"	Not afraid to speak her mind or ask tough questions, wants to be the voice of the community, is always thoughtful, transparent, and honest in making decisions	"If they value having someone on council with life experience, common sense and a desire to grow our community in a more positive way."	"I am one of the few candidates with the experience necessary to provide leadership for a complex corporation such as the city, an understanding of governance, and the time to commit to the City of Grande Prairie as my primary focus"	I believe I will be a great voice for the people. I will work hard to make Grande Prairie even better in the next 4 years.

Name	Kevin McLean	Yadvinder Minhas	Cheryl Montgomery	Timothy Nesbitt
Why did you decide to run for office?	A passion for politics. I feel I have earned great experience and will contribute greatly to the new team.	Have been watching council and realized there was more I could give back to help city run more efficiently.	Care about City's future, have knowledge and experience to bring to council from business and community service in Rotary and Chamber of Commerce along with volunteering.	Have always strived to make my piece of Grande Prairie a place people wanted to be a part of. Realized City Council will allow me to make my impact on a greater scale
What experience do you have in municipal government?	Served the last two terms on Grande Prairie City Council. Chair of numerous boards including Canadian Parents for French.	Served on City Council from 2007-10. Has been active in Chamber of Commerce, raised money for new hospital.	Worked for City for 6 years in management – worked directly with Council. Was part of GPAC team that worked on Eastlink Centre construction and opening	Know the City's strengths and weaknesses having worked for the City for many years; am very knowledgeable in decision making process and delivery and implementation
What do you want Grande Prairie to look like four years from now?	I want us to prosper. I want fair funding from the province to alleviate tax burden. Would like city beautification to continue and more RCMP to address crime.	Strengthening ties between municipalities; making City more accessible to citizens and business friendly; strengthening enforcement and prevention to reduce crime; improving snow removal practices, airport, and post-secondary opportunities	Continue to repair and develop our infrastructure – some is long overdue. Would like to keep taxes where they are and find new revenue. Would like City to “truly be back open for business.” Would hope we have turned Eastlink Centre issues around.	My heart is to see a Grande Prairie where people are invested and feel a deep sense of belonging. A strong community working together can actually solve a lot of the issues Grande Prairie currently has.
How would you allocate the average \$3,500 in property taxes?	Budget planning is done every year as a team. The allocations we have are long thought out. We do have savings to be found and we recently hired a new City Manager to do just that.		Taxes have really crept up and our City has also continued to improve in infrastructure and development. There is room to evaluate our spending and budgets to ensure no further increases. Let's look at the easy fixes first and second, develop that revenue stream further.	Graph is closely representative of priorities. Majority was spent keeping residents safe with growing the City and supporting quality of life. But City liquidated savings in the last term in order to keep taxes low. Serious thought needed to how to avoid in future
What would you keep the same? What is working well in the city?	The team approach to decision making has worked very well this past council. Some of our more senior councillors said it was the most inclusive and caring group in office and outside of.		Rate of growth is great. There are long term investments that will pay off in rebuilding and restructuring. Love how outdoor and recreation space is a priority.	Making great strides bringing together the community. Neighborhood day is a baby step but in the right direction! Council has also invested in some great venues and better infrastructure
What are your thoughts on crime and public safety, taxes, and economic growth in the city?	I agree 100%. These are all symptoms of the lack of funding we are receiving in our city from the province. This must change to move the scales on the others.	Need to improve other revenue to reduce tax burden on citizens; need to build on GP's reputation as a thriving hub to attract and retain talent in all fields; prioritize crime reduction through enforcement and crime prevention.	I agree with all three. We must continue to hammer away at crime and one of the most critical aspects to that is our community engagement! No matter how many police we hire, they can't be everywhere. We need to reinstate a sense of community. Let's be aware of what is going on in the community and neighborhoods. Be a great citizen!	In order to make good on my promise to build Community, a person has to feel safe first. If success is a pyramid, safety is the foundation. We need to promote the feeling that residents' wants, needs and hopes are secure in Grande Prairie. When they do they will be more inclined to put down roots
What's your answer to voters who ask “Why should I vote for you?”	I ask the hard questions. I am not afraid to go against the crowd if that is how I feel those I represent feel. I have always voted to keep tax increases low and below inflation, often I am the only vote to do so. I have a great passion for it and I am engaged and work hard for the residents.	“I promise to represent your needs to the best of my abilities and bring my business expertise and acumen to the City. I promise to lobby for efficiency and to further educational opportunities for this next generation. This community's legacy is my top priority, let's put in the time and effort to make it great.”	Well I don't make promises I can't keep, but I do promise a few things I know I can keep. I promise to WORK HARD for the citizens of GP. I promise to LISTEN to the citizens and always be FAIR for what is BEST for everyone. I CARE deeply the direction of GP.	My experience as a long time City employee means a deep understanding of the systems and structure. We have to ensure that the new one is educated and knowledgeable about the consequences of their decisions. I bring experience to the table that no other candidate has.

Name	Kevin O'Toole	Wade Pilat	Tyla Savard	Morgan Suurd
Why did you decide to run for office?	Have lived in GP since 1965, running for a third term on Council. Enjoy the opportunity to draw on experience and listen to residents	Want to be part of a vision and implementation in growing Grande Prairie; a nearly 40 year resident and am passionate about city	Have the skills and experience to connect our community to find innovative solutions	Was unhappy with how the City seems to go against what most people want
What experience do you have in municipal government?	Seven years on Council; experience lobbying province. Know the processes and a good understanding of the political parties.	As a home builder have worked closely with city for almost 10 years and have served on many boards and committees in the community	Involved with Clairmont Ag. Society, local and provincial school councils, PARDS, Rotary, community programs and fundraisers.	Board member of Hillside Neighbourhood Association and former board member of Rock Valley Raceway
What do you want Grande Prairie to look like four years from now?	Hospital complete; Hwy 43X complete; Bear Creek Reservoir upgraded to environment standards – paid for with prov. Grants; Pedway to new hospital; Shared regional revenue policy with other municipalities; better prov. police funding model; photo radar has done its job and only used in a few places	We need to regain financial responsibility and transparency or our nonprofit and community sector will suffer; it is “incredibly necessary” to focus on a balanced budget, reducing expenses, and increasing economic development. Would like our City to be able to invest in community safety and have a reputation as one of the safest in Canada.	Wants to connect community, create stronger strategies to strengthen our community; we need to be socially and fiscally responsible; we need purposeful planning. Need to promote the local business sector in and outside the city; need to address the opioid epidemic	Lower taxes, get rid of photo radar, hold off on new projects until existing centres run efficiently, make people feel safe again in the city; get rid of windrows in snow removal
How would you allocate the average \$3,500 in property taxes?	Community safety and growth 40% Community living – 30% Corporate services - 20% City managers office - 10%	A specific allocation of funds is not a fair comment without a more detailed look at the budget. Increased funding to community safety, communication and transparency is important. With a hard look at the budget we can make some tough decisions		
What would you keep the same? What is working well in the city?	New city manager, new manager for Eastlink, new manager for Revolution Place, new CFO, new purchasing manager coming on board, new fire chief – changes are taking place.	The City has a lot of very good employees and if we can increase the morale within some City departments we will continue to attract a positive and efficient culture. Grande Prairie has many successful outcomes and events that deserve to be celebrated.		
What are your thoughts on crime and public safety, taxes, and economic growth in the city?	The city is lacking in manufacturing, industrial, and commercial business; this is not good; a larger sector could offset the residential tax base	I agree that these are three top issues that need to be addressed by the incoming Council. Regionalization revenue is likely years away; Limit Eastlink loss and confident we could save 10% in capital. Need to do a better job selling our real estate for development. Address crime by working with other levels of government	We can do much to improve upon our fiscal responsibilities – we need to think about how each improvement impacts all parts of the community. As to the opioid epidemic, we need strategies to take better care of people and keep kids safe. For business, we need to understand the challenges local businesses face.	We need more bylaw and RCMP officers; we have a responsibility to make people feel safe; Photo radar is not effective in lowering speeds; We need to lower property taxes to help people recovering from economic slowdown; small businesses need assistance
What's your answer to voters who ask “Why should I vote for you?”	Believe residents are customers and should be fairly treated; strive to make sure Council understands what is needed; know what is required to raise a family and look after our seniors; small business owner for 26 years; have been on council and many boards since 2010; am a straight shooter	Balanced perspective is important and 40 years in Grande Prairie provides that – community involvement, success in business, and raising a young family. We must connect our community in a positive way. Must also promote financial responsibility and ensure taxes don't continually increase.	A leader who is approachable and listens; who is connected to our community; a hard worker, passionate, and someone who takes action.	A person who is fighting for his neighbourhood and “will fight even harder for the people of Grande Prairie”

Name	Chris Thiessen	Cam White	Mike Wolfel	
Why did you decide to run for office?	Love Grande Prairie, want our children to raise their children in a community which is a model for innovative and sustainable development; Want to help guide and connect new Council	It is time for a younger generation to get involved in the development of one of the youngest and fastest growing cities in Canada.	"I believe I can help to make Grande Prairie the best run city it can be."	
What experience do you have in municipal government?	"Out-of-the-box thinking, change-making humanitarian" has been on Council for four years. Has been active in arts, culture, education, humanitarian and environmental endeavors for past 14 years	One of the founding members of the Peace Region Independent Media Arts Association; works with Grande Prairie Boys Choir	No experience in politics but a passionate person when it comes to the city	
What do you want Grande Prairie to look like four years from now?	Grande Prairie within a "caring, connected, compassionate, and collaborative Region"; a diverse, dynamic, creative place where people seek opportunity and raise their family; a place where people's voices "are nurtured and heard"	Continue to be one of the youngest, fastest growing, and economically diverse cities in Canada with a rich culture, strong entrepreneurial spirit, and family values. Leaders in industry, shining examples of community pride, and a place that people from all over Canada come to work and play	Find ways to bring in revenue without raising taxes. Addressing road safety.	
How would you allocate the average \$3,500 in property taxes?	Current allocation is appropriate but we could minimize cost of policing if we can lobby province; should reduce debt to reduce servicing costs		Money should go into services such as emergency services, snow removal and road repair "that may need a boost"	
What would you keep the same? What is working well in the city?	Development of parks and trails, community facilities; improving public engagement; growth of Neighbourhood Associations; expansion of Edible Landscaping Policy; we are caring, compassionate and innovative	Bear Creek Folk Festival has been incredible and should be encouraged to grow; Snow removal system is solid even though it is designed for efficiency		
What are your thoughts on crime and public safety, taxes, and economic growth in the city?	Council invested in enforcement staff – adding 12 RCMP officers and RCMP office workers; photo radar has significantly reduced collisions and infraction; neighbourhood associations promoted connected communities. Have opportunities for economic growth around the new hospital, GPRC as a Polytechnic and regional revenue sharing	Safety is a number one priority; photo radar should be appropriately placed and minimum ticket speeds set. We need to have a serious discussion about drugs and review practices. Property taxes are high and so expectations of residents are high; need to spend responsibly	New revenue sources can include a transit price increase (though need to look at routes and busses to justify increase); looking at more industrial zones. Do need to rework photo radar to put it in school zones and high collision areas	
What's your answer to voters who ask "Why should I vote for you?"	People should vote for me because I represent Caring, Honest, Resourceful, Intelligent, Service. I listen and believe I have proven to be accountable, thoughtful, hard-working, and helped to give all people of Grande Prairie a voice to be heard. Am a positive advocate, a natural networker, and get things done and strive to make our City a better place for all.	"An experienced youthful leader." "I'm a hard worker and am not afraid of research or confrontation. Most of all I care about this community and want to see it continue to be a place we can all proudly call home for years to come."	"I think the people of Grande Prairie should vote for me because I am passionate about our great city and want to make it better for everyone now and for the future."	

For Further Information

All Candidates

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/32980/city-council-candidate-questions-past-success-failure/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/32979/city-council-candidate-questions-photo-radar/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/33121/city-council-candidate-questions-value-tax-dollars/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/32978/city-council-candidate-questions-crime-grande-prairie/>

<https://www.mygrandeprairienow.com/32871/city-council-candidate-questions-citycounty-relationship/>

Clyde Blackburn

<http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/clyde-blackburns-response/>

<https://www.facebook.com/electclyde/>

<http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/14/candidate-profile-clyde-blackburn>

Dylan Bressey

<http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/dylan-bresseys-answers/>

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/dylan-bressey/>

<https://votebressey.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/voteBressey.ca>

Jackie Clayton

<http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/jackie-clayton-a-safe-inclusive-affordable-community/>

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/timothy-nesbitt/>

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/www.jackieclayton.ca>

<https://www.facebook.com/VoteJackieClayton/>

<http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/28/candidate-profile-jackie-clayton>

John Croken

<http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/21/candidate-profile-john-croken>

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/yadvinder-singh-minhas/>

<https://www.facebook.com/John-A-Croken-for-City-Councillor-332902010493985/>

Shannon Dunfield

<https://www.facebook.com/VoteDunfield/>

<http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/10/04/candidate-profile-shannon-dunfield>

Sydney Fletcher

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/cheryl-montgomery/>

<http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/10/05/candidate-profile-sydney-fletcher>

Eunice Friesen

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/eunice-friesen/>

<http://www.eunicefriesen.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/eunicefriesengp/>

<http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/14/candidate-profile-eunice-friesen>

John Kriska

<http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/john-kriska-a-voice-for-the-people/>

<http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/28/candidate-profile-john-kriska>

<https://www.facebook.com/voteGP/>

Kevin McLean

<http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/kevin-mclean-will-ask-the-hard-questions/>

<https://talkgp.ca/speakers/kevin-mclean/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Re-Elect-McLean-for-Council-Grande-Prairie-494761317274562/>

<p>Yadvinder Minhas https://www.yadminhas.com/ http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/10/04/candidate-profile-yad-minhas https://talkgp.ca/speakers/yadvinder-singh-minhas/</p>	<p>Cheryl Montgomery http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/cheryl-montgomery-work-hard-listen-be-fair-care/ http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/10/04/candidate-profile-cheryl-montgomery https://talkgp.ca/speakers/cheryl-montgomery/</p>	<p>Timothy Nesbitt http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/25/ http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/21/candidate-profile-timothy-nesbitt https://www.facebook.com/ElectTim/ https://talkgp.ca/speakers/timothy-nesbitt/</p>
<p>Kevin O'Toole http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/28/candidate-profile-kevin-otoole http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/kevin-otooles-thoughts/</p>	<p>Wade Pilat http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/wade-pilat-is-offering-a-balanced-perspective/ http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/10/03/candidate-profile-wade-pilat http://pilatforgpcouncil.ca/ https://talkgp.ca/speakers/eunice-friesen/</p>	<p>Tyla Savard https://www.facebook.com/Savard4Council/ http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/21/candidate-profile-tyla-savard https://talkgp.ca/speakers/kevin-mclean/</p>
<p>Morgan Suurd https://www.facebook.com/Suurdforcouncil2017/ http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/28/candidate-profile-morgan-suurd https://talkgp.ca/speakers/cam-white/</p>	<p>Chris Thiessen http://gpvoters.ca/2017/10/13/chris-thiessen-a-positive-advocate/ http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/10/03/candidate-profile-chris-thiessen http://www.electchristhiessen.com/ https://talkgp.ca/speakers/dylan-bressey/</p>	<p>Cam White http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/10/03/candidate-profile-cam-white https://cam4council.weebly.com/hot-topics.html https://talkgp.ca/speakers/cam-white/</p>
<p>Mike Wolfel http://www.dailyheraldtribune.com/2017/09/21/candidate-profile-mike-wolfel www.facebook.com/mikewolfelcitycouncil</p>		